

## 2. THE NAVAL OFFICERS.

Originally the Secretary, residing at St. Mary's, was sole Naval Officer, and from as early as December, 1671, he deputed the successive sheriffs at the head of the bay and in Somerset County to act for him in those remote localities.<sup>8</sup> It is not clear that he took any commission on the duties collected, but he did enjoy certain fees established by acts of April, 1650, and April, 1662.<sup>9</sup>

In June, 1676, Baltimore appointed three separate Naval Officers and settled these fees upon them.<sup>10</sup> Their districts were to be Patuxent, embracing the whole of Chesapeake Bay from Point Lookout on the Western around to, but not including, Nanticoke River on the Eastern Shore; North Potomac, comprising the Maryland side of that river above its mouth at Point Lookout; and Pocomoke, which included the Pocomoke, Wicomico, and Nanticoke Rivers and the Atlantic coast, all at the southern end of the Eastern Shore.<sup>11</sup>

Until the Protestant Revolution, as all duties were proprietary in nature, there was no felt need for provincial, as distinguished from proprietary Naval Officers. On September 4, 1689, however, the Convention of Freemen, having destroyed His Lordship's

sion of five p ct on all Money pd them by the Naval Officers. When many Negroe Ships arrived these offices were valuable but at present they are inconsiderable." He valued them together at £ 80 in 1761, and he rated the Eastern office at £ 20 to £ 30 in 1766 (Horatio Sharpe to Cecilius Calvert, Oct. 20, 1755; Sharpe to Board of Trade, Dec. 21, 1761; Sharpe to Lord Baltimore, Oct. 22, 1766, *Ibid.*, VI, 296; XXXII, 27; XIV, 334). An anonymous estimate of about 1745 values the two Treasurerships together at £ 250 sterling (Massachusetts Historical Society, *Collections*, ser. I, vol. VII [1801], 203).

<sup>8</sup> *Archives*, V, 104, 111, 113, 121. At this time Charles Calvert was both Governor and Secretary.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, I, 290, 454; VIII, 457.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, VIII, 386, 438, 451, 457. The Secretary was now given, instead of the naval fees, the ordinary license fines and a saddle on attorneys in the provincial court (*Ibid.*, XV, 79). The Protestant Associates argued, in their articles against Lord Baltimore's deputies in 1690, that Naval Officers' fees were "not only without, but directly against the laws of this Province therein made and provided . . ." (*Ibid.*, VIII, 217). They had indeed been legally settled on the Secretary, but as they were transferred to the Naval Officers in 1676 no provision was made for them in the general fee act of that year, which did not include the fees of these officers. In 1692 the grasping crown Secretary, Sir Thomas Lawrence, tried to obtain these fees on the ground that, like the ordinary license fines, they were an ancient perquisite of his office.

<sup>11</sup> Apparently the original incumbents were Lt. Col. Henry Lowe, Sr., Col. William Digges, and Col. William Stevens for the three districts respectively (*Ibid.*, XVII, 327, 401). Proprietary Naval Officers were thereafter appointed by the Agent and Receiver General (*Ibid.*, VIII, 66).