

and so forth, together with half the produce of the duty. Surveyor and Comptroller Coursey, who could take no fees, was at first to have a third of the duty, but his portion was reduced to a fourth in March, 1674/5.<sup>19</sup>

Twenty years later, in 1694, the entire net produce of this plantation duty in Maryland and Virginia was given to the College of William and Mary. To reduce costs of collection the post of Surveyor and Comptroller General was abolished and its function assigned to the college governors. The Collector's share was reduced from a half to a fifth.<sup>20</sup>

Meanwhile the original district, Patuxent, had been restricted by establishment in 1686 of two new districts, North Potomac and Pocomoke.<sup>21</sup> In 1752, to the disgust of Collector Benedict Calvert, it was further confined by erection of a fourth district, Chester and Patapsco. This was to provide for the Rev. James Sterling, who had friends in the Treasury, and it embraced the head of the bay from the Patapsco around to and including Chester River on the Eastern Shore.<sup>22</sup> As it was a place of very little business, it should have been discontinued on Sterling's death in 1763. However, one William Geddes soon after obtained a collectorship of Chester River only, the Patapsco and other rivers reverting to Patuxent.<sup>23</sup>

Each Collector supervised his district and appointed deputies in those remote parts he could not personally attend to. Prior to

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, IV, 424, 427, 437, 452, 659, 705; VI, 25. Cf. Charles Calvert to Lord High Treasurer, July 24, 1674 (Calvert Paper No. 1066, Md. Historical Society). For instructions to the Surveyor and Comptroller General and to the Collectors see *Archives*, XX, 167, 351; XXIII, 254.

<sup>20</sup> *Calendar of Treasury Books*, IX, pt. 5, 1966; X, pt. 1, 25; *Archives*, XX, 145, 341. On this plan the Treasury Lords reported favorably, July 15, 1692; the King in Council approved it on Sept. 1, and a royal warrant for the grant issued on Jan. 25, 1692/3. The new arrangement was announced in Maryland by the Governor and Council on Oct. 8, 1694.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, V, 526. Col. George Layfield was appointed for Pocomoke District, March 19, 1684/5, and Col. Nehemiah Blakiston for North Potomac, Sept. 26, 1685. Both were sworn in on Nov. 19, 1686.

<sup>22</sup> Public Record Office, Treasury, 11/24, p. 155; Audit Office, b. 815, r. 1058, LC. Sterling was appointed March 25, 1752; he died Nov. 10, 1763. See also the letters cited in note 23 below.

<sup>23</sup> Public Record Office, Treasury Board Papers, b. 452, r. 195, LC. Cf. John Williams to Customs Commissioners at Boston, May 26, 1770, and Customs Commissioners to Treasury Lords, Sept. 28, 1772 (*Maryland Historical Magazine*, XXVII [1932], 233-38). Geddes was appointed shortly before Jan. 28, 1766.