

time hereafter sell, dispose of, or lease for term of years, any part or parcel of the aforesaid land, to any person or persons whatsoever." To show the motives, which prompted the passage of the law above mentioned, and the harmonious feelings which existed towards the Indians at that period, it is only necessary to quote the preamble to the original act (1704, chapter 58,) wherein it is recited that, "it was most just that the *Indians*—the ancient inhabitants of this Province, should have a convenient dwelling place in this, their native country, free from the encroachments and oppression of the English; more especially the *Nanticoke* Indians in *Dorchester* county, who for these many years have lived in peace and concord with the *English*, and in all matters in obedience to the Government of this Province."

After the lapse of some years, it having been represented to the General Assembly that the land formerly laid out for the use of the Nanticoke Indians was much worn out, and not sufficient for them and that it was thought advisable that some further provision should be made for them, an act was passed (1711, chapter 1,) to empower commissioners to appoint and cause to be laid out, three thousand acres of land on Broad creek, in Somerset county, for the use of the Nanticoke Indians, and by section four of this act, the land so laid out was guaranteed to the Indians, so long as they shall occupy the same, and afterwards shall be disposed of, as the General Assembly shall direct. In alluding to the last mentioned act, Bozman in his Introduction to the History of Maryland, says, that it is to be inferred that "a part of the Nanticokes were in the possession of this land on Broad creek prior to the passage of the law," and "they were then supposed to lie in Somerset county in Maryland, but when the province line between Maryland, and the three lower counties on Delaware came to be settled, as it was about the year 1762, these lands fell into what is now the Delaware State, which affords a probable reason why we see nothing more on our Provincial Records of the Nanticokes settled on Broad creek."

From the legislation on the subject of Indian lands, it is apparent, that a desire existed on the part of the government to protect the Indians in the enjoyment of their property; but, the increase of the white population prevented that general happiness they longed for, and it was only when the whites began to encroach upon their hunting grounds, and the game upon which they mainly subsisted was either destroyed or driven away, that they determined to remove to a country, where, by adding their numbers to their more powerful neighbors, they might be able to prevent further encroachments. In their memorial referred to the committee, the headmen and chiefs state, "that their numbers were rapidly diminished, and crowded as they were on all sides by a population, whose vices their young people were more prone to adopt, than to imitate their virtues, they saw that their extermina-