

## LETTER OF TRANSMISSION

ROOMS OF THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

BALTIMORE, *April 1, 1921.*

*To the Maryland Historical Society:*

GENTLEMEN :

We have the honor to submit the Fortieth Volume of the Archives of Maryland, containing the Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of the Provinces, at the Sessions held from 1737 to 1740.

The text of the volume is taken from the Calvert Papers and from the manuscript volumes of journals and laws in the Maryland Archives deposited with the Society.

The period covered by this volume is one which tried Ogle's skill as Governor and his action in regard to the proceedings of the Legislature furnishes a good illustration of the truth of Osgood's words (*American Colonies in the Seventeenth Century*, III, 314): "The British colonial system was Roman and feudal, that is provincial in character" and the "forces which were moulding it after this model came necessarily and at once into conflict with the democratic and separatist tendencies which were inherent in colonial life. The central thread of our colonial history is to be found in the record of that conflict."

Ogle was a diplomatic man, whose friendliness to the Anglican Church is praised by Anderson in his *Colonial Churches* (Vol. III, pp. 177-219) as much as Lord Baltimore's unfriendliness is blamed. He steered the ship of state skilfully through the reefs, but the early neglect of this period of Provincial History is shown from the fact that Justin Winsor in treating of the Provincial History completely overlooked him (Vol. V, 259 and ff.). In fact the whole history of British America in the Eighteenth Century is being now rewritten in true perspective, so as to give a correct vision of it and thus in Gwatkin's words: "Not by increasing worship of the past, nor by ignorant contempt of it, nor yet by partisan distortion of it, but by critical and sympathetic study, we shall learn something of the grandeur of our own time, and of the meaning of the mighty questions which lie before us and our children."

S. E. Dawson well wrote that "Religion and Law are the two organizing forces of Society." During the years covered by this volume scarcely any new statutes were passed, owing to legislative dissensions, yet the Province in general appears to have been law-abiding. We have not much information