

ing. All of those pardoned were planters, which indicates that stealing a neighbor's hog was a popular sport among the early settlers.

A curious instance is recorded where a certain indentured servant, John Oliver, of St. Mary's County, was convicted, February 20, 1677-8, of stealing seven shillings sixpence of English money and a Spanish piece of eight. He demanded the benefit of clergy which was granted, and then admitted that he could not read the Book, and was promptly sentenced to death. Five days later the Lord Proprietary, acting as Governor, pardoned Oliver upon condition that he become General Hangman of the Province for the rest of his life, with the further proviso that he should serve his master, Richard Chillman, for the remainder of the term for which he was indentured to him, and that after the expiration of this time he make restitution to Chillman by further servitude until the fees due the sheriff for his imprisonment should be paid (pages 214-215).

Under the Great Seal of the Chancellor proclamations or writs for holding a General Assembly were issued by the Governor addressed to the sheriffs of the several counties. A number of these will be found recorded here. In several cases it is recited that the sessions called under previous writs had been prorogued and not held at the time appointed in a former writ. In a warrant issued by Gov. Charles Calvert to Nathaniel Stiles, sheriff of Cecil County, October 14, 1674, under the *Lesser* Seal, the sheriff is ordered to make proclamation of an election to choose delegates to the Assembly from that county, directed to all freemen who have visible seated plantations of at least five hundred acres, or visible personal estates of the value of £40 sterling, qualifying them to be electors (page 33).

The first entry recorded by Robert Ridgely soon after he became Register of the Chancery, and recorded, September 10, 1671, in Liber P. C., is the second charter of St. Mary's City, granted by Cecilius Calvert, and issued under the Great Seal, and enrolled, September 11, 1671. The charter proper is immediately followed by the oath of fidelity required to be taken by all officers under the Lord Proprietary, and the special oath of office required of the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and common councilmen. Philip Calvert as Chancellor was ordered to issue out a *dedimus potestatem* for swearing in the various officers selected, and to issue out a writ to these to meet and select two inhabitants of the city to serve as delegates in the next General Assembly. This writ was endorsed showing that the members of the corporation and free citizens of the city had selected John Morecroft, the recorder, and Thomas Notley, an alderman, as delegates to the Assembly. Writs are also recorded directed to Morecroft and Notley under the Great Seal, certifying as to their election, and ordering their attendance at the coming Assembly.