

the *March-April 1760 session* that relief from the hardships imposed upon alien landowners under existing laws be not extended in the proposed new Naturalization bill to Roman Catholic aliens (pp. 248-250, 254-256, 312-313, 220). It may be added that the Upper House, although composed only of Protestants, opposed all such oppressive measures. Charles Pratt, the King's Attorney-General, in an opinion given in 1759 to the Proprietary, Frederick, Lord Baltimore, as to the constitutionality of various provisions included by the Lower House in its recent Supply bills, declared that the double tax on Roman Catholics was "a Breach of Public Faith and tends to Subvert the very Foundations of the Maryland constitution", and would only be excused were they guilty of "Dangerous Practices and Disaffections" (p. 203).

The embezzlement of public funds by Henry Darnall, Naval Officer of the Patuxent District, who had made away with over £2,000 tobacco export duties collected by him, was the excuse for an anti-Catholic outbreak in the Lower House. A member of a very prominent Catholic family of southern Maryland, Darnall, before becoming Attorney-General of Maryland, had a few years earlier disclaimed affiliation with the Catholic church, and taken all the oaths to the Church of England that were required to enable him to hold public office. The Lower House suspecting his good faith, and as it turned out later with good reason, had in 1756 demanded his removal from office by Sharpe. This the latter refused to do on the grounds that there was no evidence that he had not conformed in good faith to the established church (*Arch. Md.* LII, xvi-xvii, xxiv). When the Darnall defalcation of over £2,000 export duties collected by him was revealed at the *April-May 1761 session* of the Assembly, the Lower House sought to hold Sharpe responsible because he had not removed Darnall from the office of Attorney-General at its bidding five years before. The indignant Governor promptly retorted that the Lower House had demanded his removal only on the grounds of suspected Catholicism, and not on grounds of inefficiency or dishonesty, and added that if they suspected his honesty they were remiss in not so saying at the time, and had thus connived at the embezzlement of a large sum in order that they might have the opportunity of later throwing the responsibility on him for any questionable acts which had been, or might be, committed by Darnall subsequently (pp. 484-486, 490-492).

#### PROVINCIAL AGENT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The appointment of a provincial agent to represent the people of Maryland in Great Britain, and more especially before the home government, which has been discussed in the introduction to a former volume of the Archives (*Arch. Md.* LV, 1), came up again at the *April, 1759*, the *March-April 1760*, and the *April-May 1761*, sessions. Lord Baltimore violently opposed the appointment of an agent, on the ground that the popular party would use him to misrepresent and discredit the Proprietary government at home. Bills "to raise a Fund to be applied to the payment of an Agent for the service of the Province" were introduced in the Lower House and passed at both the 1759 and 1760 sessions, in each case to be immediately rejected in the Upper House. It was