

revenues; (4) that a bill of this kind is necessary to quiet the minds of landholding aliens and to assure the safety of their titles to those who in good faith have paid their caution money, the costs for their land warrant, the surveyor's fee for their warrant, the examiner's fee for their certificate, the land office for their patent, the chancellor for his seal, and the quit rents to the Proprietary; and then after all these payments, through ignorance of the law, they may at any time be intimidated by the issuance of an escheat warrant, which without this legislation, may result in the loss of their lands; (5) that, if the principle upon which this bill is based be rejected, it may well become the rule of this house in comparable cases to refuse to pass "any Bill securitative of the rights of the People" as against the Lord Proprietary, a course that would be pregnant of irreconcilable enmity between him and his tenants, and result in jealousies, suspicions, dissensions, and animosities that would prove detrimental to his Lordship's revenue and discourage further settlement, depopulate the country, and cast an odious blemish upon the character of his government; (6) that similar bills had been passed in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and the lack of such laws here will place this Province at a disadvantage and deprive it of the advantages enjoyed by settlers in those colonies, for under the act of Parliament for naturalizing foreign Protestants (under which Maryland then operated) the long term of residence required in the plantations before naturalization, prevents them from promptly acquiring land legally in this Province and earning their living upon it, for with the exception of a few who may become merchants, the only way they can gain a livelihood here is on the land; (7) that the failure to pass the bill may result in greedy men seeking by escheat warrants to dispossess aliens of their lands before they have lived here the time required for naturalization under the act of Parliament, and subject them to a multiplicity of law suits; (8) that unless this bill is passed any attempt to bring alien settlers here will only be regarded as an engine or snare to catch and ruin the unwary; (9) that the suggestion that there may be clauses in the bill artfully inserted which may tend to invalidate his Lordship's general rights in the matter of escheat is chimerical, for if there are such they should now be pointed out and corrected, and the fear of them not given as a reason for its rejection. Dulany concluded by saying that the bill is concise and plain, and the subject matter so simple that the dread of any design on the part of its framers in the Lower House is rather the effect of excessive diffidence than prudent caution (pp. 56-59).

As illustrating the dilemma in which the heirs of an alien landholder did sometimes find themselves under existing conditions, and the injustice to which they were subjected, there is printed in the Appendix (pp. 517-519), the petition, dated April 20, 1757, of Daniel Chamier, the executor of the estate of Valentius Duchart, of Baltimore County, addressed to the Governor and Assembly of Maryland. It would appear from this petition that Duchart, a native of France and a Protestant, had purchased a tract of land in Baltimore County and leased an inn from Dr. William Lyon of Baltimore Town, and that Duchart had been killed when his barn was destroyed in a "hard Gale of Wind", before naturalization, for which he had applied, had been granted. The