

two latter not guilty, the court thereupon also freed the servant that had pleaded guilty, probably because it felt all three really equally guilty, and it seemed unfair to penalize the one who had confessed his crime. Bawcomb, the master, was, however, bound over for twelve months for his good abearance. The sheriff's imprisonment charges and costs for the three, based on a rate of a twenty pounds of tobacco a day, amounted to a total of 10,200 pounds, a rather large sum of money for that period (pp. 601, 603, 604).

Two Maryland planters living at the Cliffs, Calvert County, were brought before the Provincial Court in 1670 upon charges of barratry, a legal term applied only to troublemakers who were repeated offenders, and an offense almost unheard of on the Maryland dockets. The words of the presentment, identical in both cases, charge the barrators with so many offenses that one feels certain that neither of them could have been guilty of all the unpleasant things with which they were charged in the old legal form, which perhaps the new Attorney-General John Morecroft dug up to impress the court and the public. Be this as it may, the presentment in each case charged that the accused "was and yet is a Cõmon Barretor, a dayly and publique disturber of the peace of the said Lord Proprietary a cõmon and turbulent Calumniator, a Reproacher, a fighter, a sower of striffes and discords amongst his neighbors so that he hath moved procured and stirred up divers striffes brawlings and fightings then and there and at other places elsewhere amongst the good people of the said Lord Proprietary to the great disturbance of the said Lord proprietaryes Peace contrary to his rule and dignity" (p. 605).

The two men charged with barratry were Captain Thomas Manning and Henry Mitchell, both of Calvert County, who were each brought before the court at its December, 1669, session although there was no connection between their offenses. Captain Thomas Manning, gentleman, and a member of the Calvert County court, was presented for an offense no details of which are disclosed, which apparently culminated on August 20, 1669 (p. 607). Although the presentment does not state why Manning found himself charged with barratry, an examination of the court record discloses a civil suit which throws light upon his character. This suit filed at the February, 1667/8, court by Richard Collett, High Sheriff of Calvert County, against Thomas Manning, while giving no details of the assault, shows that Manning was a man of violence. It is here alleged that while "officiating his office . . . he was struck and beaten . . . whereupon by Warr" from the Governor, Manning was arrested and bound over. When the case was called, Collett was "very sick and weak and not able to appear this court" (p. 244). He died soon afterwards, sometime between January 8 and April 28, 1668, very possibly as a result of his injuries. At the June, 1668, session, Manning entered his personal appearance at the court in connection with "the complaint formerly made against him by Richard Collett deceased" (p. 312). There seems to have been no formal prosecution. He was doubtless guilty of some other outbreak of violence when he was indicted for barratry two years later. When brought before the court at the December, 1669, session Manning seems to have offered no defense and "humbly submitted himself to the judgment of the Court", and gave security in the sum of £50 for his good abearance during life (p. 607).