

by the Protestant Revolution, and the deposition of James II. It was doubtless felt to be safer for church lands in Maryland to be held by prominent Catholic laymen than by a Jesuit priest.

QUAKERS.

There are few mentions of Quakers by name in this record, but there are several references, known from other sources, to apply to Quakers. Thus there can be no doubt that John Sumner, who was fined at the June, 1667, court 500 pounds of tobacco for refusing to take the oath of a jurymen, and Nicholas Wyatt, summoned to serve on the Grand Jury at the December, 1668, Court, who also refused to take the oath and was fined, were both Quakers (pp. 197, 355).

Although the validity of the Quaker marriage ceremony does not seem to have been openly attacked in Maryland as it was in Virginia about this time, it is probable that the formal entering in the records of the Provincial Court in the year 1670 of two marriage certificates, in both instances involving Quakers, may have been with the desire to make assurance doubly sure. One of these marriage certificates recited the marriage January 12, 1669-70, of William Ford of Bristol, England to Sarah, the daughter of Richard Preston of Calvert County, deceased (p. 502). Richard Preston, who had died in 1669, was the leading Quaker of Maryland and lived at Charles' Gift, on the Patuxent River, recently made famous by Hulbert Footner in his delightful book, *Charles' Gift*. A month earlier on December 9, 1669, Margaret, another daughter of Richard Preston, had entered into a pre-nuptial agreement with William Berry of no little interest to students of social history. This agreement provided that Margaret for her own use and for her own disposal reserved the following: £100 sterling; plate to the value of £40 sterling; "the little Negro Girle called sarah borne in Richard Prestons house, vallued to Tenn pounds sterling, if the said Girle should dy, the said William Berry to make the same good to the said Margaret by another Negro or the vallue; a good mare to ride on vallue seaven pounds sterling; and a Chamber or Roome to be well furnished with bedding and furniture with other household stufte to the vallue of forty three pounds sterling" (p. 469). Margaret was obviously a far-seeing young Quaker heiress.

The other marriage certificate recorded on the same day as that of Sarah Preston and William Ford, and in identical terms, was that of William Stevens of Dorchester County to Mary Sharpe, the daughter of Peter Sharpe of Calvert County, known to be Quakers (p. 502).

That the Quakers played the part of the good Samaritan in these as well as in later days is brought out in two instances discussed elsewhere in this introduction where Quakers were asked by the Provincial Court to take into their care for cure indentured servants, who were ill and were being neglected by their masters. In one of these cases it was this same Peter Sharpe who took into his house a certain John Corbett "in a languishing condiçon of body" (pp. xlvi-xlviii, 182, 368-9); in the other instance Thomas Powell, a leading Quaker of Talbot County, was appointed by the court guardian to a boy named Joseph Edloe suffering from "an old ulcher in his legg" (p. xlvi, 182).