

the Proprietary had forbidden Bland to Practice in any Maryland court, and he declared that Bland made it his business to urge men to go to law. Urging men to go to law amounted to barratry and it was an indictable offense. Bland said that both of these charges were false: he had not been disbarred by the Proprietary nor had he ever stirred up quarrels, either at law or in fact. Though the charges were false, said Bland, because of these "False lyeing and scandalous words (*post*, p. 11)." he had utterly lost his employment and even more important, his good name. "all his clients and other hon^{ble} and venerable psons of this Province have withdrawne themselves from the Company of the said Thomas and . . . refuse in any wise to Deale . . . with the said Thomas" (*post*, p. 11). Whereupon Thomas sued Hill for 100,000 pounds of tobacco. When, after an imparlance, the case came to trial on April 30, 1681, the jury was summoned and heard the testimony. When they came back in to court to give their verdict, the plaintiff, although solemnly called, did not appear. Therefore the Court considered that Bland take nothing by his writ, and that Hill go without day, with provision that he recover against Bland his costs with execution (*post*, pp. 9-12).

Because land remained the dominant, almost the only source of wealth, there was the expected number of cases about it. Though there was the Land Council it had been set up only recently, on April 19, 1680, and most of the cases followed the old pattern. There is but one case about the escheat of land, and it was inconclusive. Major John Wheeler had gone to much expense to prove that a piece of land had escheated to the Proprietary, and he wanted to have it granted to him as the discoverer. The rules of escheat rested on the pleasure of the Proprietary, but the discoverer was always considered. Before Wheeler could get his claim decided, he heard that the Proprietary and the Council had ordered that Philip Lynes have it. Hearing this he petitioned that he be reimbursed for the amount he had spent in escheating the land. The total was 2650 pounds of tobacco. Included in it was a mutton and thirty gallons of cider spent on the first jury (*post*, p. 171). The Council considered the petition and ordered that Philip Lynes, likely to have the land, pay Major Wheeler most but not all of his claims (*Archives* XVII, 79-80). It is easily possible that Wheeler's petition to the Proprietary and the Council does not belong at all to the proceedings of the Provincial Court, but to those of the Council: part of the substance of the petition is found in those proceedings (*Archives* XVII, 79-80).

There were no grants by the Proprietary, although, since he was in the Province, approaches for grants would have been easy. But there were several cases turning on land titles, transfers from one private person to another. In all these cases the procedure was similar. A man might own the land without having possession of it. Hereupon he leased it, demised it to someone for a term of years, and the lessee entered and was possessed of it. Later, perhaps later the same day, another man entered onto the land and ejected the lessee: he was the casual ejector. Then the lessee sued the casual ejector for sterling or for tobacco. The Court said that unless the tenant in possession (who might be the casual ejector) or the persons under whom he claimed appeared, con-