

SKETCH OF THE FIRST SETTLERS OF MARYLAND.

Our State was first settled by emigrants from England, Ireland, and in small numbers from Scotland, the national characteristics of these settlers are still apparent, and in a very great degree the excellencies of each without their defects, are to-day well represented in the characteristics of the people of our State.

The title to the aboriginal lands was procured by fair purchase, and at no time during the Colonial history of Maryland was there war or even serious difficulties with the Indians, except for a very brief period when they were instigated to some deeds of violence by the wiles of Claiborne; these lasted but a short time, and had no recurrence. On the first landing of the Pilgrims, the natives received them with distrust, but the Maryland settlers, mindful of the claims of justice, sought to conciliate the natives and acquire equitable title to their lands. They purchased a defined district for good consideration, but the crowning glory of our early settlers was absolute freedom of religion, and the enunciation of that doctrine by enactment of the Supreme authority of the Province.

This is not the place to elaborate this subject, but we have the privilege and just pride of being descendants of those who acted fairly with the weak, who did not cower before the strong, of men, who did not arrogantly thrust themselves between their fellow-men and their Creator; but left all free to render homage to their God fully and freely in the mode most congenial to the instincts of their own heart, the dictates of their own reason, and the teachings of their own faith.

The heroism, bravery and self-sacrificing spirit of her people, were well illustrated in the war of the Revolution none of the "old thirteen" have a prouder record, none can claim to have made more willing sacrifices, none with more freedom from selfish views.

The partiality of sectional writers has not yet done justice to the Revolutionary history of Maryland, and many have blazoned forth actions as wonderfully meritorious which when done by the colony of Maryland, have never been pro-