

the Free School buildings and lands, and devote the proceeds to their own school; giving as an additional reason for the sale, 'that the Free school did not afford sufficient support for a master, and that its situation made it difficult to procure board for youth. This petition was granted;—the more readily perhaps, from the influence of Thos. Johnson, then Governor, who was the fellow-countryman of the petitioners—the lower Marlboro' school incorporated, and the following year (1779), the Free School lands and buildings disposed of, to Wm. Hunter, 'its late master and register,' for the sum of £1972,* to be applied to the use of this, our second Public School, which was to be thenceforth known as 'The Lower Marlboro' Academy.'

SECOND PERIOD.

During this period, which extends from 1779—1854—our County possessed, beside that of Lower Marlboro,' four additional Academies—viz: Prince Frederick, incorporated in 1833; Battle Creek, in 1835; Island Creek, 1836—and Plum Point, 1845. What degree of efficiency they attained, it would be difficult to determine, but according to the best information accessible, it would seem that the course of instruction varied with the demands of the Trustees, and the requirements of the teacher engaged. Generally speaking, it was confined to the elementary branches of English, though at one period, I learn that an assistant teacher of the classic found employment in the Lower Marlboro' Academy. This evidence of liberal patronage and literary pretensions might be explained perhaps, by the fact, that this school was, at this time, in the sole enjoyment of the Academie fund of the County. This fund, amounting to \$800 annually, I would remark *en passant*, underwent singular transitions. In 1798, the very year that gave birth to the Lower Marlboro' Academy, it was assigned by the Legislature, to the use of Charlotte Hall Seminary, for the benefit of which school, Prince George, St Mary's and Charles Counties, had previously made the same disposition of their Academic funds—and in return, Calvert was allowed the joint management of that time-honored Institution; in 1817 it was withdrawn from Charlotte Hall, and assigned to the use of the Commissioners of the Free School Fund of our County, to be distributed in common with the latter fund for the education of indigent children, for whose benefit it was annually applied till 1821, when, by

*The Commissioners effecting the sale, were, as appears by a deed bearing date 1779, Chas. Grahame, Wm. Fitzhugh and Thos. Chew.—(Vide Lib. S. S. fol. 198. Land Rec. Cal. Co.) The sum obtained was more than the same tract would bring now, and this might have been due to improvements on them. Tradition indeed tells us of a Grist and a Fulling Mill; no trace of which now exists, except an embankment, still known as 'Hunter's mill-dam.'