

Even Charles Carroll of Carrollton, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, voted in favor of a general tax to support religion.<sup>100</sup> At this point something should be said about the family Carroll, which in large measure took over the traditions left by the early Calverts. The Carrolls were Catholics, and as such were persecuted in England; it could well have been the family motto, "Wherever with Liberty," which prompted them to come to Maryland. The first Charles Carroll arrived in the midst of Coode's rebellion (1688 ff.) and quickly became the champion of oppressed Catholics and nonconforming Protestants. His son, Charles Carroll of Doughoregan, was educated among Jesuits and spent much of his career campaigning against laws "to prevent popery." He was influential in the legislative defeat of a drastic anti-Catholic statute and violently—though unsuccessfully—opposed a bill which levied double taxation on Catholics. The passage of this bill so discouraged him that he hesitated to encourage his son—Charles Carroll of Carrollton, then being educated in France—to come home to Maryland. However, the son was as high spirited as the father used to be. He chose for himself, and returned to Maryland at the dawn of the American Revolution.<sup>101</sup>

At first, the intention of Carroll of Carrollton was to avoid politics, but events of the day quickly forced him into the arena. Less than six weeks after his arrival at Annapolis, the Stamp Act was passed by Parliament. Carroll recommended and spearheaded a boycott of British goods and when Daniel

Dulaney, a Tory sympathizer, attacked him on the basis of his religion, the young statesman emerged with an overwhelmingly popular victory. His unanimous reply to Dulaney, "we [Catholics] remember yet we forgive" won public sentiment for religious as well as civil liberty. Under Carroll's leadership, the Provincial Convention of 1775 extended the franchise to all freemen having an estate of 40 pounds, without any regard to religious affiliation. This marked the first time since the Catholic Lords Baltimore that both Protestant and Catholic could go to the polls together. Some believe Carroll to be the first American patriot to have expressed himself in favor of independence, and to have had absolute faith in the ultimate freedom of the colonies.<sup>102</sup>

On the eve of the Revolution, Charles Carroll of Carrollton had stated, "I am as averse to having religion crammed down my throat as to a proclamation."<sup>103</sup> In a mission to win over French Canadians to the American cause, he had promised:

"that we hold sacred the rights of conscience and may promise to the whole people . . . the free and undisturbed exercise of their religion; . . . that all . . . Christians be equally entitled to hold offices and enjoy civil privileges and . . . be totally exempt from the payment of any titles or taxes for the support of any religion."<sup>104</sup>

As much if not more a champion of tolerance and liberty was Carroll of Carrollton's close friend and cousin,

<sup>102</sup> *Id.* at 300-16.

<sup>103</sup> A. NEVINS, *THE AMERICAN STATES DURING AND AFTER THE REVOLUTION 1775-1789*, at 430 (1924).

<sup>104</sup> IVES, *supra* note 61 at 324-25.

<sup>100</sup> *Id.* at 67; WERLINE, *supra* note 52 at 151.

<sup>101</sup> For short but relevant biographies, see IVES, *supra* note 61 at 260-96.