

by the Upper House of the resolutions passed by the Lower in 1722. Perhaps the most noteworthy document was another historical retrospect presented by the Committee on Grievances, which discussed especially the judges' oaths from 1692 to 1724,<sup>12</sup> and a letter written to the Governor by Dulany, to whom, as Attorney-General, the former referred the wording of the clause in the proposed oath, for his opinion as to its constitutionality.<sup>13</sup> It is impossible to believe that Dulany's leadership in the Lower House was not known, consequently the whole situation seems somewhat ludicrous.

The next Assembly—a new one—met in October, 1725, and made a violent attack on the privileged classes—the lawyers, the clergy, and the proprietary officers. The year was no less noteworthy in the statutes controversy. Perhaps as a campaign document for this Assembly, there was published in Philadelphia, by Andrew Bradford, a Selection of the Votes and Proceedings of 1722-4, bearing on the statutes controversy and the constitution of the Province, to which were prefixed, first, a translation of the charter of Maryland, and, secondly, a long anonymous "Epistolar Preface to the Maryland Readers,"<sup>14</sup> which urged the colonists to appreciate their his-

<sup>12</sup> L. H. J. October 18th, 1724.

<sup>13</sup> U. H. J. Oct. 31, 1724. "May it please your Excellency. The words proposed in the oath of a Judge (for the Letters of the King) being designed only to oblige the Judges according to the known and established rules of law without regarding any commands or other directions (even the King himself) to the contrary, I'm humbly of opinion can't possibly affect his Lordship, in his prerogative or any other way, but on the contrary shew that regard to the equal and indifferent administration of justice to the people in putting the judges under the most sacred ties to discharge their duty that is one of the distinguishing characteristics of a good ruler. May it please your Excellency, Your most humble servant,

D. DULANY."

<sup>14</sup> This "preface," the general character of which makes it seem probable that it was written by Dulany, speaks first of the lack of publication of the "parliamentary proceedings" of Maryland, and the resulting ignorance of the constitution of the Province, which makes "the character of a great Commoner, so much esteemed in England . . . here unknown, or useless." The author then vigorously combats the charge of innovation which has been brought against his party. On the contrary they are striving for the rights the Province has always had, which are English liberties.