

other oath bill, which the Governor approved, but which, shortly after this, was vetoed by the Proprietor.<sup>18</sup>

A year seems to have passed without further developments of importance. Then, in 1727, we find another printed edition of Votes and Proceedings; this was printed at Annapolis, by William Parks, and included chiefly the transactions of 1725—another report of the Committee of Aggrievances, another discussion between the Houses, another Act passed, and another veto.<sup>19</sup>

Then came three years of excitement, the last of Governor Calvert's régime; the events of which have been described in the first two chapters of the former paper. Besides the political strife, the appearance of the Maryland Gazette and other publications may be recalled. During this same period the statutes controversy reached its crisis, and shortly after, its conclusion. To the Assembly, upon its meeting, was announced the dissent of Lord Baltimore to the Oath Law of 1727, and, as if to meet them half way, offered the Proprietor a form of oath which he suggested as more appropriate. This read "according to the laws, customs, and directions of the Acts of Assembly of this Province, and, when they are silent, according to the laws, statutes and reasonable customs of England as have been used and practised in this Province."<sup>20</sup>

The Lower House would have none of this, because of the obnoxious past tense of the words "have been." By such words they would be shut out from future statutes which might be of benefit to them,<sup>21</sup> and from past statutes which might perhaps not have been "used and practised" before a court, while endless disputes might arise as to whether any particular Act had been used. Again, Dulany and the Committee of Laws made a report; again, the former drew up for the House an address to the Governor. Another law and

<sup>18</sup> Bacon: Laws of Md. Act of 1725, ch. 1.

<sup>19</sup> L. H. J. MS., 1727, passim. Bacon: Laws of Md. Act of 1727, ch. 1.

<sup>20</sup> L. H. J. MS. 1728, Oct. 4.

<sup>21</sup> L. H. J. MS. 1728, Oct. 5.