

CHAPTER IV.

THE ARGUMENTS IN THE DEBATE OF 1722-1732.

If the sources for the eighteenth century history of Maryland, or even that part of them found in the Journals of the Assembly, were accessible in printed form, this chapter could be materially abbreviated. But the documents which illustrate the arguments pro and con in the controversy just outlined exist almost exclusively in manuscripts and, as these arguments are the life of the dry narrative that constitutes the last chapter, we must endeavor at this point briefly to sum up several of the more important.

We shall consider, then, first, a few reports and addresses which appear in the records of the Assembly; second, to show its relation to these, the pamphlet by Daniel Dulany; and third, the notes upon the controversy found in the writings of one of the ministers of the Established Church in the colony of Maryland.

First among the documents which present the arguments of the country party come the Resolutions of 1722. These we have already outlined. The most important are those of the second group, which present a clear statement of the claim that the colonists had in the past enjoyed the extension of the general English statutes—that is, those not restrained by words of local limitation; and the paragraph to which special notice should be given is the one which emphasizes the idea that the Province was not a conquered country even as against the Indians; while, if it were, the English inhabitants would be the conquerors, not the conquered.¹ But part of the resolutions of 1722 provide for their perpetuation; they have a further history that will be discussed hereafter.

In reply to this, we have the statement of the Proprietor,

¹ Above, pp. 32-33. For the resolutions in full, see Appendix I.