

CHAPTER V.

RESULTS OF THE CONTROVERSY—DIRECT AND INDIRECT.

In considering the results of this controversy, and in attempting to set, in their due relation to the history of the British Empire and to that of the American colonies, the succession of events and the interchange of arguments that we have described in the preceding chapters, we must avoid magnifying to an undue importance that which has come beneath our observation. Maryland was but a small corner of the political world, and to the Empire—perhaps even to neighboring colonies—this controversy and its leaders remained unknown. In this cautious frame of mind, however, we may endeavor to look at the affair in the larger relations of time and place, and with this survey bring our essay to a close.

First, then, we have seen that the technical points at issue were compromised, to the Proprietor's advantage perhaps, and that the leader of the popular body passed over to the official circle, there, however, still exercising his influence for the public good. The compromise, moreover, was only a makeshift, and left an indefiniteness in this part of Maryland law, which differentiated the latter somewhat from the jurisprudence of the other colonies, and from the general theory of the United States Supreme Court.

Next, the reader may once more be reminded of the close connection of this with the other expressions of unrest that mark this period of the colonial history of Maryland, while the whole will impress on him the error of the older view that regarded this as a time of halcyon quiet in colonial administration. In the former essay, also, it was shown that other causes of strife ensued, and that henceforth the Assembly was rarely without some active aggression upon one or another of the prerogatives of the Proprietor.