

brought to their consciousness rather suddenly the realization of their imperial or, if one may stretch the term, their international relations, that the doctrine of Natural Rights became as it were their universal political creed. Now, few of the practical questions that came up could lead them more easily to this system of thought than this interrogation as to the legal relation of dependencies to the colonizing power, which we have had under investigation. For the English law itself, as seen in the decisions of the courts from Calvin's Case down, bore, here more than in most of its departments, the stamp of the influence of the Law of Nations; and how easy would be the passage from this to the Law of Nature, must appear to anyone who reads even the chapter titles of the Second Essay on Government. The same connection is witnessed to by the frequent reference to Grotius and Puffendorf, whose influence on revolutionary thought the greater importance of Locke sometimes causes us to forget.

Thus we bring to a conclusion our studies in this period of Maryland history. With the middle of the eighteenth century came changes in the *dramatis personæ* and in the questions, economic and political, which the provincials had to meet. But the new growth had its roots in the old. The improvement of the tobacco culture, the introduction of German immigrants; the possibilities open to a skillful leader in the provincial legislature; the warm discussion of the imperial constitution as applied to the Province—all of these found their beginning in that time which we have chosen for investigation, and which we have described in the foregoing pages.