

## CHAPTER III

### AFTER THE REVOLUTION TO 1805

THE changes of the Revolution of 1776 have so engrossed attention that the fact of continuation of local, state institutions through it has been much overlooked. There was no occasion for great disturbances in the Maryland institutions, and few changes were made. After the Revolution as before there were: a Governor and Council, a General Assembly of two houses, a Court of Appeals, a general trial court with only the change in name necessitated by the disappearance of the provincial status, a Chancellor and Court of Chancery, a Court of Admiralty and the several county courts. And there was still an Attorney General, a Land Office, and other institutions of familiar titles and duties. As will be seen, the courts, and even the state itself, continued using the seals of the proprietary government for years after the Revolution. Only one court did the revolutionists declare abolished at the time, and that was the court of the Commissary General or Prerogative Court at Annapolis, for probate of wills and administration of estates. In the preamble to the act of 1777, chapter 8, which inaugurated the system of Orphans Courts, it was recited that "by the form of government lately assented to by the representatives of the freemen of this state, it is intended that the office of Commissary-General should be abolished"; and Harris and McHenry noted the abolition of that office or court only,