



APPENDIX

*The Fabled Jesuit Press of St. Mary's City—Act of 1727 for the
Encouragement of William Parks—A Summary of Jonas
Green's Relations with the Assembly*

ONE regrets the inadvisability of beginning this study of Maryland printing history with the interesting account of its origins invented and set afoot by Scharf (*History of Maryland*, 1: 190), wherein it is related that a catechism, composed by Father Andrew White in the Indian dialects, was printed on a press controlled by the Jesuit missionaries of St. Mary's sometime before the year 1655. Scharf's story was based solely upon his understanding or misunderstanding of Father William McSherry's report (probably an oral report) of his discoveries in the Professed House of the Jesuits in Rome, where in 1832 he had found the manuscript of Father White's *Relatio Itineris in Marylandiam* and a catechism in the Indian language by the same author. Of all authorities who mention these works, Scharf is the only one who believed, or to whom the thought seems to have occurred, that the catechism was a printed book. B. U. Campbell (*Metropolitan Catholic Almanac*, Baltimore 1841, pp. 43-68) mentions Father McSherry's discovery, but says nothing as to the catechism having been printed. Richard H. Clarke (*Metropolitan Magazine*, Baltimore, 1856, p. 75) implies that the catechism was in manuscript. These two writers were contemporaries of Father McSherry; Scharf wrote a generation or more after his death. The late Rev. E. I. Devitt, S. J., Professor of Colonial History in Georgetown University (*Catholic Encyclopaedia*, article "White, Andrew"), says "these works" (*i. e.* Father White's *Relatio*, Grammar, Dictionary and Catechism) "were manuscript compositions." He repeats this statement with considerable elaboration in the *Sun*, Baltimore, June 2, 1907, and most emphatically in a letter to the author written a few days before his lamented death in 1920. John Gilmary Shea (*Catholic Church in Colonial Days*, New York, 1886, p. 41) writes, "The manuscript of the *Relatio* with an Indian catechism was found in 1832 in the Archives of the Professed House at Rome, by an American Jesuit, Father William McSherry." Neither Father H. J.