

the state, nor soiled the fair pages of her history with the blood of martyrs.

The first General Assembly of Maryland was convened in Feb. 1634—5, a few months after the landing of the first settlers. It was composed of the whole body of the freemen.—A sense of their rights and privileges as such, seems to have been infused into their acts, which were probably not approved by the Proprietor, who transmitted in turn, for their consideration, a code of laws prepared by himself. This code was laid before an assembly, summoned to meet in January, 1637—8, which rejected it without hesitation, and immediately prepared a body of regulations adapted to their own situation.

From this early period of the colony, a spirited contest was maintained between the people of the state and the authorities that governed them, respecting the extent and construction of their respective prerogatives, serving to fan the flame of freedom, and to prepare the people to resist the more formidable encroachments of royalty itself.

From the date of the *Declaration of Independence*, July the 4th 1776, this, as well as the other states of the then confederation, became AN INDEPENDENT STATE.

Gratitude is justly due to the worthy individuals who composed the *Patriot Congress* of that period. What an assemblage of wonderful men! Each name has been deeply engraved upon a