

of the enlargement of Kent County here mentioned, but it seems probable that the area was only that about the settlements between Swan's Point and Langford Bay.

After the separation of Cecil County in 1674 the county seat of Baltimore County was established on Bush River at old Baltimore Town, where it remained until 1712, when it was removed to Joppa, whence it was again removed in 1768 to the present Baltimore City. The gradual change to the westward of the county seat was the result of the increasing population along the Patapsco River, and northward from the Bay shore until at the last date given the populations of the upper and lower portions of Baltimore County were approximately equal. The removal of the county seat occasioned considerable feeling between the two portions of the county. The inhabitants of the upper or eastern portion soon expressed a desire for a separation from their successful rivals on the west. Accordingly in 1773 the General Assembly passed an Act decreeing

“that after the second of March next all that part of Baltimore county which is included within the bounds following, to wit: Beginning at the mouth of the little falls of the Gunpowder river, and running with the said falls to the fountain head, and from thence north to the temporary line of this province, and thence with the temporary line to the Susequehanna river, thence with Susquehanna to Chesapeake bay, and thence with the said bay, including Spesitic and Pool's islands, to the mouth of Gunpowder river to the beginning aforesaid shall be and is hereby erected into a new county, by the name of Harford county.”

The introduction of the “temporary line” as a term in the boundary of the newly erected county is a curious anachronism. The “temporary line” was a line run *ex parte* by the Pennsylvanians in 1739, and was the only boundary recognized between Maryland and Pennsylvania on the west side of the Susquehanna from the date of its location until the work of Mason and Dixon. At the time when the law erecting Harford County was enacted, however, the work of Mason and Dixon had been completed, the present boundary line run and the well-known stones set in position, the surveyors having completed their allotted work five years before. Moreover, their work had been accepted by the proprietors of Pennsylvania and Maryland and approved by the Lord High Chan-