

Some offices paid more and others less. Equally important, or nearly so, was the matter of trouble and attendance. Normally an office holder expected to give only part of his time, and indeed as little as possible, to his public employment. For he was usually a planter, often a merchant or barrister as well, and he could hardly neglect these profitable callings. Fortunately some few offices were sinecures, and others could be made so by employing a deputy. There were also the questions of risk and tenure. In a few posts, notably that of sheriff, an incumbent had to put up money of his own and take a chance of losing it. Again the tenure of the shrievalty was limited by law, but most other places were tenable at pleasure, which often meant for life.

We have said that these offices were important. Politically they were so because they were generally coveted, and because those who obtained them became objects of envy. Such places were in consequence bones of contention between the ins and outs during the whole colonial period. Their revenues were on the one hand jealously guarded and on the other repeatedly attacked. Most political controversy arose out of them. Politically, too, such offices were so many gifts in the hands of government, either royal or proprietary, wherewith friends might be rewarded and opponents conciliated.

Administratively, these were the offices that most closely touched the lives of the people; for by them were the records kept, lands surveyed and granted, funds collected and disbursed, wills probated, and estates administered. Economically, they helped to siphon the wealth of the people into the coffers of the gentry. Socially, they fostered the rise of aristocracy. Culturally, they drew upon the many that the few might purchase books, rear great houses, and educate their children. Historically, they created, out of controversy, political experience, and out of wealth and ease, political leadership.

Now it is not the purpose of this book to prove anything, or to point a moral, or to teach a useful lesson. Its only aim is to aid those who would delve further, providing data they may need and will not elsewhere easily obtain. Here will be found, excised

cousins, Mr. and Mrs. David Graham; after Graham's death Secretary Calvert thought £100 a year ample for the widow (Horatio Sharpe to Cecilius Calvert, May 3, 1754, and Cecilius Calvert to Horatio Sharpe, Dec. 2, 1754. *Archives*, VI, 64; XXXI, 474).