

ment of Colonel George Plater, September 8, 1692, until the resignation of Stephen Bordley in December, 1763 (except in the first eleven years of Henry Darnall's incumbency, that is, 1744-55) the Attorney General held one or more other places of profit. From August, 1708, to July, 1724, and again from October, 1734, to April, 1744, he was also Commissary General; at other times he held a Naval Office, which, when executed by deputy, was in effect a sinecure.²⁷ ✓

For three brief intervals Maryland possessed, besides an Attorney General, a Solicitor General, who seems to have been merely an assistant to the Attorney. No salary or fees were settled upon this officer; but under royal government he was rewarded, like the Attorney, with other places of profit.

On December 6, 1671, during an absence of Attorney General Vincent Lowe, the Council appointed John Morecroft, the Register of St. Mary's City, to act as Solicitor General in a case against Captain Josias Fendall.²⁸ The appointment seems to have been a temporary one, and when Morecroft died, in June, 1674, no successor was appointed.

Again on April 3, 1688, Chancellor Henry Darnall, pursuant to Baltimore's instruction, appointed Major William Dent, then Clerk of the Lower House, to be Solicitor General.²⁹ This proprietary office ceased with the fall of Baltimore's government on August 1, 1689.

Dent was, however, reappointed to the same post, under crown administration, November 13, 1694, at a time when Attorney General Plater was busy with his customs offices.³⁰ Apparently in lieu of other reward, and for the time being, he received, a week later, half the Naval Office of North Potomac and, in October, 1696, the whole of it.³¹ In the following December, however, he petitioned the Council for a regular salary, alleging that by law all fees were payable to the Attorney General and that, as

²⁷ In 1754 Governor Sharpe suggested that the Naval Office of Patuxent be permanently annexed to that of Attorney General so as to provide a reasonable support for this officer. Henry Darnall III was not properly bred to the law, was not very able, and was subjected to much criticism. See Horatio Sharpe to Cecilius Calvert, June 6, 1754, and Cecilius Calvert to Horatio Sharpe, Dec. 10, 1754 (*Ibid.*, VI, 71, 134).

²⁸ *Ibid.*, V, 103.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, VIII, 16-17.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, XX, 172, 237.

³¹ *Ibid.*, XX, 186, 531.