

CHAPTER IX

REVENUE OFFICERS: ROYAL

THERE WERE REALLY two crown revenue establishments in Maryland, one temporary, existing only under crown administration, and the other permanent, set up in 1673 and developing thereafter until the Revolution.

The former establishment consisted of two Receivers, to take and disburse all funds for support of government, and a Deputy Auditor to review their accounts. The funds they received arose in part from the twelve pence per hogshead (1671), collected by Naval Officers, and from the fines and forfeitures collected by sheriffs. As under proprietary rule both appertained to Lord Baltimore, the Receivers here succeeded, and in 1715 were succeeded by, His Lordship's Agent and Receiver General. Further, the Receivers took from the Naval Officers and paid to the Governor the produce of two duties now levied for his better support, that is, the three pence per hogshead (1692) and the three pence per ton (1694). These too became proprietary revenues, and were received by His Lordship's Agent, after 1715.

The latter crown establishment, comprising Collectors, Surveyors, and Comptrollers of customs, enforced the English navigation laws and collected the "plantation duty" levied by Parliament in 1673.¹

1. THE TEMPORARY ESTABLISHMENT, 1692-1715.

On January 8, 1691/2, at the inception of royal government, William and Mary appointed Colonel George Plater to be Receiver of Patuxent District and Colonel Nehemiah Blakiston to be Receiver of North Potomac and Pocomoke.² These units were

¹ This duty, enacted by 25 Charles II, c. 7 (1673), amounted to one penny a pound on tobacco exported to other colonies. Customs officers also collected those import duties levied by Parliament in 1733 (6 George II, c. 13), 1763 (4 George III, c. 15), and 1767 (7 George III, c. 46, partly repealed in 1770 by 10 George III, c. 17).

² *Archives*, XXIII, 192. Blakiston's commission does not appear, but he was evidently appointed at the same time (cf. *Calendar of Treasury Books*, X, part 3, 1186, 1191). On Aug. 16, 1692, Gov. Lionel Copley had appointed Thomas