



Some Prominent Virginia Families, Vol. 4 of 4 (Classic Reprint)

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Excerpt from Some Prominent Virginia Families, Vol. 4 of 4

In the upper part of Chesapeake Bay was a commanding post within the disputed territory of Maryland and Virginia, and was alternately occupied by the forces of the contending colonists.

This place, in 1632, was occupied by William Claiborne, Secretary of State to Governor Sir John Harvey of Virginia. Claiborne was the champion of the rights claimed by the Virginia Colonists in their contention with Maryland, while the English government and King favored Lord Baltimore's claims, or the Maryland side of the controversy. Sir John Harvey, who was himself a creature of the King, found it contrary to his interests to oppose the King's wishes openly. When, therefore, Claiborne resisted the encroachments of Maryland by force of arms and was, in consequence, indicted and found guilty of murder, piracy and sedition, and took refuge with Harvey, that officer, on the one hand, refused to give him up to the Maryland authorities and, on the other hand, consented that he should be sent to England for trial.

This conduct of Harvey in giving up the champion of their rights instead of protecting and defending him, so incensed the people that, taken in connection with his base yielding of Maryland to Lord Baltimore, they became little inclined to submit to imposition from any quarter. However, they moved with calm deliberation. The first entry made in the record reads as follows: "An assembly to be called to receive complaints against Sir John Harvey on the petition of many inhabitants, to meet 7th of May, 1635." But proposed action only served to make the Governor more imperious and tyrannical.

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