





Handwritten text is visible along the right edge of the page, appearing to be bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is written in a cursive script and is partially obscured by the marbled pattern and the book's binding. Legible fragments include words such as "and", "stat", "ly", "is", "ing", "s", "e", "ally", "er", "able", "nam", "ated", "d", "ion".

My dear Children;

Many years since, in 1811, M^r. Thomas Moran, of this place, called to see me. He had recently returned from a summer excursion to the Eastern States. During his visit, he stated to me that while at Newport in the State of Rhode Island, he had accidentally become acquainted with a gentleman who had been in India shortly before they met. This gentleman, learning from M^r. Moran that he was from Virginia, enquired if he knew any of the Tarewell family in this State. Upon his replying that he knew me, and that I was his townsman, the gentleman thus explained the motives of his enquiry.

He said that while he was in the East Indies, he had met with an old man holding some place in the service of the East India Company, who, finding that he was from the United States, had asked if he knew any person in this Country by the name of Tarewell. He replied that he was not personally acquainted with any such: but he knew well there was a family of that name in America, because he had seen the name subscribed to several Acts of Congress, then in his possession, as the name of the President of the Senate of the United States. The enquirer expressed much solicitude to see this; and calling upon him the next day, for that purpose, he exhibited to him a Volume of the Laws of the United States, several of which were subscribed, as he had represented, by Henry Tarewell as President of the Senate. The old man manifested much satisfaction at this, immediately invited him to his house, and ever afterwards, while he remained in India, had shewn ^{him} much attention, hospitality and kindness, for which he felt very grateful.

M^r. Moran's acquaintance added, that the name of this old man was Tarewell, and that during their intercourse, he had communicated the following account of himself. That he had long believed he was the only person of his name then in existence. His family, he said, had once been numerous, but it had lost all its male branches; and that as he was then an old man and a bachelor, he had supposed his name would soon become extinct. Reflection upon this circumstance, had brought to his memory a family tradition he had often heard while a boy in England, that some younger

branch of the family, had migrated to America, before he was born; and that a desire to obtain some intelligence of this branch, had induced him, during many years, to seek out all the Americans he could find, with a view of making the same enquiries of them which he had addressed to him, when they first met. But until this meeting, he could never learn any thing; and that the book he had seen, gave him the first certain information he had ever received of the existence of any other person of his name.

The old man closed this account of himself, with an earnest request to his guest, that upon his return to America, he would make every necessary enquiry, to ascertain whether the person whose name he had seen derived his lineage from English ancestors; who those ancestors were; and that he would communicate to him the result of these enquiries as speedily as possible.

Mr. Moran's friend stated further, that since his return to the United States, he had been informed that Henry Tarewell, the former President of the Senate, had resided in Virginia and was dead, but whether he had left children he had not been able to learn; and that he had written to his East Indian acquaintance to that effect. He then enquired of Mr. Moran, if he could give any information upon this subject, ~~being~~ answered that I was a son of Henry Tarewell, the gentleman requested that upon his return to Virginia, Mr. Moran would communicate this narrative to me, and would beg of me to write to him, giving such an account of my family as I thought proper, to the end he might transmit it to the East-Indies, as a testimonial that he still bore in grateful recollection the numerous acts of kindness he had formerly received from old Mr. Tarewell. To enable me to comply with this request, he sent me a card with his address.

When I first received this communication, I resolved to comply with the wish it expressed: but being much occupied at that time, I delayed doing so it so long that the subject escaped my memory. Before I thought of it again, the war of 1812, between the United States and Great Britain, had taken place. Soon after the commencement of this war, all my papers were removed from my office, very hastily, at a time when I was absent from home. In

40 31

The derangement occasioned by this sudden and hasty removal of my papers, the address of Mr. Moran's Newport acquaintance was lost, and I have never been able to recover it since.

No circumstance has ever given me more regret than my omission to render a prompt reply to this polite request. The kind and disinterested motives of him who made it, claimed such a compliance at my hands; and every dictate of benevolence required that I should contribute the little that was asked of me to satisfy the anxious solicitude of the forlorn old man, who was certainly prompted by no idle curiosity to beg this small favor. The mere hope of obtaining some intelligence of a distant relative to him long lost, induced him to strive to obtain the good will of a perfect stranger, by acts of hospitality and kindness; and to unbosom, to this stranger, the secret yearnings of his heart and the wishes springing from its inmost recess. While I, although conscious of this, and really sympathizing very sincerely with this isolated being, could yet find some apology, satisfactory to myself, for delaying until it could not be made, a communication that would most probably have removed much of his anxiety by removing all his doubts. Not to have made it, was an act of cruelty, of which when I think, I can scarcely believe I was ever capable, and now censure and deplore more than I will state.

Before I was apprized of the loss of the address of the gentleman who wished to have some account of my family, I had commenced making some memoranda concerning my ancestors, partly from memory, and partly from documents then in my possession. Having expended some labour in making the necessary researches to procure these, I felt no inclination to desist from further investigation, even after I knew that the object for which some of this information was collected could never be satisfied, probably. What I had learned merely inspired an ardent wish to learn more; and accident afterwards gave me an opportunity of gratifying this wish to a much greater extent than I had ever expected.

In the year 1820, business carried me to Northampton Court-house, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Bad weather detained me there after my business was dispatched. While so detained, I endeavoured to occupy the time as agreeably as I

could, in examining the ancient records of that County, which I found in the Clerk's office, very near the Court-house. This was a practice in which I had long been in the habit of indulging myself, whenever I had an opportunity so to do; and from its indulgence, I had often derived much amusement and not a little curious information.

I found the old records of Northampton in a state of much better preservation and furnishing the history of a more early period than I had expected. While amusing myself by perusing, many of the ancient documents and curious narratives there recorded, I accidentally met with names long familiar to my ear, as those of my early forefathers. Much gratified at this discovery, I made copious extracts of all such matters as I then thought useful. Upon my return home, when I compared these extracts with the memoranda I had before made, and with the Statutes and histories of Virginia, I found the most perfect concordance in every thing; and I was astonished to discover that I had then collected ^{a mass of} materials which would enable me to trace back my family history for nearly two centuries, almost to the first settlement of Virginia.

I thereupon formed the resolution of preparing this work, so soon as my leisure would permit me to do so. This resolution itself gave me much satisfaction, by enabling me to enjoy, in anticipation, the pleasure which you, my dear Children, would probably feel in perusing this manuscript account of your family, prepared by the proper hand of your father. I soon became impatient for the leisure I required to fulfill my purpose; and reflection increased, each day, my inclination to commence the task.

If "a lively desire of knowing and of recording, our ancestors," is the result of the influence of some common feeling in the minds "of men," as Gibbon the eloquent historian has said, and as I believe, you too, my dear Children, will one day feel this wish. Before that time arrives, I shall be no more, most probably. A singular fatality seems to have attended our family. With a single exception, the father has always died during the minority of his children; and none of our forefathers have ever enjoyed the benefit of a parents countenance and advice, when they arrived at manhood. Should I also share this

no 31
5

fate, (and but few of our ancestors have reached my present age) however strong, may be your inclination to look back upon your progenitors and "to live in the persons of your forefathers," your desire could never be gratified, without this assistance. No labour, no industry, no research which you could employ, would yield to you the traditional knowledge I possess; and it would be singular indeed, if any similar accident should ever disclose to you the sources of information which accident first open'd to me. But if such chance should again occur, to you it would yield little advantage, probably. Time, ^{is} long, must mutilate and obliterate much of the ancient records I have seen. What time may spare, you would find written in a text no longer used, and which few, in this country, can now decipher. To you, however, it would seem but a collection of hieroglyphicks. Should you be able to overcome all these difficulties, yet wanting the key tradition has furnished to me, the facts you might discover would exhibit but a mere puzzle, whose parts you could never perfectly connect or rightly arrange. Even my memoranda, should they be preserved, which is not probable, would assist you very little. These are written on separate scraps of paper, often so hastily, as to be illegible by any other than myself; and they have been prepared sometimes under circumstances and for purposes I no longer remember. To separate those really useful from others apparently not so, would be a difficult task; to arrange and connect them, impossible to any other than myself. Therefore, I feel it to be a duty which I owe you, to relieve you from the labour of all such vain attempts; and to set before you, in better order, every thing which I have collected in relation to our family.

I came into life precisely at that period, when the habits, the manners and the customs of Virginia, were beginning to manifest that great change which was both the cause and the effect of the political Revolution that sever'd this colony from its parent country and gave it a name as an independent State. The events of my early life, placed me in a situation to learn, by most lively description, much of what had before occur'd, some of which is even now buried in general oblivion; to test the accuracy of these descriptions by my own observation; and to witness the progress of the astonishing changes that have since taken place. Changes so great, in some

40
instances, that posterity will scarcely be disposed to credit them. So circumstanced, I have often been disposed to regard myself as the connecting link that was to bind the past to the future; as the medium through which alone the knowledge of what had been could be communicated to what was to be, so far at least as my own family was concerned. Of my fitness to do so, and of the sources from whence has been derived much of what you will find here recorded, you will be better judges, when I tell you, that having lost my mother while I was of very tender years, I was immediately taken into the house of her father, with whom I continued to reside ever afterwards, until his decease. He was an old man, who having lost his wife, and having lived to see all his children grown up and established, then passed his days in retirement. In this retirement I was his only companion, and upon me all his remaining affections were fixed. He loved me very tenderly, better I believe than he had ever done any of his own children; and in my little heart he held the place of the only parent it had then ever known.

Of my excellent grandfather, I shall have occasion to speak more at large hereafter. It will be sufficient now, to say that he had lived long, and by his situation had necessarily been made acquainted with most of those who resided in Virginia and with all its events worthy of notice, in his time. He had known ^{almost} all my ancestors who lived during that period; and often, very often, he would employ his idle hours in amusing me with anecdotes and descriptions of them.

After the death of my maternal grandfather, I went to live with my father, in whose house his mother then resided. She too was an old woman, a perfect chronicle of the times gone by. From her I derived more information of my family. This I was enabled to connect by the assistance of the more methodical narratives of my grandfather. It filled up many gaps in his statements, and made my stock of traditional information much more complete.

It is very probable, I think, that the gratification

I received from listening, at so early a period of my life, to the tales and vivid descriptions of these old people, caused the disposition I have ever since felt, to delve into the ancient records of the country and to search for the histories of its earliest events. My profession too made this ^{affording easy access to most of our oldest archives, &} in some measure necessary; and by furnishing the most ample opportunity for satisfying my thirst for that sort of knowledge. What tradition first gave me orally, I have often had occasion to compare with what I afterwards found recorded in written documents. Enjoying the blessing of a very retentive memory, I have thus been enabled to detect errors and inaccuracies that were not supposed to exist, and to trace and connect events by means that have appeared to others wonderful and extraordinary.

Such, my dear children, are the causes and motives which first induced me to undertake the little work I am now about to commence, and such the means I possess to enable me to complete it faithfully. Although it has cost me some trouble to collect the materials from which it will be principally compiled, yet I have derived much gratification while engaged in collating them. It is designed, solely, for your use; and should it be finished, will not meet any other eye than my own, probably, during my life. Littleton H. Ingalls. Norfolk Virginia Aug 22 1823.

The plan I shall adopt in preparing these sketches, is induced by many reasons. It will be this. I shall begin with the first of our ancestors who came to this country, and will give you all the information I possess concerning him, as well as such as I think you may regard as probable. If in the course of this narrative, any thing either curious or useful suggests itself, I will state what I know, or have reason to believe to be true, in relation to that. By this means, I shall be enabled to give you some information which the histories of the country do not supply, and to correct some of the errors into which these histories will probably lead many of their readers.

In tracing the progress of our family, although I will give you some general account of its collateral branches, yet this account will be very brief. I have rarely been tempted to pursue any minute enquiries as to these collateral branches; therefore, my account of many of them would be very imperfect, especially when the relationship is remote. Besides, if I was to relate all I know concerning our distant relatives, it would augment my labour greatly, and probably would not interest you much.

8
The course of our own direct descent, will be that to which I shall adhere steadily, pursuing in relation to every succeeding ancestor the same plan I shall adopt as to the first; and never turning aside to speak of the collateral branches of our family, unless for some special and particular reason.

By pursuing such a plan, I shall attain this end, at least. Should my death, or any other circumstance, prevent the completion of this intended work, I shall have succeeded, most probably, in relieving you from some of the greatest difficulties you would have to encounter, in tracing this subject through the dim twilight of a remote time; and shall have laid a sure foundation, upon which you may erect hereafter any superstructure you may then please. Many materials will have been placed before you which you could not acquire otherwise; and the sources will be pointed out from whence you may derive many others, should you wish to do so—

I. Nathaniel Littleton.

The first of our family, who came to this country, was Nathaniel Littleton. He was an Englishman by birth. I believe that his family was of Shropshire, and resided near Ludlow in that county. I think so, because I see in the will of M^{rs} Ann Littleton, his widow, a copy of which I have, that in the event of their children dying without issue, the estate is devised over "to James Littleton esquire, Shropshire, near Ludlow". From this I infer, that this devisee must have been a very near connexion of the family, which, probably, migrated from the neighbourhood in which he is said to have resided, when they first came to Virginia.

In the "Prooemium" or preface prefixed by Sir Edward Coke to his "Commentaries upon Littleton", he gives a brief account of the life and family of Thomas de Littleton, the author of the "Treatise on Tenures", which is the text of the Commentary that forms the "First Part" of what are called Lord Coke's "Institutes". In this account, I find that Thomas de Littleton, the third and youngest son of the author above mentioned, married "Anne, daughter and heir of John Botreaux esquire", "whose posterity in Shropshire continue prosperously to this day". I think it highly probable that Nathaniel Littleton was a descendant of this stock. This is mere conjecture however, derived from similitude of names, and from the fact that the family of Nathaniel Littleton was of the same county of Shropshire, in which Sir Edward Coke represents the posterity of Thomas de Littleton to live prosperously in his day. This was in 1628, shortly after which time, Nathaniel Littleton must have migrated from thence, as we shall presently see. (a)

(According to the account given by Lord Clarendon, in his "History of the Rebellion", Doctor Edward Littleton (who, during the reign of Charles the first, was made the Solicitor General, then the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and who was afterwards ennobled and succeeded Finch as Lord Keeper of the great seal) "was of a very good extraction in Shropshire, and inherited a fair fortune and inheritance from his father." This gentleman, as the same historian states, was the intimate friend and companion of Selden, and a lawyer of very high and deserved.

(a) The first edition of Coke's first Institute, containing this Prooemium was published in 1628. See Charles Butlers preface to the 15th edition (4th ed.) dated November 4th 1757.

reputation. A family tradition, induces me to believe that he was an elder branch of the same stock from which Nathaniel Littleton derived his descent, and that they were nearly connected, but how I know not. The latter came to Virginia, certainly, before the Lord Keeper could have acquired much eminence, or received any marks of distinction. (b)

Several circumstances I collect from the will of Mrs Ann Littleton, incline me to the opinion that Nathaniel Littleton married her in England, before they removed hither. From the name of their second and youngest son, which seems to have been preserved in the family long afterwards, I presume the maiden name of Mrs Littleton was Southy. This too is little else than surmise, as every thing of the kind must be, in this country, after the lapse of so great a length of time. Whatever might have been her name however, her will plainly proves that she was a woman of exemplary piety and prudence. The provisions it contains relative to her ^{minor} younger children, shew that she possessed a strong understanding, very well cultivated for the age in which she lived; that she had amassed a large estate, by her own efforts, after the death of her husband; and that she occupied the highest rank in the society where she moved.

Nathaniel Littleton must have come to Virginia very soon after the dissolution of the proprietary government, by the revocation of the Charter granted to the London Company, and the establishment of the new Royal government which derived its authority immediately from the Sovereign. This event occurred in the year 1624; and in the ancient records of Northampton County, I find the following entry, "At a Court holden at Accawmack this 5th day of September 1636, Present Capt: (c)

(b) See Clarendon's History of the Rebellion. Book V. page 186.

(c) See Rymer, Vol: XVII. page 618, & Chalmer, page 62.

(d) The whole peninsula now known as the Eastern Shore of Virginia, originally formed but a single county, called, in the ancient records of this county, Accawmack and sometimes Accomack, but variously spelt in the old Statutes of the country, as Accowmacke, Accawmacke, Accawmack, Accomack &c. The name of this county was changed to Northampton, in 1643; and it was afterwards, in 1660, ^{divided} into two counties, as it now is. Upon this division of the peninsula, its southern extremity retained the name of Northampton, and the new county, comprehending the larger and northern part, was called ~~the~~ the old

"William Clayborne, Mr. Obedyence Robins, Mr. William Stone, Mr. William
 "Burdett, Mr. William Andrews, Mr. John Wilkins - At this Court these names
 "under writen were chosen for the choise of a Sheriffe, to be presented to
 "the Governor and Counsel at the next Quarter Court - Mr. Nathaniel Sittleton
 "Mr. John Neale, Mr. Edward Drewe, Mr. Alexander Mountney, Mr. William
 "Roper, Mr. Henry Wilson". Of the persons so presented, Mr. Nathaniel
 Sittleton appears to have been selected by the Governor and Council, and
 to have qualified and acted as Sheriff afterwards.

This was probably the first appointment of a Sheriff for this county.
 No mention is made of any such Officer, in any of our ancient records
 or Statutes, until 1634, when the Colony was ordered to be divided into
 eight Shires or counties, of which Accomack was one. It was then
 directed also, that Sheriffs should be elected for each shire, "as in"
 "England, to have the same power as there".^(f) The nature and
 importance of such an office, at that time, prove that Nathaniel
 Sittleton must have been well known and much respected, or he
 could not have been so selected and appointed. Most probably,
 therefore, he had resided in Accomack some time previously to the
 election; and if so, he must have been a very early settler there -

The first white settlement on the Eastern Shore, was made about
 the year 1620, when, as we are told, "a Salt work was set up at Cape"
 "Charles".^(g) About the same period, as is well established by the title
 papers for my Old Plantation estate, the London Company having,
 acquired a body of about 1200 Acres of land, situated on Chesapeake
 Bay, at the mouth of what is now called Old Plantation Creek, on its
 north side, retained this tract of land for itself; and establishing,
 name of Accomack. The ancient records of both the present counties
 remain in Northampton, that being the elder county of the two. See
 Henings Statutes. Vol: I. pages 139. 149. 154. 224. 249. and Vol: II. pa: 97.

(e) The name is thus spelt in the earliest entries in these ancient
 records, but the orthograpy is afterwards changed; and the deeds
 and all other instruments signed by Nathaniel Sittleton himself,
 as well as those signed by Ann Sittleton his widow, and by his
 two sons, (of which there are many) shew that the proper mode of
 spelling the name is Sittleton and not Sittleton.

(f). See Henings Statutes. Vol: I. page 224.

(g) Beverley's History of Virginia. page 37.

many persons upon it as tenants, so formed there a Settlement, or Plantation as it was then called. This land being acquired by the voluntary concession of the tribe of Indians called Accomacks, to whom it belonged, was at first called Accomack. When other Settlements or Plantations were afterwards established, to distinguish this from the other lands acquired, in like manner, from the same Indian tribe, it was called The Old Plantation of Accomack, and then The Old Plantation simply, which latter name it still bears, as you well know.)

(In 1623, another body of 500 acres of land, situated at the confluence of Cheragstones and the Kings Creeks, was acquired by the London Company, and then set apart for the use of the Secretary. This tract was settled by Master John Pory, the Secretary, in the same year, as appears by his "Observations". In these, he states that he went "to plant the Secretary's land on the Eastern Shore, neere Accomack, and Captain Wilcocks plantation, the better to secure and adioin each other." (h))

(These two primitive settlements, although very near, did not join each other. The Secretary's land was bounded, on the south, by the Kings-Creek, and the Company's plantation of Accomack was bounded, on the north, by the Great Pond, then called the Persimon Ponds. So that a large part of what is now my Kings Creek estate intervened to separate them. Upon this, according to the ancient tradition in that part of the country, the king of the Accomacks then dwelt.)

(Notwithstanding the feebleness of these remote, detached and infant settlements, neither of them was disturbed during the general massacre of the whites, which was effected by the Indians in March 1622. It is mentioned by our early historians, ^{of the Eastern Shore Indians,} as a singular fact, ^{that} "they never gave the English any trouble, but courted and befriended them from first to last." It was owing to this cause, probably, not less than to the peculiar situation of this region, that after the great massacre mentioned above, when the distressed condition of the colony was considered, "many persons were urgent" to abandon James river, and to retire to the Eastern shore. (j))

So long as the proprietary government continued, ^{it does not appear} that any land on

(h) See Smith's History of Virginia. Vol. II. page 63.

(i) See Smith's History of Virginia. Vol. II. page 75. 76.

(j) See Smith's History of Virginia. page 205.

The Eastern shore was granted in fee simple to any individuals, except for very special reasons, and then in small parcels. I have met with but one such grant. This bears date in 1628, and is for 150 acres only, situated at the mouth of Old Plantation Creek, within the limits of the Company's Plantation at Accomack. All the other lands within this region, at that time, were held by the tenants of the London Company or of the Secretary, under short leases. But after the dissolution of the Charter of the London Company and the assumption of the government by the Crown, a different policy seems to have been adopted. Lands on the Eastern shore were then granted in fee to individuals, precisely as in other parts of the colony.

This new regulation seems to have been introduced by Sir George Berkeley, the Royal Governor, in 1626. Under it, the tenants of the former Plantation of the Company at Accomack, soon converted their leasehold ~~plots~~ into estates of inheritance; the body of land intervening between this Old Plantation and the Secretary's land was quickly granted to various private persons in fee simple; ^{plantations} new settlements were established to the eastward of these, extending to the sea shore, and a cordon of white inhabitants was formed quite across the peninsula, in this quarter, stretching from the Bay to the Sea. As the white settlements gradually spread contiguously to each other, the name of Accomack, ~~that was~~ applied at first to the Company's old Plantation only, was then given to the whole of this compact body, including even the Secretary's land; and this name was retained, as applicable to this particular district, long after the whole peninsula had received it as that of the shire. Nay, after the name of the shire had been changed to Northampton, and after the division of that county, when the new county had been called Accomack, the same name was still used to distinguish the narrow district, ^{situated} on both sides of the King's Creek; and it was still employed to denote ~~also~~ the whole territory called the Eastern shore.

After the protrusion of the white settlements, in the manner stated, the Indian tribe of Accomacks finding itself divided, by the new settlements, into two parts, one of which was surrounded by the whites, and both much circumscribed in their intercourse and hunting grounds, seem to have voluntarily abandon'd all their original possessions, and to have removed further up the peninsula, uniting themselves to the Sinecastoe and other Indian tribes who dwelt ~~more~~ to the northward of the white settlements. The territory situated to the south of the Old Plantation Creek being then deserted by the aboriginal occupants of it, was quickly granted to new

white settlers. Of these, Nathaniel Littleton must have been among the first.)

The earliest mention I have found made of him, is in a patent ^{on the Eastern shore} for land granted to Charles Hamer on the 4th of June 1635. This grant is of a tract of land, part of which is that now called Arlington. The original patent is not now to be found, but it is refer'd to in another grant, ⁱⁿ which the land granted is thus described, "beginning at the south side of a branch of the Old Plantation Creek, thence running easterly up the said branch unto marked trees, being at the easternmost angle of this land; bounded on the west by the mayne bay; on the south by Magotly bay pond; on the east by the land of Mr. Nathaniel Littleton esq^r." ^(k) This document renders it certain that Nathaniel Littleton was a proprietor of land on the Eastern shore before he was elected Sheriff, as has been stated; and from the situation of the land which he then held and upon which he resided, as will hereafter appear, it is very probable that he was one among the first of the settlers in the region then deserted by the tribe of Accowmack's, as I have before said. This was about the year 1634, during the administration of Sir John Harvey. The extent of the tract then acquired by Nathaniel Littleton, as well as the designation of Esquire given to him in the grant to Hamer, a designation then never applied to any but persons of some distinction, seem to shew that he was one of those "Gentlemen of condition", several of whom, according to the accounts of our early historians, came to Virginia, about this time, with their whole families. (l)

In the ancient records of Northampton County, I find the name of Nathaniel Littleton again mention'd in the following entry. "A Cth holden at Accowmack this first day of May 1637. Present, Mr. John Howe Comd^r? "Mr. Nathaniel Littleton, Mr. W^m Stone, Mr. W^m Burdett, Mr. W^m Andrews, Mr. W^m Proser." From this it would appear, not only that Nathaniel Littleton was then one of the Commissioners of the County of Accowmack, but that according to the custom of the country, at that day, the Sheriff of the County retained his place on the bench and actually sat in Court as one of the Commissioners, notwithstanding he had been appointed and was then acting as Sheriff. Oldmixon, therefore, is probably right and Beverley mistaken, in this respect. (m)

(k) See the grant to Elizabeth Hamer, the daughter and sole heir of Charles Hamer, recorded in the Register's Office, in the Volume label'd "Patents from" 1643 to 1651.

(l) See Beverley's History of Virginia, page 46.

(m) Id: Preface, pp: VI.

Nathaniel Littleton's name occurs very frequently after this, in these old Records, as that of one of the Commissioners of the County, in which office he seems to have acted as long as he lived. The office of a Commissioner of a County at that time, corresponded very nearly with that of our present Justices of the Peace. But in those days, when the number of these officers was much less, their duties more important, and their powers greater than they are at present, the Government was much more select in filling such offices than it is now. The form of the Commission granted to Commissioners of Counties, and the oath prescribed for them, is given in Henning's Statutes. From these, the nature and character of the office may be easily understood. (n)

It is shown, by many entries in the ancient records before mentioned, that Nathaniel Littleton had been appointed ^{and} Commander of the County of Accomack so early as 1638; that he presided in the County Court for many years, in that capacity, being at first distinguished by the military rank of Captain and afterwards by that of Colonel. Find there, that "at a monthly Court held at Accomack the 7th day of Nov^r anno Domⁱ: 1638." "Present, Mr. Nathaniel Littleton Commander, Mr. W^m Burdett, Capt. " "W^m Roper, Mr. John Wilkins." Again, "at a County Court holden for " "Northampton County the 28th day of April 1646, present, Cap^t. Nathaniel " "Littleton Commander," and others; and some Courts afterwards he is styled "Colonel Nathaniel Littleton esquire Commander." Many of his orders, given as Commander, relative to the Indians and other subjects, are still extant in these ancient records.

The form of the Commission granted to the Commanders of Counties, is given ~~by~~ in Henning's Statutes, and their powers and duties are stated in several of the Acts refer'd to in the index to the first Volume of these Statutes, under the head of "Commanders of Plantations." It would seem, from thence, that this office confer'd both civil and military authority upon the incumbent. He presided in the County Court, as one of the Justices of the "Quorum", and fulfilled all the duties of a County Lieutenant in England, with even larger military authority. In short, the Commander of a Plantation, or

(n) See Henning's Statutes. Vol: I. pages 152. and 169.

(o) The name of the County of Accomack was changed to that of Northampton in 1642/3; and during the same session of the Assembly, County Courts were first established, by that name.

See Henning's Statutes. Vol: I. page 249 and 273.

of a County, was the highest officer in it, either civil or military (p)

In 1647, in consequence of "the great defaults and defects in receiving" and collecting the publike levies by the sheriffs, the Assembly appointed certain persons, in each county, "Collectors for receiving, and gathering in" of all levies by that Grand Assembly assessed. Under this Act, "Mr. Nathaniel Littleton Esquire and Mr. Edmond Scarborough" were appointed Collectors for Northampton County. This appointment was to continue but one year, when new Collectors were to be appointed. But such was the confidence reposed in these gentlemen, that the next year, 1648, when the act passed authorizing the appointment of new Collectors, it contained an express proviso, that it should not extend to them, to whom "the power of collecting" the levies of Northampton County was again given, "notwithstanding" anything ^{in that act} to the contrary. (q)

Such was the situation and standing of Colonel Littleton in 1649, when the disensions took place that were ~~caused~~ occasioned by the decapitation of Charles the First and the assumption of the government of England by the Parliament. Occupying the highest station in his county, both civil and military, as he then did, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for such a man to have remained neutral, at such a season. Colonel Littleton did not do so, but seems to have taken a very early and decided stand in favor of the country, of his residence. It was in consequence of this, probably, that after the Convention for the surrender of this colony to the government of the Commonwealth of England was concluded, on the 12th of March 1652, when the first Assembly met, on the 30th of April 1652, to settle a provisional government of Virginia, "untill the further pleasures of the states be knowne," "Col: Nathaniel Littleton" was one of the thirteen persons then elected by the Grand Assembly to compose "the Councill of State." (r)

The authors who have written the history of Virginia, differ so much in the accounts they give of the sentiments prevalent in this colony and of its conduct, during the interesting period intervening between the death of Charles the First and the restoration of his son, that it is now very difficult to ascertain the truth. By some of these it is said, that after a monarchy was abolished in England, after one king had been beheaded and another driven into exile, "the authority of the crown continued to

(p) See Henings Statutes. Vol: I. pages 135. and Index page XXXI.

(q). See Henings Statutes. Vol: I. pages 342. 343. 356.

(r). See Henings Statutes. Vol: I. page 375.

"be acknowledged and revered in Virginia." Irritated at this, the Parliament despatched a powerful squadron, with a considerable body of land forces, to reduce the Virginia to obedience. Berkeley, the Governor, with more courage than prudence, took arms to oppose this formidable armament: but he could not long maintain the unequal contest. "He was ultimately forced to yield," when he was suffered to go into retirement, and continued to reside in Virginia as a private man, beloved and respected by all over whom he had formerly presided. "Under Governors appointed by the Commonwealth, or by Cromwell" when he usurped the supreme power, Virginia remained almost nine years, in perfect tranquillity. During that period, many adherents to the Royal party resorted thither. They, by their intercourse with the colonists, confirmed them in principles of loyalty; and working upon their impatience and indignation "under the restraints imposed upon their commerce, by their new masters," on the death of Mathews, the last Governor named by Cromwell, "the People" forced Sir William Berkeley to quit his retirement, and unanimously "elected him Governor of the colony. As he refused to act under an usurped authority, they boldly erected the Royal standard, and acknowledging Charles the Second to be their lawful sovereign, proclaimed him with all his titles. Wherefore, the Virginians long boasted that as they were the last of the King's subjects who renounced their allegiance, so they were the first to return to their duty.

This is the account given by Doctor Robertson, which Judge Marshall has followed and Mr. Jefferson seems to consider correct. Doctor Robertson refers in support of it to Chaloner and Beverley, who, although they do not confirm this representation, in all its parts, yet concur in most of its statements, substantially at least. (5)

Burke, the latest historian of Virginia, denies the correctness of this account. He admits the apparent existence of the loyal attachment of the colonists to the Royal cause, even after this had fallen into disrepute and contempt in the mother country; and he ascribes the Ordinance of 1650, to the irritation felt by the Parliament of England at this supposed attachment. But he asserts that this apparent loyalty must be ascribed to "religious zeal alone." For he contends, that as the cause of the colonists was palpably the same with that of the Parliament, nothing but the infatuation or phrenzy of superstition could have made them separate.

(5) See Robertson's History of America. Vol. III. Book IX. See also Marshall's Life of Washington. Vol. I. pages 75. 6. 7 & 8. Jefferson's Notes. Duane XIII. p. 201. Chaloner's Annals. page 121. Beverley's History of Virginia. page 55.

In proof of this opinion that the loyal attachment of Virginia existed more in appearance than in fact, he says, "that it does not appear she took any steps to" "open an intercourse with the Royal party, or that she extended any consolation" "or succour to the distresses of the exiled family. She forbore indeed to" "acknowledge the present government: but this might have been the effect of" "caution and reserve." (t)

He concurs with all the other historians, in doing justice to the gallantry of Berkeley in opposing the formidable force he had to encounter, "a gallantry, he says, worthy a better cause": but he regards the surrender of the colony, rather as the effect "of the spirit of reform so prevalent throughout" "the empire", and of the "division of sentiment then certainly existing, here", than of the necessity produced by the presence of a superior force. Finding the most conclusive evidence that Sir William Berkeley was reinstated in his government, after this, and before his master was restored to his throne, he contends that "Berkeley received his authority from a tumultuous" "assemblage of cavaliers and aristocrats, without the agency of the Assembly"; and "that his appointment never did receive their sanction, until Charles" "the second was firmly seated on the throne."

If an opinion of the correctness of these two conflicting statements, was to be formed only by comparing their authors, but little doubt ought to exist as to which should be preferred, most relied upon. Beverley, from whom most of the first account was extracted by the subsequent writers, had long resided in Virginia. He was the Secretary; and therefore, had the freest access to all the public archives and documents existing in his day. His work was written not fifty years after the period the events of which he records, when many who must have been actors and eye-witnesses of what he described were still living, most probably. Burk, on the contrary, had none of these advantages. I knew him well. He was an Irishman, who being compelled to leave his own country, by reason of the part he had taken in some insurrection there, had come to this, about the year 1797. Here he studied the law; and settling himself in the town of Petersburg, began its practice there. Meeting with little success, however, and accident having placed in his possession some ancient records, which, some years before our revolution, had been copied from documents remaining in the

(t). See Burk's History of Virginia. Vol. II. Chap. II. from 75 to 120.