

from a very early date, and are in a good state of preservation.

"In the office of the clerk of the state supreme court, in the State House at Annapolis, are several manuscript volumes which contain, among other things, petitions that were presented to the colonial legislature by immigrants, asking to be naturalized. These documents frequently afford much information concerning the petitioner, by giving the place and date of his birth, an account of his marriage, the number of his children, the date of his arrival, his occupation, etc. It was the rule for a private act to be passed granting such a petition. In the year 1765, the Rev. Thomas Bacon compiled all the acts of the colonial legislature passed from its first session till then, and caused the same to be printed. The compilation fills a large folio volume, includes the private naturalization acts that had been passed, and has an index.

"The most valuable source of information, if the parish registers be excepted, are the records of wills. These are in a good state of preservation and are well indexed. In general character they do not differ much from similar records in other colonies.

"All of the above records made in any part of the colony prior to the year 1777, are kept in Annapolis. In that year the colonial legislature passed a law which required to be kept at the county seat of each county, records of land transfers, probate proceedings, wills, marriage licenses, etc. All records pertaining to land, in any county in the state, dated prior to 1777, are stored in what is known as the Land Office. All wills proved in the colony up to that year are in the office of the Register of Wills at Annapolis, who is, however, an officer of Anne Arundel county. The manuscript volumes which contain the records of probate proceedings, accounts of administrations, guardianship matters, etc., up to 1777, are in the custody of the last named officer.

"Prior to the year 1777, no civil record of marriages was kept in the colony. But the law of that year relating to records provided for the issuance of marriage licenses by the clerks of the circuit courts of the respective counties. As each marriage license blank was charged to the account of the court clerk to whom it was issued, as so much money, by the state treasurer, the recipient of the blanks was impelled by a pecuniary consideration, to keep a strict account of his disposal of them; hence in each county is a fairly complete record of marriage licenses issued.

"At no time has there been kept in Maryland, under any requirement of civil law, a record of births or deaths. There is now, and has been for some years, a law requiring births to be reported to and recorded by the clerk of the circuit court of the county; but the law is inoperative.

"Persons desiring to procure, by correspondence, information from records in Maryland, may address the following officials: For data from land records prior to 1777, Chief Clerk, Land Office, Annapolis. For data from wills, administration records, etc., prior to that year, Register of Wills,

Annapolis. For information concerning early naturalizations, Clerk Supreme Court, Annapolis. For information from land records and marriage licenses since 1777, Clerk Circuit Court, at the county seat. For information from wills, administration records, etc., since 1777, Register of Wills, at county seat. For names of present taxpayers, Clerk County Commissioners, at the county seat.

"The main reliance of the genealogist working in Maryland, for dates of birth and death, and of marriage prior to 1777, are the parish registers. Unfortunately these are very imperfect, and none of them now in existence date back to the early years or the settlement of the colony. Baltimore county was organized about forty years before it could boast a regularly settled pastor. No doubt the settlers habitually practiced religious worship, though without a settled minister, but the oldest parish register in that county, whose people settled a region since divided into several counties, does not date back earlier than the closing years of the 17th century, and it is stated that there is not a parish register extant in the state containing records of birth, marriage and death, in regular order, earlier than 1690.

"Thus no record exists from which can be gleaned the names and dates of birth of the first generation of children born in the colony, and in a large proportion of cases the same may be said of the second generation. Nothing can compensate for this lack of information relative to the second and third generations (counting the immigrant the first) of the inhabitants of Maryland, and the genealogist must ever meet with difficulty and perplexity in assigning children to parents, and in respect to dates. Barring this one great lack, that state abounds in genealogical and historical data.

"But the field is an uncultivated one. The wealth of information embraced in the vast accumulations of records at Annapolis and in some of the older counties, is difficult of access from lack of convenient arrangement and indexes, and a surprisingly small amount of it has ever found its way into print. The State Legislature, at its last session, was appealed to for an appropriation to defray the expense of preparing an index to the administration records dating prior to 1777, but refused to make the expenditure. There is, however, a growing interest in local history and genealogical pursuits, and it is doubtless only a question of time when the legislature, officials and people of Maryland will be aroused to the necessity of bringing forth the recorded truth relating to her founders, and making it accessible to all the world.

B. F. CUMMINGS, JR."

With records in Virginia I am not so familiar. The records of land titles, wills, probate proceedings, etc., ante-dating the revolution, are stored at Richmond. But since the state government was fairly organized these records have been kept at the seats of the respective counties. During the late war, vast quantities of records in Virginia were destroyed. The general character of records in this state, as far as I am familiar with it, is similar to that of the records of Maryland.

Little genealogical material has been printed.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the compiler of American genealogy is likely to incur considerable difficulty and expense; but I feel warranted in asserting that, in nearly every instance, success will follow perseverance.

Very respectfully,

B. F. CUMMINGS, JR.

Room 522, Constitution building.

THE NEW EDUCATION.

The following is an address on the subject of The New Education, delivered by Professor W. R. Malone, principal of the Salt Lake City high school, at the recent general meeting of the city school teachers:

This is a subject that is going the rounds of educational journals a great deal of late. It and University Extension are the attractive terms that indicate lines along which modern education is bearing. It is true, that they are referred to at times in serious, semi-serious and humorous veins. It was not long since that I read a short newspaper article entitled "Educational Fads," to learn that these fads were New Education and University Extension. But a sympathetic investigation proves them to be worthy of more than flippant allusions. A word about University Extension will suffice: It is the bringing down into the public life many features of the university life. It is carrying the university to the people instead of the people to the university. This is done in a series of lectures in the different departments of science by men of eminence in these departments, also in history, literature, economics and pedagogics. It fills a need of the present generation. Many while young, unable by lack of means to secure the benefit of a university course, and now, anxious to avail themselves of what they could not earlier acquire, are creating this demand; some who let their opportunities slip now see the folly of their way, and would make good their losses. Many men in business, many men and women of means and leisure, would keep in touch with advancing thought. University Extension meets this demand. This plan was started in England before it took hold in our country. For many years past, university men from Oxford and Cambridge have been regularly engaged outside of college walls in instructing the people in England's manufacturing centers. They have secured most cheering results in lifting to high planes of intelligent opinion on live questions those following industrial pursuits. The Chataqua assemblies and Chataqua circles in our own country are phases of this movement.

But what is New Education? It is frequently before our eyes in educational magazines, and yet it is found to be imperfectly understood. We inquire what it means, and are answered with no distinct or clear definition. Articles in educational journals convey no single, defined idea. The reason is, it contains more than a single idea. It is a comprehensive subject, embracing the advanced, improved and best methods of school instruction and school government.