

## FRANCIS FAUQUIER'S WILL.

Francis Fauquier was the eldest son of Dr. John Francis Fauquier and Elizabeth Chamberlayne his wife. He was born in 1704, made a director in the South Sea Company in 1751, and a Fellow of the Royal Society on February 15, 1753. He married Catherine, daughter of Sir Charles Dalston, who was buried at Totteridge in 1781. He wrote an essay on "The Ways and Means of Raising Money for the Support of the Present War Without Increasing the Public Debt." 8vo, published at London in 1757. On January, 1758, he was appointed Lieut. Governor



of Virginia. In 1760, Mr. Pitt wrote to Fauquier that when the war with the French was over, Parliament would tax the colonies. Fauquier in reply expressed great apprehensions. Fauquier was still governor when the Stamp Act passed, and that measure was excessively distasteful to him; but Henry's resolutions went too far for him, and received his censure.

His popular disposition was shown, however, in his conduct during the agitations produced by the Parsons' causes. He gave them to understand that, law or no law, he was unequivocally on the popular side.

The explanation of this sympathetic attitude of Fauquier is to be found in his devotion to scientific studies, which were antagonistic to dogmas of all kinds—religious or governmental. He delighted in the company of Dr. William Small, the professor of Natural Philosophy at William and Mary, and at his table the youthful Jefferson, Page, Walker, McClurg and others of the Virginia youth learned their lessons in the rights of man. His example in another respect was not so fortunate. He was addicted to gaming, and diffused in the colony a passion for playing cards, which continued till sternly rebuked by the revolutionary spirit, finding utterance in the orders of the county committees of safety about 1775.

There are in the British Museum nine letters written by Fauquier between 1759 and 1764, chiefly respecting the military forces of Virginia, and one to Sir Henry Moore, dated February 3, 1766. He wrote an article on "Hailstones," observed in Virginia July 9, 1758, which was read by his brother William before the Royal Society after his death.\*

He died in Virginia March 3, 1768. The following is taken from the *Virginia Gazette*, edited by Purdie and Dixon:

WILLIAMSBURG, March 3.

Early this morning died at the Palace after a tedious illness, which he bore with the greatest patience and fortitude, the Hon. FRANCIS FAUQUIER, Esq., Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of this Colony, over which he has presided near ten years, much to his own honour,

---

\* See Lyson's *Environs of London*, IV., 406; *Genealogical Table*, in possession of G. B. Wollaston, Chislehurst, Clutterbuck, Hertfordshire; *Court and City Register*; Thomson's *History of the Royal Society*; *Gentleman's Magazine*, XXVIII., p. 46, XXXVIII., 199; *National Dictionary of Biography*, article "Francis Fauquier."