

PREFACE.

The present volume continues the Proceedings and Acts of the Assembly from April, 1684, to June, 1692. The continuity is broken by the revolutionary outbreak of 1689, no journal of the Associators' Assembly having been preserved. To fill this gap to some extent we have inserted copies of documents preserved in the Public Record Office, London; but for fuller details the Council Records must be consulted. This revolutionary Assembly, which handed over the Province to the King, was succeeded by one elected under the new order of things, and presided over by Lionel Copley, the first royal governor, which, among other fundamental changes, repealed all existing statutes in mass, and promulgated a new code, which is here given in full.

The sources for the session of 1684 are the original journals of the two Houses, small unbound cahiers; that of the Lower House being in a damaged condition, but missing words have been supplied from a later copy.

Of the session of 1686 no journal of either House has been preserved, and we print the Acts only. Of the session of 1688 we have no Lower House journal, and for the Upper House only a copy made in the last century. The Acts of these three sessions are preserved in Lib. WH.

For the important Assembly of 1692, we have the original journal of the Lower House, an unbound cahier, much damaged by damp and worms, but on the whole intelligible. Where possible, the text has been supplied from the Acts, or from the Upper House journal, which exists only in a later copy. Here and elsewhere such restorations are indicated by brackets. The Acts of this session are from Lib. LL, a copy made in 1695 at Whitehall from the original in the Plantation Office, as the colophon shows.

There seems hardly occasion for explanatory notes. The reader may observe, on p. 126, the naturalization of De la Grange, Dankers, Sluyter, and Bayard, the Labadists, whose settlement at Bohemia Manor forms a singular chapter of Maryland history. On p. 90, l. 8, the contraction "pvt pet" is for "prout petitur," "as is asked." The use of "Annapolis" on p. 328 is an obvious slip by the scribe of the late copy of the Upper House Journal.

W. H. B.