

claimed to be now Governor under a commission from the King, which on more careful examination later, however, proved not to support his pretensions. Remaining only a few days he designated Colonel Nicholas Greenberry as President of the Council and Acting Governor, and returned to Virginia. During his brief stay the Council ordered an investigation by a committee, of the condition of the Provincial records, which seem to have been badly neglected since the overthrow of the Proprietary government; and on September 30, 1693, the committee reported, among other things that: "Wee finde noe Chancery Proceedings Entered since the yeare 1682, except one Decree inter Vansweringhen & Taylor, and as to any Minutes thereto belonging, M<sup>r</sup> Taylard can give noe Account; therefore is Referred to be inquired after by the former Clerks of the Office: viz<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Grunwin & M<sup>r</sup> Boothby". Summoned to appear, the two clerks mentioned promised to complete the records for the short time they had respectively been clerks; but the gap of eleven years in the Chancery records extending back to 1682, was only in small part filled (*Arch. Md.*, xx, 20, 22).

That from the time of his appointment by Andros as Acting Governor, Greenberry was also Keeper of the Great Seal, is shown by the action of the Council February 15, 1693/4: "Upon Representation & Motion made at this Board that the Court of Chancery is at present destitute of a Register, and to the End that for want of such present Officer noe Business in the said Court may be delayed or impeded. Ordered by advice as it is hereby Ordered that M<sup>r</sup> William Taylard doe for the time being supplye the said vacancy of Regist<sup>e</sup> untill further Ord<sup>r</sup>. And that whereas the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Coll Nicholas Greenberry hath the Custody & Charge of the Great Seale of this Province Comitted unto him the said Coll Greenberry is therefore now in Councill appointed Judge of the Said Court & accordingly is to Comissionate M<sup>r</sup> William Taylard Register as afores<sup>d</sup>" (*Arch. Md.* xx, 46).

Sir Thomas Lawrence, exonerated by the King of the charges brought against him by Copley, was proclaimed President of the Council, May 7, 1694, by Andros, who came up from Virginia for the purpose, and on the same day the Broad Seal was delivered to Col. Nicholas Greenberry to be its Keeper until further order (*Arch. Md.* xx, 58).

Francis Nicholson by commission from the King dated February 10, 1693/4, was installed as Governor at a meeting of the Council held, July 26, 1694. Under this commission he was empowered, with the advice and consent of the Council, "to Erect Constitute & Establish such & soe many Courts of Judicature and publick Justice \* \* \* as you and they shall think fit and Necessary for the hearing and determining of all Causes as well Criminall as Civill according to Law and Equity". Power was also given him to appoint the necessary judges, and to provide for appeals to the Governor and Council; or to the Privy Council in England, if an amount of more than three hundred pounds were involved (*Arch. Md.* xx, 86-87). Although Nicholson was authorized by his commission to "keepe & use the publick seale" of the Province, he delegated this power to others, and at no time appears as Chancellor or as sitting in the Court of Chancery as Chief Judge.