

ment of the several counties down to the close of the third quarter of the seventeenth century, together with brief biographical notes about the more important commissioners or justices who administered the judicial and civil affairs of each of these counties during the same period.

The Committee on Publication wishes to repeat here what has already been said in the preceding volume of the *Archives*, of the debt which it is under to Judge Carroll T. Bond, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals and the outstanding authority on early Maryland jurisprudence, for the assistance he has given the editor in untangling many involved problems relating to the early legal procedure presented by the records of these four county courts. The committee further wishes to emphasize the fact that the publication of both these volumes has only been made possible by the untiring labor of Mr. Louis Dow Scisco, the associate editor, who has accomplished the very difficult task of deciphering and transcribing the almost illegible handwriting of the various court clerks. Mr. Scisco has also prepared the indices of both volumes.

It is the intention of the Committee on Publication to follow these county court records with the publication of two volumes of the *Archives* containing the *Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland* covering the period from 1757 to 1759.

Respectfully submitted,

J. HALL PLEASANTS (*editor*),

W. STULL HOLT,

RAPHAEL SEMMES,

*Committee on Publication.*