In 1747 Gov. Shirley, of Massachusetts, took a step which was to have far-reaching consequences. He appointed commissioners to meet commissioners for the other colonies in a general colonial congress, to be held at New York, to concert measures for the conduct of the war and for confirming the alliance with the Iroquois.

These apprehensions of the French, and the news of the Jacobite rebellion of 1745, had re-awakened the old suspicions of the Roman Catholics, whom the ignorant and credulous populace had been taught to regard as potential traitors and conspirators, however inoffensive their lives might be. One priest, who had perhaps been a little unguarded in speech, was arrested and brought before the Governor for censure. But the fair-minded Bladen was a different man from the coarse and bigoted Seymour, and the mild admonition to avoid in the discharge of their religious duties anything that might give cause for suspicion seems like a return to the early days of the Province.

In 1747 the Jacobite prisoners whose sentences had been commuted to penal servitude in the colonies began to arrive. They seem to have been generally treated with humanity and not regarded as ordinary criminals. In many cases those who bought their services gave them permission to go anywhere within the Province, or assisted them in taking up some craft or calling.

In April, 1748, preliminaries for peace were signed at Aix-la-Chapelle, and hostilities ceased for a time, and a peace soon followed, while the powers made ready for the final struggle to determine whether North America was to be British or French.

On April 24, 1751, Charles, Lord Baltimore, died, and the title and Proprietaryship descended to his son, Frederick, sixth and last Lord, who was then a minor.

On May 3, 1752, the excellent Governor, Samuel Ogle, died, and his place was temporarily filled by Benjamin Tasker, President of the Council.

The Gregorian was substituted for the Julian calendar in 1752, and we note the first date under the New Style on p. 531.