

William Parks, the printer, issued his compilation of the Laws of the Province in 1726, with the following loyal dedication: "To the most Noble and Illustrious Lord, Charles, Absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Provinces of Maryland and Avalon, Lord Baron of Baltimore, etc., as also to the Honourable Benedict Leonard Calvert, His Lordship's Brother, and Governour of the Province of Maryland, and to the Honourable the Upper and Lower Houses of the General Assembly of the said Province, this Collection of Laws of Maryland is most Humbly Presented, With all Dutiful Acknowledgement of Their Favour and Encouragement therein, by Their most Dutiful, And most Obliged, Humble Servant, William Parks." He followed up this publication by the series of pamphlets containing the Statutes passed at each session. The first of these Session Laws appeared in 1727, and soon afterwards the Lower House employed him to print its Votes and Proceedings. A copy of these for the Session of 1729, containing 58 pages, is in the Library of the British Museum.

Madox, in his "History of the Exchequer," wrote a prefatory letter to Lord Somers, in which we find these words: "No doubt the publick records of the crown and kingdom are the most important and most authentick of all. And these are the foundations which sustain the whole fabrick of this History. A foundation solid and unshaken." This foundation the Maryland Historical Society has been constructing in the publication of the *Archives*. That we have the material for this foundation is due in no small measure to the action of the General Assembly, under the inspiration of Governor Calvert, at the sessions, the proceedings of which are included in this volume. Through his initiative a large number of volumes of the records was ordered to be copied, and a suitable repository for the records constructed. These actions furnish a strong reason for gratitude from the people of Maryland to the memory of Governor Benedict Leonard Calvert.