

is made of the records of the Governor and Council nor of the records of the Chancery Court which were apparently considered as Proprietary papers and therefore not subject to Assembly scrutiny. It was reported that in the Land Office the original land certificates were in the greatest confusion, that many had not been copied into the record books, and that the alphabets (indices) were incomplete and defaced; the judgments of the Provincial Court since 1765 had in part not been recorded and were badly indexed. The recording of the session laws escaped criticism. Severe criticism was directed at the various testamentary records in the Commissary's Office. It was said that many of the original wills and other papers had not been copied in the record books, and that many omissions and mistakes had been found in the recording of several which had been examined; that the alphabets were in poor condition. There was a general criticism of all the public offices in that the records "for a Considerable Time Past Appear to be made up Generally by Persons who write incorrect and unsettled hands." With this report were filed lengthy lists of the libers in the Secretary's Office and in the Commissary's Office. These lists are still of value and interest to those who work among the old provincial records (p. 18, 33-46). On the closing day of the May session, the Lower House sent an address to the Governor, calling his attention to the condition of the public records and requesting him to use his influence with the "Gentlemen who Enjoy such Public Offices", to secure from them "a more exact Discharge of Duty" (p. 62).

At the 1768 session, a committee, again headed by Tyler, was appointed to examine the public records and made another somewhat less detailed report. This examination disclosed that the records in the Land Office from 1745 to 1768 were now in good condition and had been well transcribed in the record books, but that before 1745 they were still in bad shape. In the Commissary's Office recent records had been well cared for but before the year 1764 mistakes in recording had not been corrected and many of these earlier records had not been copied at all. The committee also reported that the records in the Assembly Office, presumably the journals and the petitions, were also in the greatest confusion (pp. 355-357).

#### PUBLIC PRINTING AND THE GREENS

Jonas Green, the public printer, was at the May, 1766, session, by order of the Lower House, summoned by the sergeant-at-arms to appear at the bar of the house to be examined as to why he had omitted, contrary to the orders of the house, to insert in the printed *Votes and Proceedings* of the last session (that for November-December, 1765), the accounts of the clerks of the Upper House sent with the message of the Upper House, dated December 9, 1765. Green appeared before the bar of the house, and was examined on May 14, 1766, and ordered to print these accounts in the *Votes and Proceedings* of the May, 1766, session. The house debated at length whether he should be admonished or censured, for his failure to print these accounts. It at first voted that he should be admonished by the Speaker, and an admonition was drawn up, but it then voted that the matter be referred for further consideration. As there is no later reference in the journal to the episode it seems certain that