

Handwriting offered other troubles than the abbreviations. Even a person who knows that, in the seventeenth century, lower case *o* and lower case *e* were much alike, and who is, therefore, alert to distinguish between them, has trouble in doing so. Upper case and lower case *s* cannot be distinguished with any certainty. We do not know whether the clerk wrote *St. Marys* or *st. Marys*. Hundreds of times he had to write "sealed with the seale of him, the said" defendant; whether the *s*'s were capitals or small letters no one can say. The same thing is true of *p* and of *r* and of *v*. Lower case *n* and *u* are often identical, as they are today in the handwriting of some persons. Is it *Gannt* or *Gaunt*? Is it *commannnd* or *commaund*? The manuscript has been set according to our best judgment, but the editor—who did the proofreading—is not so arrogant as to assert that there are no errors.

One slip by the clerk must be noticed especially. On page 392 *post*, the page number of the original liber changes from 297 to 398, and the mistake is continued to the end of the liber.

In the appendix is presented a part of Liber P.C.R. which was missing when Volume XLI appeared in 1922. At that time, pages 315-340 were not in the liber (Volume XLI, p. 343). Since then, they have been found and restored to their place. Like the body of the text, they have been printed as accurately as modern methods permit.

The Committee wish to express thanks to several people who, upon call, lent their aid in producing this volume. Mr. Samuel E. Thorne, librarian of the Yale Law School, and Mr. Mark DeWolfe Howe, professor of law in the Harvard Law School, each transcribed from photostats of the original the paragraph on pages 87-88 of the text here. That paragraph is in mediaeval Latin with all the abbreviations and contractions common to seventeenth century handwriting. Since it was substantially impossible to reproduce the abbreviations exactly, it was felt to be better to expand them: what is offered here is, therefore, an expanded text. Mr. Richard B. Morris, professor of history at Columbia University and chairman of the American Historical Society's committee on legal history, read the introduction and indicated errors. To all of these men the Committee and the editor are grateful.

Volume LXVI, on which work has already begun, will carry the record of the Provincial Court down to 1679. It will consist of Liber NN, now in the Land Office at Annapolis.

Respectfully submitted,

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