

Point." In 1692, the new, royal Governor, with the approval of the Council, again set up a separate Court of Chancery, which endured in name as well as in fact until 1699, when royal instructions compelled a reunion of the office of Chancellor with that of Governor. There was another separation of the offices for a short time in 1715. And except for these short interruptions the Governor filled the office of Chancellor until the Revolution.⁷ He also acted as Judge of Admiralty, with the assistance of his associates in the Provincial Court, until 1684, when the Court of Admiralty was given a constitution separate from that of the Provincial Court, although it continued to be presided over by one who was also a justice of the latter court. Jurisdiction over probate and administration of the estates of deceased owners was managed by the secretary of the province until 1673, at which time the forms of the old ecclesiastical courts in England were adopted, that is to say, the jurisdiction was vested in a Prerogative Court, the name of the provincial court of the Archbishop of Canterbury which exercised this jurisdiction, here, as there, to be presided over by a Commissary or Commissary General, with an appeal allowed to a Court of Delegates specially constituted and commissioned for each appeal.⁸ A Deputy Commissary was, later in that century, provided for each county.

It appears to have been on September 6, 1664, that a writ of error was first procured for a review

7. Mereness, 232 and 234.

8. Holdsworth, I, 602, 604. Archives, Proc. Council, 1671 to 1681, 24 and 74. For an instance of such a Court of Delegates see 1 Harris & McHenry, 512.