

establishment and maintenance of hospitals at public expense. This consisted in the purchase by the colony of the Cool Springs in St. Mary's county and the adjoining land for the purpose of erecting cottages and the furnishing of them together with fuel and other necessaries, for the free use of the sick poor.

It was confidently expected that Volume XXIII of the Archives would have come from the press, and have been distributed before this report was made. The printing had all been done and the printed sheets were all in the bindery ready to be bound, when a serious fire swept through the building in which the bindery was, and the smoke and water so seriously damaged the printed sheets that it now seems it will be necessary to reprint the entire volume, thus occasioning as unexpected and much to be regretted delay.

This volume contains the Council proceedings for much of the same period as that covered by Volume XXII, dealing with the epidemic of 1697 and the public measures taken to relieve the suffering. It also embraces the earliest mutterings which reached Maryland of the coming conflict between England and France. These consisted in large part of murders perpetrated among the northern, English settlers, by small roving bands of Indians, incited thereto by Frontenac, the then Governor of Canada, and consequent upon these there was developed a restlessness among the Indians as far south as Maryland and Virginia, though no serious outbreak occurred here. This was the period also when the seas were much infested with pirates and many references to their doings will be found in this volume, especially to the notorious Avery. It covers the time also when the turbulent Cood and his followers, were creating great disorder in the province, intriguing against the Proprietor and becoming the head of the revolution which overthrew the proprietary government, and by virtue of which he sought to pose as the leader of the Protestant party in Maryland.

While the destruction of this volume is much to be regretted, it causes no pecuniary loss to the State or to the society, and its only effect will be to delay for