

print Ephraim Hermann's *Copies of some Records & Depositions Relating to Great Bohemia Mannor lying on Bohemia River in Maryland*, which issued from Bradford's press in this year,¹ but that means nothing; Bohemia Manor naturally transacted its business with Philadelphia by reason of its geographical position.

Since Reading's death in 1713, the Province had been compelled to rely entirely on Andrew Bradford of Philadelphia for its printing, except for the two years during which Zenger had acted in the capacity of provincial printer. Disappointed now by Piper, they offered inducements to all and any, but even so they were destined to wait for three years before their offer should be taken up by William Parks, one of the great figures in the story of American colonial typography.

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE "VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS" SERIES

In a former chapter mention was made of the fact that in the year 1706 Thomas Reading had proposed that a part of his duty to the Province be the printing of "all publick Matters as Speeches, Answers, Votes &c" in addition to the regular publication of the session laws. In this proposal is to be found the first mention of that series of Assembly proceedings which was known to generations of Marylanders as the *Votes and Proceedings of the Lower House of the Assembly*, and which is published today under the title of *Journal of the Proceedings of the House of Delegates of Maryland*. Whether Reading was permitted to carry out his plans in regard to the proceedings of the Assembly is not recorded, and there seem to have been printed no publications of exactly this character until the year 1727, when William Parks began their regular issue. In the year 1723 or 1724, and again in 1725, however, there were printed certain of the debates and proceedings of the Assembly which have a peculiar interest for the students of American history, inasmuch as their publication was associated with one of the most important constitutional issues of the colonial period, an issue which was fought over not only in Maryland but as well in several others of the English colonies of America.

In the sessions of Assembly from 1722 to 1725 there occurred the climax of a struggle, then half a century old in Maryland, in which the Lower House had been striving to secure recognition of the claim that the Englishmen of America came by right of heritage within the jurisdiction of the English statute law, upholding the passionately held belief that in emigrating to a colonial possession of England their fathers had not forfeited for themselves

¹Hughes, T. A., *History of the Society of Jesus in North America. Documents*, v. 1, pt. 1, p. 284.