

P R E F A C E.

THE Troubles subsisting between the *King* and *Parliament*, which like a furious Inundation had over-run the Mother Country, could not fail to affect her distant Sons with the Agitation of the contending Waves; whose violent and repeated Shocks were severely felt in every Part of this hapless Infant Colony. For tho' Lord *Baltimore's* Governors continued to act under his Commission, after the Province was first reduced under the Dominion of the *Common Wealth* in *June* 1652, until the Government was wholly seized into the Hands of the *Protector* on the ' 22<sup>d</sup> *July* 1654, yet the Bickerings were smart and frequent till they came to an open Rupture, which ended not without Bloodshed, the two Parties coming to a decisive Engagement, in which Governor *Stone* being worsted, was taken Prisoner, and by the Victors condemned to be Shot: But the Sentence was not executed, by Reason of the Refusal of their own Soldiers to perform it; to most of whom, tho' opposite in Party, Mr. *Stone* had endeared himself by many Acts of Benevolence and impartial Justice in the Exercise of his delegated Powers. His Execution was therefore respited to prevent a Mutiny among the Forces which had vanquished him, who from Enemies were now become his warmest Advocates; and he continued a long Time under a strict and rigorous Confinement. In this Situation Matters remained till the 24<sup>th</sup> *March* 1657, when the Government was delivered by *Oliver's* Commissioners, upon certain Articles previously settled, into the Hands of *Josiah Fendall*, Esq; appointed his Lordship's Lieutenant General here, by Commission dated the 18<sup>th</sup> *November* 1657. It is more than probable that many Records were lost or destroyed in this unsettled Period; as, in Fact, few Entries of Public Transactions appear on the Books during the same.

IN the Year 1689, the Government was again taken out of the Hands of Lord *Baltimore* by the *Convention*; and in 1692 Mr. *Copley* was appointed Governor under their Majesties *K. William* and *Q. Mary*: So that a farther Loss may be supposed to have happened during the Troubles here, till their Majesties Government was compleatly settled.

IN the Removal of the Books and State Papers from *St. Mary's* to *Annapolis*, some Records were greatly damaged; and some Loss also happened by the Fire, which, in the Year 1704, destroyed the *Stadt-House* wherein they were deposited.

It hath been usual, on every general Revival of the Laws, to make out or transcribe a Book of Laws for the Use of the Province; which Book

“Officers; except some Warrants, and some Draughts of Mr. *Hill's* Time, and some few other Papers of little Consequence; which he promised to deliver me ere long.

“ Testor. THOMAS HATTON, Secr.”

In Lord *CÆCILIUS's* Declaration to both Houses of Assembly, dated the 26<sup>th</sup> *August* 1651, his Lordship having observed that in the late Rebellion in 1644, most of the Records of the Province being then lost or embezzled, no Enrolment remained of divers Patents of Lands formerly granted by him, which might hereafter prove very prejudicial, &c. not only to his Lordship, but also to the Patentees and cause many Suits and Controversies in case the Patents should by any Accident be lost, gives Orders for the bringing in and Enrolment of all such Patents in the Secretary's Office, the Records whereof had been so lost or embezzled. Thus, by the provident Care of his Lordship, was private Property secured to the Inhabitants by a Renewal of the Records relating thereto; but the Loss of the Public was irreparable.

\* The Commission from the *Council of State* for the *Common Wealth* of *England*, and their Instructions to *Richard Bennet*, *Edmond Curtis*, and *William Cleyborne*, whom they appointed their Commissioners for reducing, settling, and governing of all the Plantations within the Bay of *Chesapeake*, bear Date at *Whitehall*, the 26<sup>th</sup> *September* 1651. In Consequence whereof, the said Commissioners published several Orders relating thereto on the 29<sup>th</sup> of *March* and 28<sup>th</sup> of *June* 1652, which still remain upon Record.

† On which Day the aforementioned *Richard Bennet* and *William Cleyborne* issued their Commission to Capt. *William Fuller*, Mr. *Richard Preston*, Mr. *William Durand*, Mr. *Edward Lloyd*, Capt. *John Smith*, Mr. *Leonard Strong*, Mr. *John Lawson*, Mr. *John Hatch*, Mr. *Richard Wells*, and Mr. *Richard Ewen*, or any Four of them, whereof Capt. *Fuller*, Mr. *Preston*, or Mr. *Durand* to be always One, to be Commissioners for the well ordering, directing, and governing the Affairs of *Maryland*, under his Highness the Lord *Protector*, &c. and Mr. *Durand* to be Secretary. In Pursuance whereof, the said *Bennet* and *Cleyborne* issued their Order of the same Date to Mr. *Thomas Hatton* the late Secretary, to deliver up the Records of the Province and all Papers relating to the same, unto Mr. *William Durand*, or whom he should appoint to receive them.

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