

To Benjamin S. Forrest, Esq.

President of the Senate of Maryland.

Sir,

I beg leave, through you, as the presiding officer of one branch of the General Assembly, to offer for its acceptance, the autograph MS. of a History of Maryland, from its first settlement, in 1633, to the Restoration, in 1660, by John Leeds Bozman, deceased.

An introduction to a history of Maryland, written by my departed friend and relative, was published in the year 1811. The reasons which induced that publication, without the entire history itself, were assigned by the writer in his preface, and his design to complete the history at some future time, was then intimated. He continued for several years with the utmost zeal, to pursue this literary task, to him a delightful occupation—but the rapid decline of his health defeated in part the object of his ardent ambition. Although his determination had been to bring his history down to the revolution, in 1776, he felt himself obliged to close his task and stopped at the period of the Restoration, in 1660.

So far, the history, with numerous corrections and additions to the introduction, and an appendix of notes and illustrations, was accurately written out by himself and prepared for the press, and would altogether comprise, in print, about twelve hundred pages, in octavo. Such is a general description of this work. It is derived from the written memorials which then existed in the public archives of the state, from contemporary histories and ancient journals and all other pure sources, to which the anxious inquiries and curious research of the writer could give him access; and it comprizes a history of the province during the most interesting and eventful periods of its progress, through many difficulties and disasters to a prosperous and regular government. Every intelligent and patriotic citizen will delight to trace therein the origin of many of our civil and political institutions, as well as the causes which first led to the emigration of our ancestors hither; and he may perhaps feel a peculiar degree of gratification in possessing this first essay to a regular history of the state by a native citizen.