

The Assembly Journals to the September session, 1664, are included in this present volume. Subsequent to this date the Upper House is represented by Journals of 1666, 1669; March and October, 1671, 1674, 1675, 1676; August and November, 1681; April and October, 1682, 1683, 1684 and 1688.

The Lower House during this period is represented by Journals of 1666, 1675, 1676 and 1678; from December, 1688, to May session, 1692, the Journals of both Houses are missing; whether there were Assemblies in these years we are unable to say. The Journals of both Houses from May, 1692, to April 19, 1774, the last day of the session of the Provincial Assembly, are complete, with the following few exceptions: In the Upper House, September, 1693, April, 1716, and November, 1770; in the Lower House, September, 1694, April, 1700, June, 1702, October, 1703, September, 1704, October, 1712, October and November, 1773.

Of the Laws for the Provincial period, all those passed up to 1664, with the exception of those before noted, are in the present volume; subsequent to this the laws passed at each session are in the Archives or can be obtained up to 1678; but between this date and May, 1692, our searches have revealed nothing but the titles of Laws as recorded in the Journals; from 1692 to 1774 it is probable that we can find the full text of all the Laws. The period between April, 1774, and the assembling of the State Legislature in February, 1777, is covered by the Convention of 1774-1775-1776, the manuscript of part of which, in a very damaged condition, is among the Archives, and the Council of Safety from August 29, 1775, to March 20, 1777.

The Senate Journals are represented by the March session, 1778, October, 1780, May, 1781, November, 1781, April, 1782, November, 1782, April, 1783, November, 1783, and the House of Delegates by February, June and October, 1777, October, 1778, November, 1779, March, 1780.

The Proceedings of the Governor and Council from March 20, 1777, to 1788 are perfect, both in the original rough drafts and in fair copies.

From the foregoing brief summary it will be seen that the documentary history of the Province and State can be gathered measurably complete from the existing Archives.

The Committee regrets its inability at this time to furnish a full catalogue of the Miscellaneous papers, consisting of Letters, Instructions, Commissions, Lists of inhabitants of the various Hundreds, etc., placed in their charge; progress has been made in a Calendar of them, and it is hoped the entire collection will have been noted by the appearance of the second volume of the Archives, when they will give an account of them. There are between 8,000 and 10,000 separate papers in the Miscellaneous collection, most of which relate to the Revolution.

The Committee desires to express their appreciation of the ability and zeal with which the Editor, Dr. William Hand Browne, has conducted the work of preparing and publishing this first volume of the Archives.