

In conformity with our plan, we have sifted and assorted this mass as far as possible. The legislation of the Upper House has appeared in the volumes already published: the records of the Provincial Court will come up for publication later. In the present volume we give the Council business proper, that is, the record of executive and administrative action in the Province, from 1636 to 1667. The earliest entry in our records bears date August 8, 1636, and occurs in a volume beginning in 1639; this would indicate that there was at least one book earlier than any in our possession. A gap will be found from Jan. 1644 to Jan. 1647, due to the loss or destruction of the records during Ingle's raid. We have done something towards filling this gap by inserting here copies of proceedings in Parliament and before the Privy Council touching Ingle and his doings; but fuller particulars will be found in the records of the Provincial Court.

We have prefixed to the volume a copy of the Charter, taken from the Patent Rolls in the Public Record Office, London, and have added in the notes a careful collation with the text published by Bacon. The differences, though numerous, are unimportant, Bacon's being usually the better Latinity. The reading "imminutione" is decidedly better than Bacon's "immutacione."

We have also added a number of valuable documents, procured (through the kindness of H. Noel Sainsbury, Esq.) from the Public Record Office, London, the Archives of the House of Lords, and the British Museum, touching various points in the history of the Province, and explaining or complementing the domestic record. Among these are the documents (pp. 15-44) relating to the settlement of Maryland and the first difficulties with Virginia.

It may seem that there is a discrepancy between the running title pp. 201-308, and that which follows; but this is explained by the circumstances. In July, 1654, Governor Stone, who had previously acknowledged and proclaimed the Protectorate, and declared the Province to be held under it, was compelled to lay down his power and submit to the Parliamentary Commissioners, which he did under protest, and until he should receive orders from England. In January following, Cromwell ordered the Commissioners "to forbear disturbing the Lord Baltimore or his officers or people in Maryland, and to permit all things to remain as they were before any disturbance or alteration made by you, or by any other upon pretence of authority from you." About the same time the Proprietary sent word to Stone to resume his authority, which he did, and held it until he was defeated and made prisoner at Providence, March 25, 1655. It is therefore correct to consider that Stone was governor to this time, though his authority was in abeyance during the latter part of 1654. On the other hand, the Commissioners, from their point of view, were justified in dating their rule from July 22, 1654. Both these facts had to be recognized.

As in the previous volumes, the Editor has to express his acknowledgments of the constant and unwearying assistance of Mr. J. W. M. Lee, throughout the whole work.