

Council Proceedings begin March 23, 1677/8, and end April 3, 1683.

In the following text this volume is referred to as Liber R.

Liber RR and RRR. Two books bound in one small folio, sheep, perfect, and in excellent order. Containing altogether 548 pp. Lib. RR contains pp. 1-197. It begins with a commission of Cecilius, Lord Baltimore, to his son Charles as governor, dated Dec. 8, 1671, followed by other documents. Follow records of Councils held Decr. 13, 1671, Jany. 4, 1671/2, Oct. 3, 1672, Dec. 12, 1672, April 30, 1673, Nov. 17, 1673, and continuing. It closes with a Council meeting of July 7, 1683, followed by four blank pages. Liber RRR begins with a new paging, 1-320, and 27 pp. index. The text opens with the oath of a Justice of the Provincial Court, followed by a Council of Nov. 11, 1683, and ends with a proclamation of March 5, 1685/6.

The time covered by the present volume was one of disquiet and apprehension. The northern Indians were restless, and, without entering into a general war, seem to have been harassing the tribes to the south of them. The Senecas, especially, had been pressing hard on the Susquehannoughs, who, having been much reduced in numbers by an epidemic of small-pox, were no longer able to maintain themselves, and fell back into southern Maryland into the lands formerly occupied by the Pascattoways on the Potomac. Predatory bands, apparently recruited from various tribes, like the free companies of the fourteenth century, roamed about, doing miscellaneous mischief. Either one of these bands, or else a strong party of the Senecas, followed the retreating Susquehannoughs, and either these or the Susquehannoughs themselves did considerable damage in both Maryland and Virginia. Several whites were murdered in both provinces. The Virginians, rightly or wrongly, attributed these murders to the Susquehannoughs, who had established themselves in an old Indian fort; and in September, 1675, a force under Col. John Washington joined a body of Marylanders under Major Thomas Truman, and invested the Susquehannoughs in their fort. The chiefs were invited to a parley, and a number of them came out, who averred that the murders were done by the Senecas, that they themselves were fast friends of the English, and in proof they exhibited a Maryland medal with its gold-and-black ribbon, which had been given them by Governor Calvert as a token of amity and a protection. According to the statement of Truman, who was afterwards brought to a reckoning for his share in this affair, the Virginians could not be restrained, and seizing five chiefs who had