

## PREFACE.

The winter of 1696/7 was severe and long beyond all precedent, and was followed by a very sickly summer. Many of the sick having found benefit from drinking the waters of the Cool Springs in St. Mary's county (near the site of the present Charlotte Hall) the Assembly purchased the land and built cabins for the sick poor, providing also Bibles and other religious books for their use, and persons to read to them.

The war between France and England had its effects on this side the Atlantic. Frontenac, the Governor of Canada stimulated the Canadian Indians to harass the northern English settlements, and small roving parties perpetrated various murders, some of which the English charged to their friends, the Five Nations. An uneasy feeling spread through all the Indian tribes, and extended as far South as Maryland and Virginia, though no serious outbreak occurred.

The name Onondio (p. 66) given to the governor of Canada, had its origin from the following circumstances. When Montmagny, the second governor, assumed his office, he had a conference with chiefs of all the Indian tribes allied with the French. On their asking the governor's name, the interpreter translated it into their tongue, "Onondio," which signifies "Great Mountain." The Indians understood this to be the title of the office, and thenceforth called every French governor Onondio.

The seas at this time were much infested with pirates, and many references to them and their doings occur, particularly to the notorious Every or Avery, the hero of many a truculent story. In Philadelphia, it is said, they walked the streets boldly, strong in the support of the merchants, who drove a profitable trade with them.

Considerable space is given to the affairs of the turbulent Cood and his abettors. It might seem that the profligate and blasphemous wretch, whom Nicholson once caned with his own hand for drunken brawling in church (p. 452) was hardly worth the governor's attention. But Cood was a man of considerable ability, utterly unscrupulous, and a vigorous hater. He had put himself at the head of the revolution