

PREFACE.

The present volume contains the Proceedings and Acts of the Assembly for the years 1711-1714.

During these years not much of moment occurred. The Province remained without a Governor, Edward Lloyd, President of the Council, acting in that capacity until the arrival of Governor John Hart, with the Queen's commission, in 1714. During this interregnum many matters of importance were postponed until the Governor's arrival. President Lloyd was cautious in the exercise of his powers, and there was less than the usual amount of bickering between the two Houses.

One disagreement, however, arose from the clamorous demands of Sir Thomas Lawrence. That gentleman had been appointed Royal Secretary of the Province, and by a temporary Act renewed from time to time the fines on ordinary licenses had been assigned to him as his salary. In 1704 he returned to England, where he did nothing for the Province, but continued to demand his salary. The Assembly demurred, on the ground that the salary had never been attached to the office, and that as he rendered no service, he was entitled to no compensation. He succeeded in enlisting the Queen (that is, the Privy Council) in his behalf; and the Lower House, in 1709, forwarded a memorial to Her Majesty setting forth the facts of the case. Of this they received no acknowledgment. Lawrence kept up his importunities, and the Queen wrote to the acting Governor urging his claims. The Lower House stood firm, alleging it as their belief that the Queen had never received their memorial. Both Houses, however, agreed that it was desirable that the Province should have an agent in England; but they would have one of their own choosing, and for that service they fixed upon Col. Nathaniel Blakiston.

The Queen had ordered a revision of all the laws of the Province, and the compilation of a complete code. The October Session of 1714