

## PREFACE.

The present volume contains the Proceedings and Acts of Assembly from 1717 to and including the session of April, 1720, which was the last held during the administration of Governor Hart. The record of the Proceedings is taken up at the point to which it was brought in Volume XXX.

The originals of some of the journals herein presented are missing from the State Archives, but, fortunately, of every one that is missing there is a duplicate in the collection of Calvert papers belonging to the Maryland Historical Society. These duplicates were made for the use and information of the Lord Proprietary in England, and were acquired by the Society among the Calvert papers purchased in 1888. The bound manuscript copies of the journals in the State Archives were found upon comparison with these originals to be defective, whole pages being omitted in places, as though the copyist had turned over two leaves together without observing the resulting hiatus. For the Proceedings printed in this volume the text of the journals contained in the Calvert papers has been followed where the originals were not to be found among the records belonging to the State, and the contents of missing leaves have been supplied from the same source. The Lower House Journal for the April Session of 1720 is from a fair engrossed, and certified, contemporary copy. The source from which the text is derived is printed at the head of each journal.

The object is to place before the reader in type precisely what is contained in the manuscript record, and therefore no corrections have been made of eccentricities of spelling, except in the case of obvious slips of the pen, such as writing *of* for *if*, or *on* for *one*. Omitted words, or such as are required to make the sense complete, when supplied by the Editor, are included in square brackets [ ]. The omissions in one journal have in many cases been filled by reference to the corresponding record in the proceedings of the other house.

The Acts of Assembly herein contained are copied from Bacon's *Laws of Maryland at Large*, published in 1765, and therefore include only the public general laws that were then in force. Liber LL. No. 4