

1885, while repairs were being made to the old Council Chamber, or Treasury Building near the State House, in cutting through a new window the Iron Chest was found walled up between the original outside wall of the building and a more recently constructed inner wall. In it was found a book of accounts and the woodcut block from which the provincial paper money was printed. A few years ago the chest was turned over to the Maryland Historical Society, together with the beautifully bound contemporary manuscript volume of accounts, covering the period from 1734 to 1767, entitled "Iron Chest Account Book No. I," which apparently contains a complete record of the uses to which the chest was put during this period and the amount of money deposited and withdrawn from it.

A word as to the sources from which the proceedings of the two houses of the Assembly and the laws enacted by them, as they appear in this volume, are taken. The State possesses not only the contemporary official manuscript record of the proceedings of both houses beautifully inscribed in well-bound parchment covered folio libers, but also the original rough notes kept day by day by the clerks of each house. The contemporary official copies of all the acts passed at the various sessions of the Assembly are recorded in another series of libers, and in the Court of Appeals numbers of the original acts themselves are to be found. In addition to these manuscript sources there are also the contemporary printed session laws, or "Acts of Assembly of the Province of Maryland," and the proceedings of the Lower House, printed under the title "Votes and Proceedings of the Lower House of Assembly" for each session, both from the press of Jonas Green of Annapolis. The Upper House, less sensitive to public opinion and more directly under the sway of the Proprietary, did not feel the necessity of thus laying its actions and votes before the public in print. A full account of these printed "Session Laws" and "Votes and Proceedings" will be found in *A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland* by Lawrence C. Wroth. While the inscribed manuscript libers are to be considered as the official records, a number of errors which occur in them, especially as regards proper names, have been detected by a careful check-up of them with the printed versions and the rough notes of the clerks.

Dr. J. Hall Pleasants, who succeeded the late Dr. Bernard C. Steiner as a member of the Committee on Publications, has also become his successor in the editorship of the *Archives*. In preparing this volume for the press the editor is under great obligations to Mr. Charles Fickus of the Maryland Historical Society's staff and to Mrs. Fickus for their invaluable aid in correcting the proof and in making the index. That part of the copy which was not directly the work of the photostat was made from the original man-