

which the Chancellor was one, it was not until 1720 that it became in form a one-man court with the Chancellor as sole judge. The editor feels that the story of the development of the Court of Chancery of Maryland has never been adequately told, so elsewhere in this volume, under the title "The First Century of the Chancery Court of Maryland", he presents in considerable detail the history of the first hundred years of its existence, together with a list of all the chancellors from its beginning, until the Court ended its existence in 1854.

To the student of early American history the contents of this volume are perhaps of less human interest than are the records of the Provincial Court, or general law court of the Province, where we find reflected more vividly the every day life of the people in their relation to each other and to the Proprietary Government, and where both civil and criminal cases are found recorded. To the student of equity as it evolved during the seventeenth century in an American commonwealth from its English beginnings, and to those who are interested in the uses which this commonwealth made of writs in their varying forms, as the community adapted them to its needs and discarded those that ceased to be useful, the contents of this volume will be of no little interest. Nor is it fair to say that all the entries are without human interest. Most of the cases recorded seem to have originated in the Court of Chancery, although a few, which had their beginnings in the Provincial Court, were brought into Chancery on technical grounds rather than by direct appeal. The editor, who is not a lawyer, has not undertaken an explanation of the writs and proceedings recorded, but this has been contributed by Chief Judge Bond, who, as previously stated, has been making a study of seventeenth century Maryland judicial records. His explanation is designed for the general reader.

As Judge Bond has pointed out in his *Proceedings of the Maryland Court of Appeals*, the Province was fortunate in that it had among the members of its seventeenth and eighteenth century bench and bar a number of competent lawyers who had received their training at the Inns of Court of London, although in the decade covered by this volume but two names occur of men who are known to have had this training. During our period the Chief Judge in Equity from 1669 to 1676 was Gov. Charles Calvert, who, after his father's death in 1675, became third Lord Baltimore and Lord Proprietary, although during his absence in 1676, 1677 and 1678, Thomas Notley was Governor and Chief Judge in Equity. It does not appear that either of these had an English legal training; nor is it likely that the Chancellor, Philip Calvert, had received such a training in England; and the same may be said of the other associate justices of the Court of Chancery who served during our decade. As the same judges or justices who sat in the Chancery Court also sat in the Provincial