

## PREFACE.

The present volume continues the Council records without a break, down to the outburst of that sedition, the result of which was to take the government of Maryland from the Proprietary and place it in the hands of the King. In the chaotic times that immediately followed, no regular record equivalent to a council journal seems to have been kept, or at least none has been preserved; so we have endeavored to throw what light we could upon the occurrences of the years 1689-92, by the help of documents in the Public Record Office, London.

It was unfortunate for the Proprietary that the killing of the King's collector, Rousby, by Talbot, not long before, and that of another collector, Payne, in a private brawl, gave color to the charge of disloyalty brought against the Proprietary government. It is true, these men belonged to a class with whom it is hard to have dealings without experiencing homicidal temptations, and of whom one made it his open boast that for twenty-five years he had lived on the curses of the people; but it must be admitted that the remedy was somewhat drastic. It was unfortunate, too, that the proclamation of William and Mary was delayed by the death of the messenger. Yet, from the circumstantial narratives of Darnall, Bertrand, Sayer and others, it is evident that the Maryland revolution of 1689 was not in the beginning a popular movement at all, but the work of a few malcontents and fishers in troubled waters, with the apostate Coode at their head, who played upon the credulity, the fears, and the ignorance of the people. Taking advantage of the isolation of the settlements and plantations, these men found it easy to alarm the people at Mattapany with a report that the Senecas and Papists were preparing to massacre the Protestants at Patuxent, and to terrify those in Anne Arundel with accounts that the Nanticokes and Papists were cutting throats at Mattapany.

The country being thrown thus into a panic of excitement, Coode and his coadjutors stepped forward in the character of protectors of the Protestants and preservers of order, imprisoned or frightened away those who resisted them, and made themselves masters of the Province, which they hastened to hand over to the King, in the name of all the Protestants in the Province. William, nothing loth to strike a blow at the Proprietary colonies, which had long been felt to be anomalies, and fortified by the hesitating opinion of Chief Justice Holt, that the proceeding, if not strictly lawful, was expedient, took the government into