

Assembly was sitting, one member being killed and others injured. Pirates, including the notorious Kidd, were hovering about the coast, alarming the inhabitants, but their chief resort was Philadelphia, where they found friendly treatment and protection, and ready sale for their booty.

Blakiston's health failing, he sailed for England in July, 1702, and his office was temporarily held by Thomas Tench, President of the Council, until the arrival of Governor John Seymour in 1704.

In the night of Oct. 17, 1704, the State house was burned and many of the records destroyed. This calamity was followed the next year by a fire which destroyed the court house, to which the records had been removed, and several other buildings. These fires were believed to be the work of conspirators who wished to destroy the evidence of their indebtedness. Their ringleader, Richard Clarke, was tried for this and other heinous offences, found guilty and executed.

On July 30, 1709, Governor Seymour died, and his place was filled by Edward Lloyd, President of the Council, until the arrival of Governor John Hart in 1714. The Council records of Lloyd's administration are lost.

As the Charter of Maryland had never been overthrown, the assumption of the government by William III. had been a frank usurpation on the ground of public policy. The Proprietary, Charles, third Lord Baltimore, petitioned Queen Anne for its restoration, but it was refused because he was a Roman Catholic. In 1713 his son and heir, Benedict Leonard, renounced the faith of his father and was received into the Church of England, at the same time taking his children from the Catholic schools where they were being educated at his father's expense. Upon this his father withdrew the yearly allowance of £450 which he had been previously paying, and the Queen granted Benedict a pension of £300 during Charles's life. After the Queen's death (Aug. 1, 1714) Benedict petitioned George I. (v. p. 271) for the continuance of this pension, as also for the retention of Governor Hart, who had been appointed at his request.

Charles, Lord Baltimore, died on Feb. 20, 1714/5, aged over 85, and was succeeded by Benedict Leonard, who died on April 16 following, so that the change of proprietorship was not known in the Province until the arrival of the ships which brought also the news of the death of Benedict and the succession of his eldest son Charles, then a youth of fifteen. Charles and his guardian Lord Guilford petitioned King George for the restoration of the government, and this petition was