PREFACE.

The present volume contains the Proceedings and Acts of Assembly for 1715–16, in regular continuance from the last volume. As was before explained, the Statute Book LL 4 having long been lost, we were compelled to take the public general Acts from Bacon's published edition, into which they were copied from the missing Liber. Private Acts Bacon gives by titles only, which it has not been thought necessary to reproduce.

With regard to the public Acts of 1715, we have been more fortunate. Queen Anne had ordered a complete revision of the laws, amounting to the compilation of a new code; and this was accomplished in 1715. A copy of these Acts, forming a stout MS. book, was sent to the Proprietary, and is now among the Calvert Papers, from which book our text has been taken. One act of 1716 was taken from a MS. copy in the collections of the Maryland Historical Society.

Charles Calvert, Lord Baltimore, the second Proprietary of Maryland, died, at an advanced age, on February 20, 1714/15, and was succeeded by his son, Benedict Leonard. But before the news of his death reached the Province, which was on the 29th or 30th of May, Benedict Leonard had also died (April 5), and been succeeded by his son Charles, a minor, under the guardianship of Francis, Lord Guilford. Benedict had embraced the Protestant faith, and his children were brought up in the Church of England.

As the adhesion of Charles to the Church of Rome had been put forward as the reason for depriving him of the government of his Province, and this reason was no longer in force, on petition of Lord Guilford to the King, the government was restored to his grandson, and Maryland, after twenty-five years of royal government, returned to its ancient status. Gov. Hart, whose administration seems to have been universally acceptable, was continued in his government under a commission from the new Proprietary. An odd technical question arose as to the style of the laws: whether, in the enacting clause, the Proprietary's minority should or should not be alluded to. It was decided