

PREFACE.

It has seemed expedient to finish the publication of the Proceedings of the Council, thus making the Series as complete as possible in that respect; so the present volume, beginning where Volume XXXI left off, covers the remainder of Governor Sharpe's administration, and that of Governor Eden down to Sept. 24, 1770. The record of the last years of Eden's government is lost, nor has diligent search in both Annapolis and London succeeded in recovering it; a loss greatly to be regretted, as the period thus left unrecorded was the eventful time just preceding and contemporary with the outbreak of the Revolution.

The entire record of the Provincial Council from 1636 to 1770, so far as it has been preserved, is now secure from future loss.

To the Council Journal have been appended the Minutes of the Board of Revenue for 1768-1775, which throw valuable light on the financial affairs and administration of the Province; also the opinions of eminent English lawyers on the disputed question of the regulation of officers' fees, and the orders and instructions issued to Governor Eden on the accession of Henry Harford, a minor, to the Proprietaryship.

The marriage of Frederick, Lord Baltimore, to Lady Diana Egerton, daughter of the Duke of Bridgewater, necessitated voluminous legal formalities, among the rest a lease, probably unique of its kind, of the entire Province of Maryland, and a Deed of Settlement which impresses the present editor as the *ne plus ultra* of the conveyancer's art.

The disturbances attending resistance to the Stamp Act receive but brief notice. They will be found in fuller detail in the Sharpe correspondence.

The Tuscarora Indians of North Carolina having, some years before, incorporated themselves in the Iroquois Confederacy (which thenceforth was called the Six, instead of the Five, Nations) certain of the Maryland Indians, claiming kindred with the Iroquois, removed in 1748 to Otsiningo on the Susquehannah, and were received into the Confederacy. In 1767 the Nanticoke and Choptank Indians communicated with their brethren at Otsiningo expressing a desire to join them,