

1716, ch. 1. contained Transcripts of such only as then remained in Force, of which we have Instances in the Years 1676, 1692, 1699, and 1704. So that the older Copies or Transcripts being little regarded, as of no farther Use, have been neglected or suffered to perish or run to Decay; till in the Year 1716 (the first Year of his Lordship's being reinstated in the Government) effectual Care was taken to secure what then remained, together with all future Records, by an Act appointing certain Commissioners to inspect the Condition of the Public Records, and to employ the necessary Clerks and Workmen for transcribing, binding and repairing the remaining Books, and for obliging the several Officers to keep the same in good Order, &c. which was farther enforced and secured by sundry subsequent Acts. From which Neglects, Copies of many old Acts have been intirely lost, nor should we have the least Knowledge of their Existence, but from subsequent continuing or repealing Acts, or the imperfect Remains of Proceedings in Assembly; from which I have collected their Titles, and reduced them to their proper Places: Which is the Reason of so many Titles, in those dark Periods, standing without Reference to any Record wherein they may be found.

FROM the foregoing short View of the several Revolutions of Government in this Province, and the several Periods in which they happened, we may easily Account for the Acrimony of Stile with which the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lords and Proprietaries have been treated in the Preambles to some particular Acts; the usual Effect of national Divisions, and contest of Parties struggling for Superiority. In all which Cases, tho' for wise and political Motives, the Powers of Government were withdrawn, yet the strictest Regard was always had to the Real Estates and Properties of their Lordships, which were, in more Instances than one, attacked with the intemperate Zeal of Party Resentment: The Proprietaries having never forfeited those private Rights by any Act of Disloyalty, or illegal Resistance to the established Power.

As it is evident this Collection could never have appeared, in its present Form, without a diligent and accurate Inspection of the Records; so the Editor thinks it his especial Duty to return his Thanks to his Excellency HORATIO SHARPE, Esq; our worthy Governor, who, upon the first Application, granted him free Recourse to the Council and Provincial Records, which was afterwards confirmed by the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> the present Proprietor, as well as to the several Gentlemen in Office, who kindly afforded him their Assistance, not only in permitting him a free Access to their respective Offices, but also in pointing out to him the several Books, &c. in which he was most likely to meet with the Information he wanted.

IN a particular Manner, he requests the following Gentlemen, to accept of his sincere Acknowledgments for their generous Contributions and Subscriptions towards carrying on this useful Design, without which it never could have suited the Editor's Circumstances to introduce it to Public View, *Viz.*

C O N T R I B U T O R,

The R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> FREDERICK, L<sup>d</sup> Baltimore, £. 100 Sterling.

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