

spite of the fact that he was in holy orders (though he had repudiated them) he had sat in several previous sessions of the Assembly. Governor Nicholson was resolved that this scandal should cease; and taking his ground upon the law which made a priest ineligible (in fact, with this exception, no clergyman had ever sat in the Assembly) refused to swear him in. The Burgesses contended that they were the sole judges of the eligibility of their own members. Nicholson pointed out to them that while they were indeed the sole judges whether any one of their members was duly elected, they had no power to qualify a person legally disqualified; that though Coode might consider that he had repudiated his own orders, yet that they were indelible except by the power which had conferred them; and furthermore, that the Burgesses themselves knew the man's whole life and conversation to be "so heinously flagitious and wicked as scarce to be paralleled in the Province." He concluded by calling the whole House before him and curtly telling them: "Gentlemen, I do acquaint you that I shall not swear that person, notwithstanding your vote." The Burgesses thus rebuked seem to have become ashamed of themselves, and dropped Coode, who lived to turn his envenomed hate against Nicholson, and to contribute the most disgusting pages to the criminal records of the Province.

In the session of Sept.-Oct., 1696, William Bladen Clerk of the House, applied for and received license to do the public printing, he furnishing a press and types at his own cost.

Though Maryland was fairly prosperous under Nicholson's administration, yet the state of affairs was not entirely satisfactory. Nearly all the land was given up to tobacco, and the best soils were now worn out. Outside of tobacco, scarce anything was exported: some furs and sassafras root to England, and insignificant quantities of beef, pork, pipe staves and timber to Barbadoes and New England.

Several of the original journals have been ravaged by damp and insects, and here, as in previous volumes, brackets indicate that the inclosed words have been supplied from a later copy. From the original journal of the Upper House, Session of May-June, 1697, the first four pages have been torn away, and the text is taken from a later copy.