

At this same session a certain Hannah Lee petitioned the court to enforce payment to her by the sheriff of Charles County of twelve thousand pounds of tobacco, due her in payment for the house sold by her to the Province for use as a State House, and the court directed the sheriff to levy against the taxable inhabitants, and to make payment to her (page 73). Records of the General Assembly show that an act had been passed at the April, 1662, session, authorizing the purchase of this house and plantation at St. Mary's, then owned and occupied by Hannah Lee, the widow of Hugh Lee, the house to be used for meetings of the Provincial Court and of the Assembly, and also as a prison, with the understanding that the widow was to maintain the house and keep tavern there for three years, the purchase price to be met by a poll tax upon all the taxable inhabitants of the Province (Arch. Md. I, 445-456). Evidently the sheriff had been slow in making collections and in his payments to the widow. Not long after this episode Hannah married her servant, a certain William Price of Charles County, and at the December, 1664, session, Price and his wife were summoned before the court for failing to carry out their contract to cover in the roof of the State House, and Price was put in the sheriff's custody until the contract should be fulfilled (pages 344, 368, 395, 396, 397). Troubles now descended in rapid succession upon Price and his wife Hannah. They were summoned before the court in June, 1664, upon the complaint of the guardian of a boy, Sampson Cooper. It was shown that the father of Cooper, who bore the same name, had died in Virginia leaving express instructions in his will that his former partner Hugh Lee should have nothing to do with the settlement of his estate, and that Lee had fled to Maryland with young Cooper, taking with him valuable papers and portable property belonging to Cooper's estate. Lee died not long afterwards in Maryland, and William Price, Hannah's recently acquired husband, was now ordered to make an accounting of Cooper's estate (pages 221-223, 242, 273-275, 315, 399-400, 525). About the same time the Prices were sued by a certain William Hollingsworth of Salem, New England, for sundry debts which Hannah, before her marriage to Price, had owed to Hollingsworth. The case came up before the Provincial Court at the January, 1666, session, possibly on an appeal from a lower court (pages 377, 378, 449, 450, 453-455). From what follows it would appear that Hannah had then been in prison for some time when this last suit was entered, but whether on account of her failure to live up to her contract with the Province to cover the State House, or for her debt to the Cooper estate, or that to Hollingsworth, is not clear. Nor is it clear at this time whether William Price was in jail with his wife. Be all this as it may be, we find her petitioning the Provincial Court at the January, 1666, session and complaining from the jail, where she was in confinement, that she had worn out her clothes and was in great distress because of that fact, and requesting the court to settle the case promptly, or provide clothes for her. The court then ordered the sheriff to levy on the property of her husband William Price to provide her with clothes (page 566). The case does not appear to have been finally settled when the records of the court included in this volume come to an end.

A suit asking heavy damages for slander was brought before the September, 1663, session of the court. Dr. Luke Barber, a very prominent resident of St.