

Ogle, who had entered upon his third term as governor in 1746 and who possessed in a high degree the confidence of the people, died, May 3, 1752, just a month before the meeting of the single Assembly held in this year, and was succeeded as acting governor by Benjamin Tasker, the President of the Council, who presided over the affairs of the Province until the arrival of the new governor, Horatio Sharpe, August 10, 1753. Tasker, who was a native of Maryland, seems to have had the confidence of the people. He died in 1768 in his seventy-eighth year, having been a member of the Council for forty-seven years and its president for thirty years.

The appointment of Sharpe, who remained governor until 1769, was a fortunate one, as he continued for sixteen years to have the respect and confidence of the people of Maryland on the one hand and of the Proprietary and home government on the other, and this at the period when the political ties which bound the people to the Proprietary and the King were fast reaching the breaking point.

Frederick, the sixth Lord Baltimore, who had become Lord Proprietary upon the death of his father, April 24, 1751, did not reach his majority until February 6, 1753. The supervision of the affairs of the Province until he became of age were vested in his two guardians, Arthur Onslow, for many years speaker of the House of Commons, and John Sharpe, brother of Governor Horatio Sharpe. The solicitude of the guardians for the interests of their ward and his Province is brought out strikingly by a study of the papers that appear in the Appendix. Little need be said of Frederick, the new Proprietary. A worldling and dilettante, he never took the trouble to visit his American possessions and showed little interest in their affairs except as a source of revenue for his extravagances, and entrusted the direction of all matters there to his uncle Cecilius Calvert, from whom as his secretary for Maryland, resident in England, orders and directions to Governor Sharpe emanated. Although a man possessed of not a little common sense, shrewdness, and vision, his orders and letters to Sharpe show that he was utterly unable to express his thoughts clearly or coherently.

The session which began June 3, 1752, the second session of the Assembly elected in 1751, was opened by an address of welcome to both houses by Benjamin Tasker, President of the Council, and as such, acting governor, which was promptly met by a rather curt request from the Lower House that he show by what authority or commission he now acted as President of the Council. Tasker satisfied this inquiry by a statement that although all commissions to membership in the Council had expired upon the death of Charles, the late Proprietary, Frederick, the new Proprietary, through his guardians had directed Ogle, the late governor, to reinstate all members of the late Council