

died on November 27 at his plantation in Baltimore County while the Assembly was in session (*Md. Gaz.* Dec. 4, 1766). The *Maryland Gazette* for Jan. 27, 1767, duly records that Captain John Hammond Dorsey was elected in the room of Mr. James Heath; but he did not take his seat, as this Assembly was dissolved before another meeting of it was held.

Sharpe opened the session with the usual opening speech delivered before both houses. He had called the Assembly together, he said, at the season which he knew was most agreeable to them, and he was persuaded they would endeavor to improve the good understanding that had subsisted between the two houses at the last session; and he assured them that it was his desire to act agreeably to their inclination, and the height of his ambition to merit their good opinion. He also told them that he had received from the King's Minister copies of the acts of Parliament lately passed to the advantage of the colonies, which he was notifying by proclamation, and he took the opportunity to congratulate them on the happy turn of affairs in favor of the colonies (p. 138). These acts of Parliament related to the repeal of the Stamp Act, and to colonial trade, and had been passed at the last Parliament (*Arch. Md.* XXXII, 150-151, 160-163).

The Lower House organized in the usual way, as has already been described at the May session (pp. 17-19), except as to the swearing in of the members. It was customary for members of the Lower House to be sworn in only at the first meeting following the election of a new Assembly, and it will be recalled that the members of this house had already been sworn at the opening of the May, 1765, session, but under an act passed by the last Parliament changing the form of one of the oaths required to be taken by all public officials, they were again sworn in before two members of the Upper House and the Clerk. This change was in the form of the oath of abjuration and assurance, which all the members took in its new form (p. 138). Michael Macnemara continued as Clerk of the Lower House. The Reverend Robert Read, who had served as chaplain of the May session, was again selected to "read Divine Service morning and afternoon" (p. 138).

The new oath of abjuration was also administered to Robert Saunders, the Sergeant-at-arms, and to Cornelius Howard, the Doorkeeper, as well as to the clerks of the several Lower House committees, viz., John Duckett, Turbutt Wright, Thomas Duckett, and Henry Wilkins.

The Lower House replied in an address to the opening speech of Governor Sharpe. The Governor was thanked for his speech, the house declaring that it was its ambition to merit his good opinion as well as the approbation of their constituents, and to preserve the harmony between the several branches of the legislature which was essentially necessary for the general interest. The house added that, although an earlier meeting of the Assembly would have been more agreeable to them, they were sensible that this would not have been practical, because the courts of law, having sat in September, this would have interfered with an earlier meeting. Sentiments of loyalty and gratitude were expressed for the King and Parliament (pp. 140-141). This last reference was of course to the repeal of the Stamp Act, only recently