

land. This declaration called forth a vigorous protest from the Lower House, where action was taken after the presentation of an exhaustive report upon the subject from a special committee composed of James Stoddert, one of the justices of the Provincial Court, Daniel Dulany, the Attorney General, and John Beale, formerly clerk to the Council and to the Upper House. In apprehension of the position taken by the Proprietary, the Lower House had at the previous session adopted resolutions asserting the right to the benefit and protection of the English law, and a copy of those resolutions was sent to the Proprietary with the address adopted at this session.

The summary dismissal by the Lower House, of Colonel Nathaniel Blakiston, a former Governor of Maryland under the Crown, from his employment as agent of the Province in England, and the criticism of the Proprietary's advisers, contained in the address above mentioned, suggest the possibility that he was deemed in a measure responsible for the Proprietary's pronouncement upon this subject.

The question of the limitation of Officers' Fees had long been a vexed one, and session after session the Proprietary had withheld his dissent to the Act of 1719, urging the Assembly to take action to render it more acceptable to him. Meanwhile a feeling of hostility toward the Upper House, composed of the members of the Council appointed by the Proprietary, had grown up. The Upper House had opposed the Lower House in the measures for improving the quality of tobacco, and had sided with the Proprietary in the matter of the regulation of Officers' Fees, and had sustained the prerogative on other occasions. The hostility of the Lower House was at first manifested in petty ways, but at the session of 1723 it was determined to cut off the allowance made to the Councillors for their services out of Assembly time. This led to a long and acrimonious dispute between the two houses, in which the usual amenities of parliamentary debate were laid aside. Finally the journal of the Committee on Accounts was passed without the customary appropriation, the members of the Upper House reserving to themselves their rights. It was not until this result had been attained, on the last day of the session, that the Lower House passed a bill amending the Act relating to Officers' Fees in a manner acceptable to the Proprietary.

The evils resulting from the importation of convict labor had continued to grow, and at this session an Act was passed for the prevention of those evils, and for the better discovery of convicts when imported. This Act was dissented to by the Proprietary, June 8, 1724,