

We now enter upon the most humiliating period of Maryland history. For a period of several years, the Governor and the representatives of the people of Maryland indulged in petty bickering and fault finding, in quarrelling and recrimination and did not enact the constructive measures needed to meet the emergencies which arose from time to time. The members of the Lower House were fussily insistent on their privileges and sometimes resorted to sharp parliamentary practice, hoping thereby to gain their ends. The Governor was bound by his instructions from a selfish and distant Lord Proprietary and was often exasperated by the proceedings of the Delegates to such an extent as to forget his dignity and to scold them. The Assembly which met in August, 1745, was one in which a bill for the limitation of officers' fees, bills to establish two new counties, a bill for laying a tax for the discharge of the quit rents, and a bill for the trial of matters of fact in the County Courts were vetoed by Gov. Bladen, who had, ere this, lost his whilom popularity. These vetoes naturally irritated the Lower House. Fifteen acts were passed: four dealt with laying out towns (one of which consolidated Baltimore and Jonestowns), one prohibited raising swine and geese in Cambridge, one authorized the building of a rolling house for tobacco, one provided for dividing parishes in St. Mary's and Charles Counties, one directed the publication of laws, four corrected defects in land titles, one validated a will, one established the gauge of barrels and one determined the allowance for petit jurors. There were many changes in the Delegates: St. Mary's sent an entire new delegation; Kent replaced Calder by Harris; Calvert sent Mackall for Weems; Somerset replaced Gale by Dennis (of the family of the Chairman of the Publication Committee); Dorchester replaced Trippe and Hindman by Hooper and Sullivan; Baltimore replaced Aquila Paca, Scott and Caswell by John Paca, Buchanan and John Hall; Annapolis sent Steuart instead of Tasker, who had been transferred to the Council; Queen Anne's sent Hopper instead of Wright and Worcester replaced Robins by Outten.

The main object of summoning the session was lost in a controversy between the two Houses. Gov. Bladen announced that the Session had been called to secure assistance for the garrison of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island, whose capture recently by the New England provincial troops and the British fleet had been so brilliant an achievement. After some debate, the Lower House agreed to make an appropriation for that purpose, recovering the money from a tax on ordinaries, but they tacked to the bill a provision for a Provincial Agent in London. This tacking was denounced by the Upper House, which knew that the desire for such an agent was that there might be someone at the British Capital to voice an opposition to the Lord Proprietary. The Lower