

paid over by them. The house also sent an address to the Lord Proprietary congratulating him upon his "noble and illustrious marriage," and expressing their approval of his choice for governor. They also requested that he use his good offices with the Lords of Trade and Plantations to permit the importation into the Province of salt from any place abroad in accordance with a "representation" to that body which accompanied the address. This representation to the Lords recites that while it is realized that nothing manufactured outside of England may be lawfully shipped to the colonies other than through England, except salt for the fisheries which may "without fraud" be shipped direct from any port of Europe to New England and Newfoundland in ships owned by British subjects, conditions now urgently demand that this exception as to salt, although not hitherto extended to include Maryland, should be construed to do so, because the Province at the time the charter was granted was considered a fishing colony owing to the extent of its seacoast and of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The Lords of Trade and Plantations are urged to request the King and Parliament to extend the same privilege to Maryland as is now granted to New England. The Governor closed the session with a speech to the Assembly thanking them for the regard shown to him personally and expressing the hope that the differences between the two houses would be soon compromised; and that in view of the disposition expressed by the Lower House to aid the neighboring colonies in case of attack, further stress would not now be laid on its objections to the immediate revival of "the law for arms."

In a legislative body, when the upper chamber represents the vested interests and the lower house the people at large, bills which fail of passage, such as some of those just described, often bring into relief the political tendencies and social conflicts of the period more than do the laws which are actually passed. Some of the thirty-five acts which did become laws, however, possess considerable interest. Probably the most important law to the people of Maryland, passed at this session was that entitled "An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco, for preventing Frauds in his Majesty's Customs, and for the Limitation of Officers Fees." This very lengthy law regulated in detail the inspection, warehousing, shipping and export duties on tobacco, the most important product of the Province, adopted elaborate schedules regulating in detail the fees of all public officials for legal papers, and services of every kind, and established tables for determining the rate at which various foreign gold and silver coins were to be circulated in the Province in terms of the Maryland pound current. In passing it is interesting to note that the English pound sterling at this time was equivalent to one pound, fifteen shillings, in Maryland pounds current. The operation of this tobacco act, which was in great