

tration of his office, and formally reprimanded him. The Governor in his message to the Lower House on the subject declared that he had gone into the matter carefully and felt that the justice was not as culpable as the Lower House supposed, and that he had been guilty of no misdemeanor whatever. He then very pointedly remarked that it was his duty to protect the people from extra-legal exercise of the law, and to prevent them from being prosecuted out of the ordinary course of procedure, and added "I cannot help recommending to you, Gentlemen, as you sit here at a very considerable Expense to the Country, to forbear to meddle, for the future, with such Complaints, as are (if not groundless) relievable elsewhere, and are the proper Objects for the Enquiry of another Jurisdiction," a not too-gentle reminder to the House to mind its own business. The Rawlings' inquiry before the Lower House seems to have been instigated by the personal animosity of Henry Wright Crabb, a member from Frederick County, and was apparently unjustified (*Archiv. Md.*, vi., 191).

A joint committee of both houses on February 26th presented an audit of the accounts of the office of the Commissioners for Emitting Bills of Credit, as it was called by the Lower House, or the Paper Currency Office, as it was designated by the Upper House. It is difficult to understand why the two houses consistently used different terms to designate the office of the commissioners which issued the bills of credit or paper currency.

The Roman Catholic question cropped up promptly in the form of a bill "for preventing the Importation of German and French Papists" which was immediately passed by the Lower House. The preamble stated that many German and French Papists, Popish priests, and Jesuits, had lately entered the Province from Pennsylvania and Delaware, and had promptly taken up lands on the western frontier near the French fort, where they would probably communicate secret intelligence to the enemy, and where on account of their "insatiable Desire of universal Conversion to their own religious Opinions" they were a danger to "the good Protestant People" of this Province. The bill imposed a tax of £5 on every German or Irish Catholic and of £200 on every priest or Jesuit entering the Province, with fines as high as £20 and £400, respectively, if such persons were smuggled into the Province. One-half of these taxes and fines were to be used to defray the expenses of the military expedition and one-half were to go to the informers. The Upper House amended the bill by cutting down the amount of the tax and the fines, and by apportioning one-third of these to be used for military purposes, one-third to go to the informers, and one-third to the Lord Proprietary. The Lower House rejected the amended bill because under it a third had been given to the Proprietary, and ordered it to be printed in full in its *Journal of Votes and Proceedings*.