

convened, must be left undone," Sharpe, ignorant of the catastrophe which had befallen Braddock, suddenly prorogued the Assembly until January 1, 1756, although its meeting was not destined to take place until two months after that date.

Nothing of importance was enacted at this session, although eleven laws were passed. Five of these continued in operation laws which expired by limitation. Two private acts were passed, one to empower the widow of Samuel Chambers to sell certain lands in Anne Arundel County for the payment of his debts and another to permit John Greenif Howard of Baltimore County to dock the entail to a tract of land in Anne Arundel County. The usual act for the relief of sundry prisoners languishing in county jails was passed. One of the bills passed fixed the fees for jurors and the costs allowed for witnesses in the Provincial Courts. An act was passed to authorize the purchase of two acres of land in the upper part of Worcester Parish, Worcester County, for the erection of a chapel of ease, and another for building a church in the parish of St. Mary's, Whitechapel, Dorchester County.

The fourth session of this Assembly, which was to last four months, met on February 23, 1756, and was opened with a speech by Governor Sharpe. Immediately after the adjournment of the last session on July 8, 1755, the news of the disastrous defeat of Braddock had been received, and the warring houses of the Assembly were now to show themselves more disposed to make mutual concessions. The Lower House continued in force the rules of the former session and reappointed the same committees. The Rev. John MacPherson, a native of Scotland and at that time the rector of St. Anne's Church, Annapolis, was selected to read prayers at the morning and afternoon meetings. The Governor, in his opening speech, did not dwell upon past differences, but submitted a plan for the general conduct of the British campaign in North America against the French. This plan had been communicated by Governor Shirley, who had succeeded Braddock as commander-in-chief, and had been adopted at a Council of War held at New York. Sharpe wrote that since the reverses of last summer the Delaware and Shawanee Indians had deserted to the French, thereby increasing the danger to the frontier. He recommended the prompt passage of a militia law that would render service obligatory, and a revival of the law to prevent the export of provisions and warlike stores which was about to expire by limitation. Under date of February 25th, the Lower House in an address to the Governor, thanked him for the confidence shown it by entrusting, for its information, the plan of the Council of War, promising him that it would immediately comply with his request for a militia law and one regulating exports. The Upper House, in its reply to Sharpe, expressed its appreciation of the fact that after Braddock's defeat he had "heastened to the Frontiers and put them