

a group higher in the social scale fills ten pages or more of the court record. In a suit for defamation the participants were Thomas Baker, the county justice, pitted against George Thompson, Clerk of the Court, William Robinson, a planter, John Nevill and his virago of a wife, with frequent mention of Job Chandler, a recently deceased member of the Council. Charges of hog-stealing, the merits of which need not be discussed, were made on both sides, but the suit apparently resulted in Baker being driven from the bench. As a study of the almost unbelievable grossness of seventeenth century speech, the testimony is not without interest (pp. 204-205, 220, 231-240).

Licences for *ordinaries*, the fees from which were a perquisite of the Governor, were granted through the county courts. An act passed in 1662 "for the encouragement of ordinary keepers", provided an easy method for the collection of debts due them. (*Arch. Md. i*, 447). In 1666 to protect the patrons of ordinaries, who were frequently charged "excessive Rates for their drinks, victuals and lodging", an act was passed to establish maximum rates which might be charged for "Canarry—Malligol—Maderie—Fyall Porto—Strong Cider—Clarrett—strong beer—Ale—Rumm—English Spirites—Dutch drams—Anniseed Rosa Solis—Perry and Qunice Drinke", as well as the rates for "dyatt", lodging and bed, and "horse meat" (*Arch. Md. ii*, 148-149). These acts were modified in 1669 (*Arch. Md. ii*, 214), when the maximum charges that might be made for drinks, except beer, were done away with, and the amount of credit which might be given to "any ffreeman in this Province, not a ffreeholder and depending upon his labor", was limited to 400 pounds of tobacco (*Arch. Md. ii*, 407-408). At a Kent County Court held for January 25, 1676, a suit for 742 pounds of tobacco, instituted by Christopher Andrews for charges incurred at his ordinary by John Wright, was thrown out by the court because the amount was greater than might under the act be legally charged a free man who was not a freeholder (*Arch. Md. liv*, 328). At the next court, held March 28, 1676, suit was again brought by Andrews for this same amount before a jury, and he again lost (*Arch. Md. liv*, 340). A number of those licensed as ordinary keepers appear in these county records. Dr. Jacob Lumbrozo, of questionable memory, who has been previously referred to at considerable length, was one. Mr. Francis Armstrong, described as the keeper of an ordinary in Talbot County, had sufficient patronage to have a bookkeeper to assist him, for in a suit filed in February, 1668/9, by Armstrong against a number of his patrons who were indebted to him, he had his accounts verified by his bookkeeper, Patrick Browne (*Arch. Md. liv*, 435).

Scattered throughout these county court records, usually at the November sessions, are to be found the *tax levies* for the current year, covering the local county expenditures, called "county levies", or occasionally "private levies"; and also the levies for general or provincial expenses which were designated as "public levies". Some times these two levies were combined in one schedule. The county levy was to meet such local expenditures as the costs of transportation and the other expenses at St. Mary's of its burgesses or members in the Lower House, bounties on wolves and wildcats, and various minor items. Sometimes the county levy included expenditures for defense against the