

chief to order troops from one part of a colony to another, as the Maryland Assembly sought to do in the case of Fort Cumberland. He regretted that he could not come to Annapolis and meet the Assembly, but felt sure that it would now view matters "on a true Constitutional Footing" and enact such legislation "as is not only agreeable to our Instructions, but agreeable to our happy Constitution of Government in the British Dominions" (pp. 425-428). The Lower House of February 14 replied somewhat ambiguously, promising "to manifest our Care for the Preservation of the Lives, Liberties, and Properties of our Fellow-Subjects, our Zeal for the Common Cause, and Duty to our most Gracious Sovereign" (pp. 429-430); and the next day in an address to the Governor declared that it is unable to explain what Loudoun meant in referring in his letter to certain "Instructions" relative to the forming of bills laid before it, and asked Sharpe if anything in the nature of an agreement had been made between himself and Loudoun (p. 431). To this Sharpe replied he had never used the word "Instructions", and suggested that perhaps Loudoun might refer to his own letter of December to Sharpe as "Instructions", or to the letter from Henry Fox, one of the King's principal secretaries, dated White Hall, March 15, 1756, or possibly to the instructions that were sent by the Ministry to the governors of the northern colonies when some attempt was made to restrain the service of their troops. "Several letters from His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, relative to His Majesty's Instructions to the several Governors in America" were also read, but the journal of the Lower House does not show what these were (pp. 430-431).

The Lower House, sitting as a committee of the whole, took under consideration a Supply bill for His Majesty's Service, but was prorogued before debate upon it was well under way. The terms of this bill both as to the sources from which the necessary taxes were to be derived and the restrictions thrown around the Governor's use of the troops when raised, are discussed later (pp. xxvi-xxvii). The House had also stirred itself up to a high pitch of indignation because Sharpe had made use of the old act of 1715, under which he was empowered to call out the county militia, thus thwarting that body in its efforts to restrict his authority in military matters. Doubtless because he thought that a breathing spell might tend to relieve tension and open the door for compromise, Sharpe suddenly on March 9 prorogued this meeting or convention of the Assembly until March 23 (p. 463), although it did not actually meet until March 28. But if this was his hope he was to be disappointed. No legislation of any kind was passed.

SESSION OF MARCH 28—MAY 1758

Three weeks after the previous "convention" of the Assembly had adjourned it met in regular session at Annapolis on March 28, 1758, its meeting called for March 23 having been postponed by the Governor until March 28 (*Arch. Md. xxxi*, 266). The rules in use in the Lower House at the last session were adopted and the Rev. Clement Brooke was again appointed to read prayers twice daily (p. 548). That many members were disgusted with the futility of the preceding meeting is indicated by the fact that on the opening day of the