

faction were George Plater, Henry Greenfield Sothoron, and Edmund Key of St. Mary's; Dr. George Steuart and Henry Woodward of Annapolis; Levin Gale, Samuel Wilson and Henry Waggaman of Somerset; and John Handy and Benton Harris of Worcester. Sometimes voting with this Proprietary group although more frequently with the popular party, were Benjamin Mackall of Calvert; John Goldsborough, Pollard Edmondson, and Edward Oldham of Talbot; John Bracco of Queen Anne's; Thomas Gantt and Francis King of Prince George's; Joseph Chapline and Thomas Beatty of Frederick; and Cockey Deye of Baltimore County.

## DISPUTED ELECTIONS

A number of disputed election cases came before the Lower House of the newly elected Assembly which met September–December 1758. These seem to be of sufficient interest as illustrating the method of conducting elections in Maryland during this period, to be commented upon in some detail. Although there was a Committee on Elections and Privileges, consisting of John Goldsborough, Nicholas Hyland, Matthew Tilghman, Alexander Williamson, Charles Carroll the Barrister, and John Mackall, contested election cases appear to have been heard and determined at the bar of the house. Lists of “controverted” voters were ordered exchanged between the contestants and then submitted to the house. Elections in the city of Annapolis, Kent, St. Mary's, Frederick, and Baltimore counties were disputed or “controverted.”

The city of Annapolis, a stronghold of the Proprietary Party, was entitled to two members in the Lower House, in addition to the four members from Anne Arundel County as from other counties. Walter Dulany and Dr. George Steuart were returned as elected. Dulany's seat was not questioned, but the seat of Steuart, a close friend of the Calvert family and the holder of many public offices, was contested, for reasons not disclosed, by Henry Woodward, whose leanings were also towards the Proprietary Party. The House ordered a hearing before its bar on October 1, and directed that the controverted votes be mutually exchanged between the two contestants, these to be confined to votes which had been objected to at the time of the poll. The House voted unanimously to seat Woodward. It refused by a vote of 27 to 15 to bring before it the entire corporation of the city of Annapolis to rectify the returns, but the sergeant-at-arms was ordered to summons before the bar John Bullen, late mayor of Annapolis, who was then directed to erase the name of Steuart on the returns and to insert the name of Woodward, who should have been returned as elected (pp. 202, 210–211). At the March–May session the costs of the contest due to the officers of the Lower House were charged against the corporation of Annapolis and George Steuart, who was unseated (p. 635). These costs had been previously fixed at £2:7:0 (p. 312).

The Kent County election came before the House as the result of a petition, presented to the Lower House on September 30, and signed by four prominent residents “complaining of an undue Election [of representatives] in Kent County.” The House ordered a hearing at its bar on October 7, when the sheriff was ordered to attend with the original poll of the election. At the