

was also sent to Frederick, the Lord Proprietary, requesting him to lay these petitions before the King and the Lords of Trade and Plantations (pp. 182, 184-185, 186-190, 322-323, 350, 360-361). Under date of November 27, 1758, Frederick, the Lord Proprietary, wrote to Sharpe asking him to transmit to the Assembly his reply to their address requesting him to present their joint petition to the King, and also to place before the Assembly the report of the committee of the Privy Council refusing to advise the Crown to lift the blockade (pp. 754-755).

In a letter from Gen. James Abercrombie to Governor Sharpe, dated New York, March 15, 1758, notifying the Governor of his appointment by the King to succeed Loudoun as commander-in-chief of the forces in America, Sharpe was told that it was now necessary to lay an immediate embargo upon all ships in the several provinces in North America, and he is ordered to make proclamation of it in Maryland (pp. 470-471).

PROVINCIAL AGENT IN GREAT BRITAIN

The appointment of a Provincial Agent in Great Britain to represent the people, or rather the Lower House, came up at the March-May 1758 session. Early in the century on several occasions Maryland had been represented in London by a Provincial Agent who had presented the side of the Lower House on disputed questions to the Crown or to the Lord Proprietary, as the case might be. For more than a decade, however, Maryland had had no agent in London, partly because the services of the agent in the past had entailed considerable expense and had proved of comparatively little value, and partly because of the opposition of the Proprietary to the presence of such an official in England, who he feared, would "misrepresent" him before the home government.

The Lower House voted on April 18, 1758, by a vote of 25 to 14, to raise a sufficient sum to pay such an agent (p. 593), and on May 6, it voted 33 to 5 to raise the sum required for the purpose by a tax of two pence on every hundred pounds of tobacco exported from the province, but at the same time voted 30 to 7 against the imposition of an export duty on iron for this purpose (pp. 663-664). The bill imposing an export tax on tobacco to pay an agent promptly passed the Lower House and was as promptly rejected in the Upper House (p. 665).

In a recent number of the *Maryland Historical Magazine* will be found a contemporary (1758) opinion from the Proprietary standpoint, possibly written by Sharpe himself, in regard to the proposed appointment of an agent to represent the Lower House in England (1938, vol. xxxiii, pp. 233, 243). Much will be heard later on this question of the Lower House being represented by an agent in London. In 1766 this house, without an appropriation and over the opposition of the Proprietary, did establish such an agency, paying the costs by popular subscriptions and a lottery. The subject of a Provincial Agent in Great Britain is comprehensively treated by Newton D. Mereness in his *Maryland as a Proprietary Province, 1901*, (pp. 464-474).