

## THE ACADIANS

A petition from the Acadians, or French neutrals from Nova Scotia, now scattered over the Province, praying relief, was presented to the Upper House at the April–May 1757 session. Unfortunately no copy of this petition, which doubtless recited their sufferings, has been preserved. The Assembly thereupon passed an Act continuing in force until April 10, 1758, the law of 1756, regulating their conduct and providing meagre relief for their maintenance (pp. 10, 63, 65, 131–132). The Governor, on April 29, called the attention of the Lower House to the account presented by Mr. Middleton for expenses incurred by him in having brought a number of Acadians from Annapolis to Baltimore, which account had been laid before the house in November 1756, but had not been acted upon (p. 81). At the abortive “Convention of the Assembly” held in February–March, 1758, a committee of the Lower House gave notice that the act making provision for the Acadians would expire by limitation on May 10, 1758 (p. 459), but no act providing for its continuance was passed. Frederick, Lord Baltimore, had written Governor Sharpe under date of December 16, 1756, in regard to the Acadians, but that part of his “letter of instructions” relating to these unfortunate people is missing, although Sharpe’s reply, which tells us little, is extant (*Arch. Md. vi*, 513, 517; *ix*, 34).

## JONAS GREEN, THE PROVINCIAL PRINTER

The Provincial printing had been in the hands of Jonas Green since he had moved his press to Annapolis in 1745, and acts were passed by the Assembly from time to time “for the encouragement of Jonas Green” and for payments to him (pp. 401–402). His ordinary government work was the printing of the session laws and of the Votes and Proceedings of the Lower House. The Proceedings of the Upper House were not ordinarily printed. From time to time when legislation of a popular nature had its origin in the Lower House, and was defeated or greatly amended in the Upper House, the former body would order the rejected bill to be printed for distribution as propaganda for the popular party. Two instances of this kind are recorded in this volume. The first Service or Supply bill, which was introduced at the April–May, 1757, session and rejected by the Lower House after it had been amended in the upper chamber, was ordered printed on April 28 (p. 82). No copy of this bill, printed or unprinted, has been located. At the September–December, 1757, session, after the Service bill had been rejected by the Upper House, it was, on November 30, ordered printed (p. 290). It is reprinted in the Appendix from a copy of the contemporary pamphlet in the Maryland Historical Society (pp. 707–750). There is one instance recorded in this volume in which the Upper House ordered the printing of a bill originating in the upper chamber which had been amended out of recognition by the Lower House. This was the act for “Reducing the Allowances of Members of the Assembly”, introduced at the September–December, 1757, session and discussed elsewhere (pp. xlvii–xlviii, 196). No printed copy of this bill is known to be in existence.

As early as November 1753 the Rev. Thomas Bacon of St. Peter’s Parish, Talbot County, had petitioned the justices of that county for permission to