

site in a more convenient location. This petition was referred by the Upper House to the Lower House, and the latter directed that Mr. Dale, Mr. Plater, and Mr. Key of Saint Mary's County be authorized to bring in a bill with this end in view. This was done and the bill passed both houses and became a law (pp. 50, 98, 106, 116, 120, 133).

An interesting petition was presented by the rector, vestrymen, church warden, and parishioners of Port Tobacco parish, Charles County, requesting the passage of a law to tax annually the inhabitants of the parish for the support of a church organist. This indicates a degree of appreciation of music at this early date worthy of notice, as the petitioners were willing to have themselves taxed, although it should be added that this also meant taxing Catholics, Quakers, and other dissenters in the parish, who would not be likely to enjoy the performances of the organist at Port Tobacco Church. Referred to the Lower House, the bill to this end was promptly introduced and passed on December 22, and sent to the Upper House where it was assented to. The act recites that Dr. Gustavus Brown (a native of Scotland and a very prominent member of Port Tobacco parish) had offered to donate an organ on condition that the parish would employ an organist. An annual tax of two pounds of tobacco per capita to be collected by the sheriff was to be imposed for a period of fifteen years, but it was provided that if for any reason the parish should be without an organist the tax was to be applied to such other parochial purposes as the vestry should decide (pp. 56, 63, 121-122, 135-136). It is of interest to note that the performances of the organist were so appreciated by the parish that in 1763 the act was continued by new legislation.

Two other petitions relating to church matters were also presented at this session. One was from certain "Subscribing Clergy of the Church of England within this Province", apparently requesting that amendments be made to the existing law regarding the inspection and grading of tobacco. That this was probably not entirely disinterested is revealed when it is remembered that clergymen's salaries were payable in good tobacco and that rigid inspection and grading of tobacco was therefore to their interest. This petition was thrown out on the ground that an act extending the inspection law had already been passed (p. 48). We are left in the dark as to the nature of the "Petition of the Subscribers, Clergymen of the Church of England of this Province on behalf of themselves and their brethren", which was also rejected because it was signed by "Two Clergymen only in a Matter regarding the whole Body of the Clergy" (p. 48).

As usual, a number of private petitions were presented to the Assembly. Several of these were offered by executors or administrators requesting legislation that would facilitate the settlement of estates. One of these referred to the estate of William Paca, a prominent Baltimore County planter, and involved the value of certain mortgaged properties; action upon it was deferred until the next session (pp. 54, 112, 122). Action upon petitions to facilitate settlement of the estates of Tobias Stansbury of Baltimore County, and of Robert Freeland of Talbot County, were also referred to the next session (pp. 55). The administrator of the estate of Gamaliel Butler of Annapolis asked