

House journal of the preceding session with the original entries (p. 322); evidently errors had been made in copying the rough notes of the clerk into the official libers. Various important standing committees were next appointed with very much the same popular leaders on them as were at the last session (p. 294).

Three new members appeared in the Lower House at the 1763 session: viz., Nathan Baker, elected to fill a vacancy from Cecil County, and although there seems to have been something wrong about the return of his writ of election this did not, however, deprive him of his seat (p. 343); Henry Steele, from Dorchester County, chosen at a special election to fill the place of Charles Goldsborough, "called to the Upper House" (p. 293, 374); and Edmund Key from St. Mary's County, who had been chosen at the regular election in the fall of 1761, but had only just returned from London, where he had studied law and was a member of both the Middle Temple and the Inner Temple (E. Alfred Jones' *American Members of the Inns of Court, 1924*, p. 114). Baker was of the Popular party, Steele and Key were of the Proprietary group. When later in this session Baker, as the residuary legatee of a certain Jethro Brown sought special legislative relief, action upon his petition was postponed until the next session (p. 376).

The members of the Upper House who were usually present at the daily meetings of the 1763 session were Benjamin Tasker, Benedict Calvert, Stephen Bordley, Daniel Dulany, John Ridout, Philip Key, and Charles Goldsborough, the two last named having been appointed to the Council since the 1762 session of the Assembly. Edward Lloyd and Richard Lee appeared only at a few meetings towards the end of the session. Samuel Chamberlaine, Charles Hammond (p. 273), and Robert Jenkins Henry were ill and unable to be present. Philip Thomas, who had sat in the 1762 Assembly, had since died.

The opening speech of Governor Sharpe to both houses was a brief one. He congratulated the members upon the restoration of a peace so advantageous to the future security of these colonies, and also upon the "auspicious birth of a Prince of Wales"—the future George IV. He said that he had called the Assembly together because the Tobacco Inspection law was about to expire and that it was necessary to amend and continue the old inspection act for the advancement of this staple, upon which the whole trade of the Province was dependent. He also called upon both houses to examine into the condition of the public funds and to consider the pressing back claims which the militia and other public creditors had against the Province. He closed with the wish that they would avoid measures tending to interrupt the harmony which should subsist between the two houses (p. 291). The Upper House promised its complete cooperation. The Lower House in its reply to the Governor's speech rejoiced with him at the conclusion of the late glorious peace and upon the birth of the Prince of Wales. It promised to give serious consideration to the matters brought to its attention by the Governor, to act in a way most conducive to the interests of its constituents, and to avoid as far as possible, every measure tending to interrupt the good understanding between the two houses (p. 295).