

the money to Mr. Worthington". Susanna Johns, widow, prayed a bill "to make good a Deed of Bargain and Sale made by her late Husband for three Tracts of Land", the location of which is not disclosed (p. 260).

Colonel Edward Tilghman was responsible for the introduction of a peculiar "pauper" bill in the Lower House which, among its other features, made it obligatory for "county pensioners to wear badges", doubtless to prevent public charges from imposing upon private charity. With this was coupled a provision prohibiting "the importation of superannuated, impotent, and diseased persons into this Province" (p. 320). This bill does not seem even to have passed the Lower House.

The 1763 Assembly was asked by the petition of a disgruntled husband to pass "an Act of Divorcement declaring the marriage of John Stone Hawkins with Elizabeth Skinner utterly void". Hawkins, who was of Prince George's County, was ordered to file his petitionary bill, but after two postponements in the Lower House the question was referred to the consideration of the next Assembly (pp. 331, 345, 346, 353-354, 358). It is not known if the matter came up afterwards, but certainly no act by divorcement was subsequently passed.

Of the thirty-four acts passed at the 1763 session, twenty were general laws applying to the whole Province, eleven were local laws, and three were private acts. Only one new law, the Tobacco Inspection act [*No. XVIII*], which the Assembly had been brought together to enact, was of outstanding importance. It will be discussed in another place (pp. lviii-lx). Seven of the general acts continued in force laws about to expire by time limitation, and five others supplemented old laws still in force. As usual, most of these continuances were for limited periods, as the Lower House felt that it was politically expedient and that it was in better control of public affairs if the continuance of most laws was dependent upon its periodic approval. Four laws were, however, of such obvious interest to all classes, that although previously enacted with time limitations, they were made perpetual at this session. The old laws that were continued, having been discussed in previous volumes of the *Archives*, will not be especially commented upon here. Of new general laws, the "act for the recovery of small debts before one justice of the peace" was really based on an old law, passed in 1753, which had been continued by successive reenactments since that date, but with certain changes was reenacted at the 1763 session in the form of a new act (pp. 500-503).

The "act for the more effectual securing of orphans estates" was passed to protect the children of widows who remarried from stepfathers who might waste their estates. The law provided that such orphans, if over fourteen years old, might select their own guardians, or if under that age, the county courts would make the selection (pp. 507-508).

The "act for the advancement of justice" [*No. 22*], which had failed of passage at the previous session, was passed at the 1763 Assembly. It changed legal procedure in the Maryland courts in a number of ways, the most important of which gave the county courts exclusive jurisdiction in equity cases involving not more than £5, and concurrent jurisdiction with the High Court