

A Lower House bill providing for the establishment of a county school in Frederick, the fourteenth county to be erected, and requiring among other things that the public treasurers (of the Western and Eastern shores) render accounts of the funds in their possession to the visitors of the several county schools, was passed on November 23, 1763, and sent to the Upper House, which amended it by striking out the latter provision. The Lower House accepted the amendment and it became a law (pp. 391-392, 269). This act [*No. XXXII*] appointed seven men who were named in it to serve as visitors of a "public school" in Frederick County and to purchase one acre of land in Frederick Town for that purpose, the funds for its support to come from Frederick's one-fourteenth share of the money collected and divided equally among the fourteen counties for the use of the county free schools of the Province. Although Frederick County had been established in 1748 the preamble to the act indicates that as yet there was no county school there. This preamble recites that "it is reasonable that Education should be extended equally to the several Parts of the Province, and that there should be a Public School erected in Frederick County, as well as in the other Counties" (pp. 431, 433).

At the 1763 session a petition had been presented to the Assembly by the visitors of the Baltimore County free school, asking for the passage of a bill to authorize them to dispose of the school lands and improvements. This petition was promptly rejected by the Upper House (p. 232). At the same session the visitors of the Talbot County free school also sought authority to sell certain lands and a house (p. 234) which does not seem to have been granted.

At the 1763 session an act was passed imposing, in addition to the existing duty on negro slaves brought into the Province, a duty of £2 to be used for the support of the county schools (pp. 512-513). The bill as it originally passed the Lower House, imposed a duty of £10 additional per poll, but this was reduced in the upper chamber to £2 (pp. 345, 379, 381, 384).

ESTABLISHMENT OF A COLLEGE

The establishment of a college at Annapolis, long under consideration, had last come up at the April-May, 1761, session, and has been discussed in the introduction to a preceding volume of the *Archives* (LVI; lxvi-lxviii). It will be recalled that it was proposed to complete the building begun in 1744 as the official residence for Governor Thomas Bladen and his successors, which had remained unfinished for nearly twenty years, owing to a controversy that had arisen between the Lower House and the Proprietary government, and to use it as a college building. The Lower House at the 1761 session, after a spirited debate and several votes, adopted a "proposal" which in addition to applying funds that were to be derived from taxes on ordinaries, wheel carriages, billiard tables, and bachelors, and from duties on wines, for the support of the college, approved the raising of the additional funds needed for repairing and finishing "Bladen's Folly", as the building was familiarly called, by a public subscription and a lottery. In including licenses from ordinaries as one of