

both houses praying relief was read in the Upper House, and referred by that chamber to the Lower House (p. 20, 107). While unfortunately very few of the petitions of this period to the Assembly have been preserved, luckily Green put his into print, and one copy of this in the form of a broadside has been preserved, and is to be found among the Calvert papers (No. 672) in the Maryland Historical Society. It will be found reprinted in the Appendix of this volume (pp. 578-579). This petition declared that he had served as public printer for twenty-four years having been induced to come to Maryland by promises of public encouragement and continued employment, but that the unhappy divisions between the several branches of the legislature had disappointed his reasonable expectations; that the cutting off of £5 of his salary from each county [totalling £70] in the years when there was no Assembly, and this without reward for extra work and paper for extra sessions which have occurred year after year, together with no allowance whatever for the last year, were difficulties too heavy for him to continue to labor under. In closing he referred to a printed letter already submitted to the Governor and Assembly in which he had set forth many particulars with strict truth too prolix to repeat in this petition, and craved compassionate consideration and relief agreeable to his deserts. It may be added that no copy of this printed letter is known to be now in existence.

After the petition of Green reached the Lower House, a committee of six, of which Walter Dulany was chairman, was ordered to make enquiry as to the facts set forth in it (p. 115). This committee on April 13 brought in an exhaustive report on Green's activities as public printer from the year 1738 to 1762. The report shows that in 1738 and 1739 he received a salary or allowance of £180 yearly, although payments to him at that early period were often long delayed. The allowance to him a few years later was based upon a law imposing a tax of £15 on each of the fourteen counties, and payable by them to the printer. In 1748 this tax was raised to £20. Under subsequent acts payments at first were provided for in the Journal of Accounts, and later by special acts of the Assembly. If no session were held in any year, he was in that year to receive only £15 instead of £20 from each county. An act passed at the February, 1756, session no longer provided that a fixed equal amount be paid by each county, but the levy for this purpose in the several counties was to be based upon the number of taxables in each. In 1759, a year when there was no session, the total amount that was paid to him was £210. In many years there were two or more sessions, with resulting voluminous laws and journals in such periods, but in these years he received the same allowance as he would have received if there had been only one session. The committee reported that beginning with the May, 1747, session, there had been, including the so-called "conventions" of the Assembly when no laws were passed, twenty-eight meetings in fifteen years, or an average of nearly two sessions a year. Nor had any payments whatever been made to Green for the public printing in the year 1760. It is not therefore surprising that Green was in dire straits and appears as the largest debtor to the Loan Office, to the amount of £191 : 6 : 4, principal and interest, in the year 1762 (p. 54).