

November 28, passed, and sent to the Upper House, and with it was also sent a list of the debts of the Province due on account of the late war (pp. 189, 190, 191). The fat was now in the fire for the Journal did not include the salary of the Clerk of the Council, which the Upper House insisted must be paid for the ten year period since the last Journal had been passed in 1756, otherwise the Journal would not receive its approval. The numerous creditors of the Province were so incensed at this long delay in making provision for their payment, that mob violence to enforce payment was threatened at this time. A bitter controversy between the two houses now developed. The Lower House insisted that the salary of the Clerk of the Council was not chargeable to the public, but should be paid by the Lord Proprietary, whose creature the Council was. There were other items relating to Council expenses to which the Lower House also objected. There now followed an exchange of long and bitter messages between the two houses filled with political dynamite for popular consumption. The interested reader is referred to a later section of this introduction where some of the arguments advanced by both parties to the controversy are considered in detail (pp. xlix-lvi).

Again the question was brought forward of providing a support for a Provincial Agent in Great Britain to be appointed by the Lower House, a subject of acrimonious dispute between the two houses for several decades. This was opposed by the Proprietary as an attempt by the people to discredit his government of the Province before the Throne. As usual the bill providing for the appointment of such an Agent was passed by the Lower House and as promptly rejected in the upper chamber. On the last day of the session, however, the Upper House, because of the anger its rejection of the Journal of Accounts had aroused, suggested a compromise, offering to approve the appointment of a single agent to represent both houses, or to the appointment of two agents, one to represent the lower and one the upper chamber. This compromise offer was ignored by the Lower House. The dispute about a Provincial Agent will be found discussed in some detail later in this introduction (pp. lvi-lvii).

Six acts involving parishes, churches, and chapels were passed at this session. These provided for the erection or repair of churches, chapels, and vestry houses, alteration of parish lines, and the creation of a new parish. The parishes involved were St. James', Anne Arundel County; All Faiths and St. Andrew's, St. Mary's County; St. Paul's, Shrewsbury, I. U., and Chester, Kent County; St. Luke's, Christ Church, and St. John's, Queen Anne's County; and St. Paul's, lying in both Queen Anne's and Talbot counties. These acts relating to parish and church affairs are discussed in a later section of the introduction (pp. lvii-lix).

Owing to disputes between the houses, no act for the relief of "languishing prisoners" confined for debt in county jails had been passed for eight years. This was largely because the Upper House was disposed in general to treat debtors more harshly than was the Lower House, and to be especially severe on debtors to the Lord Proprietary and to the Loan Office. Finally the houses came to an agreement and an act for the relief of prisoners for debt