

The Lower House then proceeded to discuss in detail various phases of the dispute. It took a vote as to whether or not the Clerk should be allowed anything for making out the commission to tobacco inspectors, and decided this in the negative by a vote of 26 to 11. It also voted, 19 to 18, that no allowance should be made him for the custody of the bonds of Naval Officers, as this duty had been imposed on him by act of the Assembly. The house also voted that no allowance should be made to him for receiving and holding nominations for tobacco inspectors, nor for the custody of the county levies. Other claims for allowances were also rejected (pp. 225-226). These actions of the house were adopted in the form of resolutions dated December 10, which were sent to the Upper House with a short message, dated December 12, saying that although it felt that the Clerk of the Council was entitled to some salary, it was not for the house to fix the "quantum" of this, as he should not be paid by public funds appropriated by the Assembly in the Journal of Accounts, but from fines and forfeitures collected from the people by the "government", which now went to the Lord Proprietary, or from the £1,400 sterling collected annually by the export duty on tobacco appropriated to himself by the Proprietary. It was hoped that the Journal would now be passed promptly by the Upper House (pp. 228-229).

It was at this stage of the dispute between the two houses on the adoption of the Journal of Accounts that threats of mob violence to enforce its adoption by the Upper House reached Annapolis. No Journal had been adopted for nine years, and the amount of the debts due to the public creditors had piled up to such alarming proportions that public indignation was widespread. This seems to have been particularly rampant in the back settlements of Frederick County where the rumors of mob action arose. On December 10 Governor Sharpe sent a message to the Lower House saying that he had just received information that between "three & four Hundred Men many of them Armed with Guns & Tomahawks were assembled on Fryday last at Frederick T.<sup>n</sup> Fredk. Co.<sup>ty</sup> and ab<sup>t</sup> to chuse Officers intend<sup>d</sup> to march hither in Companies in Order (as they express themselves) to settle the Disputes betwixt the two Houses of Assembly in Relation to their passing the Journal and that such their Proceedings were supposed to be owing to Col.<sup>o</sup> Cresap's declaring as he lately returned Home thro' the County that nothing would be done unless the People did come down". The Governor also said that a great number of people who lived in the neighborhood of Elk Ridge, Anne Arundel County, were said to be coming to Annapolis to learn from the delegates of that county the status of the Journal. He thought it his duty to communicate this information to the house, and he recommended "it to you to consider seriously the Consequence of large bodies of people being prompted to come hither on such Account or assemble with a View to intimidate either Branch of the Legislature or to lay them under any restraint" (p. 221). The Lower House replied that it was very sensible of the bad consequences of bodies of men coming to intimidate either house, and prayed the Governor to lay before it evidence of the assembling and arming of men for this purpose. It also very much regretted the imputation that a member of this house, Mr. Cresap, was a party to it, and thought that