

the Governor's information as to this was without foundation, as Mr. Cresap had been absent from attendance in the house since November 22 (a period of three weeks), at which time he could not have foreseen the difficulty between the two houses, and that it was fair to the public and to Mr. Cresap that the Governor examine the evidence and submit it to the house (p. 222).

The Governor in his message in reply transmitted two depositions. One from Captain Evan Shelby, a veteran of the late war, declared that when in Frederick Town a few days before there were 300 or 400 men armed with guns and tomahawks, and he understood they were about to march to Annapolis on account of the dispute about the Journal, and would remain there until action was taken. Shelby had been informed by two men that Colonel Cresap had said nothing would be done unless this course were followed. There was another deposition by Dr. David Ross that he had been in Sharpsburg about October 27 in his capacity as magistrate, and that he was there shown a paper said to have been sent by Colonel Cresap for signatures, of which at that time there were about thirty-five. The paper expressed approval of the action of the Lower House in opposing the Stamp Act, and expressed the reliance of the signers that the house would resist further encroachment upon their liberty, such as the attempt by a certain gentleman [John Ross, former Clerk of the Council] in Annapolis to prevent the payment of just claims to the public, unless a large, unjust, and dishonorable claim to him were also paid; and that if this course were further persisted in and the Lower House would notify them they would come down to that city and cause justice to be done. Dr. Ross, the deponent, said further that no one signed the paper in his presence, but that he remembered "that M^r Chapline jocularly asked Col.^o Beall if he would sign, who answered that he did not like Hanging or Words to that Effect and this Depon^t saith that observing the Writing to be of a threatening Nature he jocularly asked if no more Rifle Men could be got from above and that it was then said by some of the Company that it was one of the Old Col.^s Schemes by whom he understood Col.^o Cresap to be meant" (p. 224). It may be added that there was also a rumor that the mob intended to burn the Annapolis house of John Ross. On December 14, a certain Martin Kirshner (Casner), a miller of Conecocheague Creek, Frederick County, appeared before the bar of the Lower House and made a deposition to the effect that he had heard rumors that the people were inflamed because the public debts were not likely to pass, but that he had not himself seen "any People collected or arming but hath understood that there have been Deliberations whe^r for a number of People to come to Annapolis" (p. 234). Here inquiry seems to have been dropped by the Lower House.

The dispute between the two houses about the Journal of Accounts now took the form of an exchange of three long and bitter messages between them occupying in all some thirty-three printed pages of this volume. Every argument, analogy, precedent, and loophole for attack which could be brought forward in support of either side was tediously labored, both sides often going far afield to support their legalistic arguments. The interested reader is referred to the messages themselves for light upon these arguments. It may