

be said in general, however, that on December 13 the Upper House sent a message of some twenty-seven hundred words in reply to the resolutions and messages of the Lower House of December 12, which had cut out as improper, numerous charges made by the Clerk. In this message the Upper House declared that it would not recede from its position that the Clerk of the Council was entitled to an annual salary of 9,600 pounds of tobacco, or £60 current money, for the period since he was last paid in 1756, and thus sacrifice a servant of the public justly entitled to the continuation of the small salary which he had previously been paid over a period of many years, although the house deeply regretted the distress which the other public creditors would suffer if the Journal was for this reason not approved (pp. 84-89). Three days later on December 16, the Lower House came back in reply with an even longer message of some sixty-seven hundred words. It would be interesting to know what member of this special committee of the Lower House could have produced a well worded political argument of this length in such a brief time. Young Thomas Johnson, later to become the first Revolutionary Governor of Maryland, the member of the committee who brought this message into the lower House, where it was promptly approved, had the pen of a capable and ready writer and may have been responsible for it. The message, after questioning at length nearly every item for which the Upper House insisted the Clerk was entitled to a fee, declared that many of these items had only been brought forward in order to make the aggregate fees so large that the Lower House would be tempted to compromise upon a higher fixed salary basis than it might otherwise have done. The bulk of the message dealt, however, with the more general demand of the Lower House that various fees, fines, amerciaments, export duties, etc., which now went into the pockets of the Lord Proprietary, should be used for such public purposes as the payment of a salary for the Clerk. The house then sought to meet the argument of the upper chamber as to the reasons why, after acquiescing until 1756 in paying the Clerk a salary, it had changed its attitude. The question of the support for a Provincial Agent in England to be appointed by the Lower House was injected in the message on account of the offer of the Lower House to submit the question of the salary for the Clerk of the Council to the Crown for its decision, provided the Upper House would approve the Lower House bill for the support of an Agent. A speedy reply was requested because the epidemic of smallpox in Annapolis, of which one delegate was then dangerously ill, made it impossible to keep the members in session any longer (pp. 235-249).

The Upper House was to have the last word. On the closing day of the session it sent in reply a very lengthy message of some sixty-five hundred words. This message was written in a sarcastic vein. It said that the general question before the house was the payment of the annual salary of 9,600 pounds of tobacco, or £60 current money, as back pay for nine years and for the current session, a salary which had been paid continuously from 1736 to 1756; and that the accounts submitted by the Clerk showed legitimate claims for work actually done by him which amounted to much more than the salary now sought. The various items enumerated in the account were then gone over