

ances of old laws or acts supplementing them. Of these twenty-seven acts, nineteen were general laws, seven were local laws, and one a private law. Brief references to some of these fifteen new laws will be made here, but some of the more important new acts are discussed in greater detail in other sections of the Introduction. Mention has already been made in a previous paragraph to the passage of the most important act of the session, that providing for the payment of the public debt of the Province by the issue of bills of credit (pp. 264-275). This receives special consideration later (pp. c-cii).

*Quarantine law.* The law establishing a quarantine against ships carrying infectious diseases, especially directed against overcrowded vessels bringing in felons from England to be sold as servants, was the first Maryland law passed for such a purpose (pp. 262-264). Its passage, favored by the Governor, the Assembly, and the people at large, aroused the opposition of the British shipping contractors, engaged in this profitable but nauseous trade, and was followed by unsuccessful attempts made in England by the contractors to have the act dissented to by the Proprietary, or if that failed, by the Crown. The quarantine law and its repercussions in England are discussed later (pp. xciii-xcv).

*Apprentices.* A bill for apprenticing children, whose fathers had removed from the counties where the children resided and who were thus likely to become public charges, which had been passed by the Lower House at the November-December, 1765, session, and been rejected by the Upper House for reasons not disclosed by the record, has been discussed in the Introduction to a preceding volume of the *Archives* (*LIX*, xxv). It was doubtless the same bill which was brought in again at the November-December, 1766, session, under the title "An Act to Ease the Inhabitants of this Province and to Empower the Justices of the Several Counties to bind out the persons therein mentioned as Apprentices." Its purpose was to relieve the public from the cost of providing for their care. It promptly passed the Lower House, but when it reached the Upper House was amended in several details. The bill as passed provided that when fathers had removed without giving security for the support of their children, the justices of the county courts, in cases where there was not sufficient estate for the care of children, should bind them out to some mariner, handicraft tradesman, or other person who was a Protestant, to be taught "Trades and may not be Rigorously used or Turned to common Labour at the Ax or Hoe." Boys were to be bound until twenty-one years old, and girls until eighteen or marriage. An amendment added by the Upper House provided that if the court should find that the child's mother were living in the same county and when summoned before the court, was able to furnish security for its maintenance, she was to have its custody. The act further provided that if the father returned and could maintain the children, the court might annul the apprenticeship (pp. 114, 154, 187, 190, 235, 238). As the act does not provide that a deserted child, if of Roman Catholic birth, should be bound out to a master or mistress of the same faith, one wonders if the absence of such a provision had caused the rejection of the bill by the Upper House at the 1765 session, but finding that the Lower House was obdurate on this point, it had, at the 1766 session, passed the bill without such a pro-