

nually by the Provincial Court. A bill with these provisions was brought into the Lower House (p. 383), but Sharpe, writing to Hamersley, said that as it "was of a new and extraordinary Nature it was agreed to refer it over to the Consideration of the next Session" (*Arch. Md.* XV, 508).

*Criminal laws.* It will be recalled that in his opening speech to both houses Sharpe had requested the Assembly to review the criminal laws so that all doubt might be removed as to what laws were actually then in force, about which there were at times differences of opinion, resulting, he said, in a "tenderness towards convicted Persons they may not seem to deserve—[by which] Encouragement is possibly given to the Commission of Crimes" (p. 282). Sharpe presumably had reference not only to the Maryland statutes but also to the laws of England which were operative in the Province, unless superseded by Maryland statutes. Both houses promised to cooperate with the Governor to this end. The Lower House towards the close of the session appointed a committee of eleven, headed by Thomas Johnson, to investigate and report upon the subject (p. 369), but no report, however, was made at this session. There is told in some detail in the journals of both houses the story of a blood-thirsty attack upon two helpless women by burglars, one the wife of Joseph Calder, a prominent landowner and deputy surveyor of Baltimore County. The journals also tell of the escape of two negro slave convicts with incendiary proclivities, for the apprehension of whom Sharpe felt rewards should be offered. The Lower House approved the offering of a reward for the two burglars, but for reasons which will be explained elsewhere did not feel it desirable to offer one for the apprehension of the negro slaves. These two outrages are discussed more fully later in the Introduction (pp. lxxxii-lxxxiii).

*Townshend acts.* Of great importance in relation to future events leading up to the Revolution were the reactions of the Lower House to the passage by Parliament of the Townshend acts, taxing tea, paper, glass and painters' colors. The significance of these acts was brought forcibly before the Lower House just prior to the close of the session in the form of a circular letter from the Massachusetts House of Representatives addressed to the Maryland Lower House suggesting that there be consultations between the several colonies as to the best method of meeting this threat to their liberty. The ill-advised commands from the King to the several colonial governors, requiring them to dissolve immediately the Assembly of any colony which might take favorable notice of this letter, only fanned the flames of resentment, and in the case of Maryland resulted in the Lower House just before adjournment not only passing resolutions of protest and sending a reply of hearty approval to Massachusetts, but in the adoption of a petition of protest to George III (p. lxi). This episode, an important prelude to the Revolution, is considered more fully under the Townshend Acts (pp. lix-lxiii).

*Clergy.* The attention of the Lower House was called to the dissolute lives led by certain of the established clergy of the Church of England in Maryland by the report of its Committee on Aggrievances, telling of the reputed murder of a negro slave by the Reverend Richard Brown, Rector of King and Queen's Parish, St. Mary's County, and his flight from justice. Aroused