

House, of a more general scope than the acts just discussed, "for the relief of insolvent debtors", but consideration of it had been postponed until the next session (*Arch. Md.* LIX, lx, 154, 212, 213, 229). At the May, 1766, session, this bill, with the consent of the house, was again brought in by Selby, to meet the same fate that it had at the previous session, action upon it being again postponed until the following session (pp. 26, 59). It failed of passage again at the November-December, 1766, session (pp. 118, 181, 186-187, 190), and was not heard of at the 1768 session. No copy of either of these bills has been found, but in 1774 a bill of general scope, doubtless along similar lines, was passed under which insolvent debtors, without waiting for legislative action, could, under certain circumstances, bring their cases for determination before three justices of the county court (*Hanson's Laws of Maryland*, 1787; Acts of 1774, chap. xxviii).

NANTICOKE INDIANS

Nanticoke Indian affairs occupied much of Governor Sharpe's attention in his opening speech to the 1768 Assembly. He said that "since the last session he had received Letters from Sir William Johnson, His Majestys Superintendent of Indian Affairs in this District of North America, relative to a Representation which had been made to him on behalf of the Maryland Indians, some of whom are, it seems, desirous to remove to Ossiningo [Otsaningo], and be incorporated with the Six Nations, if they may be permitted to dispose of the Lands, which, by the Legislature of this Province, were heretofore appropriated to the Use of these Peoples Ancestors" (p. 282). Sir William Johnson's letters, a petition from the Nanticoke Indians, and the fullest information obtainable concerning the Indians, together with a list of the Maryland lands occupied by them were sent by the Governor so that the Assembly could determine a reasonable compensation to them if the laws restraining their selling their lands were repealed. The Governor asked that this matter be given prompt consideration because the person [Amos Ogden] sent by Sir William to act for him and for the Indians, was now in the Province, awaiting their deliberations (pp. 281, 282). Both houses promised prompt consideration. The Upper House referred the petition of the Indians and various papers relating to the matter to the Lower House, and this house appointed a special committee of six, headed by Thomas Johnson, to investigate and report its findings (pp. 286, 333, 335-337).

To make the situation clear to the reader, it should be explained that a migration north of the Nanticokes from Maryland which had begun about the year 1742, had continued during the next two decades until by the year 1768 the greater part of the tribe had settled on the headwaters of the Susquehanna at Otsaningo, the present Binghamton in Broome County, New York. This migration had been a leisurely trek up the Susquehanna Valley extending over a period of several years, with long stops as the Indians moved from place to place through Pennsylvania, carrying with them the bones of their important dead (*Penna. Mag. of Hist. and Biog.*, 1943, pp. 345-355).

The *Proceedings of the Council of Maryland* and the *Correspondence of Governor Sharpe* throw an interesting side light upon this hegira of the