

selected by the justices, before August 3, 1768, and the Sheriff, at any time, was to remove the prisoners from Joppa to "any gaol he may think fit in Baltimore Town" until the new prison was finished. The commissioners were to sell the Court House, jail, and land at Joppa to the highest bidder (pp. 442, 445). Joppa was soon to become only a memory. The removal of the records from Joppa "was attended with some violence and outrage" (Griffith's *Annals of Baltimore*, 1833, p. 45).

BALTIMORE TOWN NUISANCE

At the November–December, 1766, session, an act was passed providing for an addition to Baltimore Town to be created by the filling in of the salt marsh to the east of the town, lying south of Gay Street and extending to the Harbor between Frederick Street and Jones Falls. This matter had come before the May, 1766, session, in the form of a petition from the inhabitants of Baltimore Town, but consideration had been deferred until the next Assembly (pp. 6, 28, 55, 62). The act, as passed, bears the entirely inadequate title "An Act to Remove a Nuisance in Baltimore Town in Baltimore County and for other purposes therein mentioned", the addition to the town being merely covered by the phrase, "the other purposes therein mentioned" of the act. The "Nuisance" to be removed is here rather vividly described as "a Large Miery Marsh Adjoining the said Town [which] is by the Noxious Vapours and putrid Effluvia arising therefrom very prejudicial to the health of its Inhabitants, and that the proprietors of the said Marsh have by their perverseness or Dilatoriness hitherto refused or neglected to remove the said Nuisance." This marsh land, known at this date as Harrison's Marsh, was, at the time of the passage of the act, owned by three prominent residents, Thomas Harrison, Alexander Lawson, and Bryan Philpot, although Harrison was the principal owner. Harrison's name has been perpetuated in the rather unsavory street still bearing his name, bisecting the tract from north to south, while the southern end, that below Baltimore Street, by its present name, Marsh Market Space, reveals its origin. At frequent intervals, when the tide was high, or Jones Falls in flood, the marsh was inundated, nor, it may be added, was it until nearly a century and a half later, when the Fallsway was constructed over Jones Falls, that occasional flooding of cellars in this neighborhood ceased.

Nine commissioners named in the act were appointed under it to see that the nuisance was abated. The owners or proprietors of the Marsh were offered the choice of two alternative methods by which this might be done, and between which they must decide within thirty days of its passage. They might either themselves fill in the swamp, or have this done under powers given to the commissioners to do so. In either event, however, the commissioners were to lay out streets; lanes, and alleys, and to see that the reclaimed land was divided into lots of not more than one-eighth acre each. On the harbor and Jones Falls sides, the latter at this point being a tidewater estuary, the banks were to be "wharfed in" with a stone wall at least two feet wide (or to the same width by closely placed hewn logs), extending at least two feet above common flood tide, the marshy ground thus enclosed to be filled in with stones, gravel, sand, or dirt, to the height of at least two feet above flood tide. When these various conditions