

steady application of the Lower House to the business brought before them (pp. 35-36, 119).

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1770

Despite his abrupt prorogation of the previous General Assembly, the next one which convened for the first time on September 25, 1770, met in a friendly atmosphere. At a joint meeting of both Houses on the opening day Governor Eden informed the members present that he would be glad to sanction all such laws as the Assembly found to be most conducive to the welfare of the colony (pp. 171-172, 206-207).

On the following day the members of the Upper House promised on their part to do everything in their power to bring the business before them to "a happy Conclusion." This was the usual promise made by the Councillors. As appointees of the Lord Proprietary they would naturally be favorable to any plan suggested by his spokesman, the Governor. Although Eden knew this was true, he went through the form of thanking the Upper House for their cooperation (pp. 174, 175).

In a separate address to the members of the Lower House the Governor laid before them several matters which required their attention. These included some papers in regard to Indian affairs, and a letter from Lord Botetourt, Governor of Virginia, recommending the erection of a lighthouse on Cape Henry. Governor Eden also referred to defects in the criminal law, which, he hoped, could be remedied (pp. 171-172, 206-207).

An exchange of friendly messages now ensued (pp. 211, 214). It is not stated what the papers contained that referred to Indian affairs. After they had been considered by the Lower House, the Delegates decided against taking any favorable action in regard to them. They gave as their reasons the King's failure to commit the regulation and management of the Indian trade to the colonies, and also that Maryland was not "immediately interested therein" (pp. 266-267).

The Lower House appointed a committee to investigate the state of the criminal law with which step the Governor expressed his approval (pp. 273, 276).

Lord Botetourt's letter about the construction of a lighthouse at Cape Henry was read in the Lower House on October 19, 1770. The matter received favorable consideration. It was resolved that when Virginia had submitted an estimate of the cost of the building, then Maryland should join with her sister colony in erecting the lighthouse. Another resolution requested the Speaker of the Virginia House of Burgesses to inform the Maryland Delegates as to the amount or quantity of the tonnage of vessels entering Virginia ports from other places, excepting Maryland. Governor Eden was requested to furnish similar information about shipping in Maryland. This data was to be made available both to the Lower House in Maryland and to the Virginia House of Burgesses. The Maryland Delegates explained that it was necessary to have this information about the relative amount of shipping in each colony in order to be able to apportion the expense of building a lighthouse (pp. 266, 273-274).