

INTRODUCTION
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION
THE COUNCIL OR UPPER HOUSE

At the session of the General Assembly held from October 2 to November 30, 1771, Benedict Calvert, Daniel and Walter Dulany, George Steuart, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and George Plater were present at the opening day (p. 3). John Beale Bordley came to the meeting held on October 7 and Colonel Charles Hammond appeared on the following day (p. 8). On October 14 William Fitzhugh put in his appearance (p. 9). William Hayward came to the session held on October 24 and John Ridout to the one held on November 1 (pp. 15, 19). All of these men, with the exception of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and George Plater, who had only recently been made members of the Council, had been present at the sessions of the Assembly held during the fall of 1770. Jenifer and Plater were sworn in as members of his Lordship's Council on September 23, 1771 (*Maryland Gazette*, Sept. 26, 1771). Richard Lee, the other member of the Council, did not appear at the meeting held during October and November of 1771.

Lee, however, was present at the session of the General Assembly held in June and July of 1773 (p. 318), as were all the other men who had attended the meeting during the fall of 1771, with the exception of Charles Hammond, who had died on September 13, 1772 (*Arch. Md.* LXII, xv). Henry Harford, the new Lord Proprietary, under whose regime the Assembly of June-July, 1773, met made no changes in the personnel of these high officials. Robert Eden, who had served as Governor under Frederick Calvert, the former Proprietary, was retained in office (pp. 310, 335; Appendix I), as were all the members of the Council or Upper House.

THE LOWER HOUSE

The meeting of the General Assembly which convened on October 2, 1771, was the first session the Assembly whose members of the Lower House, or Delegates, had been elected in January, 1771. The results of this election appear in the *Maryland Gazette* for Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 1771.

At the meeting of the Lower House on October 5, 1771, the Committee of Elections and Privileges submitted their report in which they stated that having inspected the writs directed to the Sheriffs of the different counties for electing Delegates to serve in this General Assembly and in the returns of the said writs found that Messrs. John Reeder, Jr., Thomas Key, William Thomas, and Jeremiah Jordan, Delegates of St. Mary's County, were duly returned (p. 88). All of these men were present at the opening of the session on October 2, 1771,