

maintained that as forty pounds had been settled upon them in perpetuity by the Crown of England, by and with the advice and consent of the General Assembly, that in framing a new law attention should be shown the petitioners as is consistent with their legal rights (pp. 10, 101).

When they took this matter under consideration two days later, the Delegates voted that the clergy should receive thirty-two instead of thirty pounds of tobacco per poll. The minister's claim for forty pounds was not allowed (pp. 107-108).

The bill for amending the staple of tobacco, etc. was with amendments passed by the Lower House on October 18 and sent to the Upper House (p. 112). After considering the proposed law, the upper chamber informed the lower chamber that they found parts of it of such a character that they could not pass it, but as the welfare to the province depended so much on the success of the bill they wanted a conference with the Lower House "on the Subject Matter thereof." This message was sent the Delegates on October 30 (pp. 18, 135). On the same day the Lower House voted to agree to such a conference and, on the following day, the Upper House was told that the Delegates had appointed seven of their members as conferees to join any members of the Upper House appointed for the same purpose (pp. 136-137, 138).

The upper chamber at once replied and informed the Delegates that they had in turn appointed five of their members to join with the seven members of the Lower House in a conference (pp. 20, 140). On November 1 Governor Eden in a message to the Upper House told them that if at the approaching conference the same regulation in regard to the pay of the clergy was adopted as was proposed at the last session of the General Assembly in 1770, the ministers would be reduced to such a state of indigence that he would not consent to such a regulation (pp. 19-20).

The conference opened on November 4, 1771, with the Upper House represented by Benedict Calvert, Daniel Dulany, John Ridout, John Beale Bordley and William Hayward, while Matthew Tilghman, John Hall, Charles Grahame, Thomas Johnson, Samuel Chase, and Littleton Dennis appeared for the Lower House (p. 42). John Hammond, the other conferee appointed by the lower chamber was not present on the opening day (p. 138). William Paca was subsequently added by the Lower House to those representing that legislative body at the conference (p. 174). Benedict Calvert was chosen as chairman and James Brooks as clerk of this conference (p. 42).

The conference began by the representatives of the Upper House submitting seventeen propositions to the conferees of the Lower House. The first five of these related to inspectors of tobacco with which propositions the men representing the lower chamber agreed only in part (pp. 42, 43-44, 144-145). Three propositions about the tender and sale of tobacco were, however, agreed to by the Lower House conferees, as were two propositions about the clerks of the county courts and magistrates (pp. 42-43, 144-145). The propositions made regarding the fees of officers and lawyers, and how they could be discharged, as well as the Upper House's suggestion that "the Clergy to be left out of the Bill in all Respects," were unanimously rejected by the Delegates of the Lower