

Three comprehensive poor laws were passed at the instance of the counties concerned; they were for Talbot, St. Mary's and Baltimore Counties. Anne Arundel County had set up a poor house and work house, but had failed to provide funds ready to care for the poor when they were first received (*Archives*, LXIII, 303-304). Now they asked for and got permission to levy ten pounds of tobacco per poll to further the original purpose of the act (pp. 208-209). For the other three counties the system was the same: there was hardly an essential difference in the laws. Five self-perpetuating trustees were chosen (pp. 220, 261, 381) and in each case it happened that at least one of the five was a member of the Upper or Lower House. They were to buy land in the county, not more than 100 acres and put up and equip buildings for an alms house and a work house. The poor were to be received on the direction of any trustee; the rogues, vagrants, vagabonds and beggars were to be committed by a justice of the peace. Every person received must, on penalty of twenty lashes and up to three weeks hard labor, wear on his or her right sleeve a badge. The badge, in red or blue cloth, bore the letter P., for "poor," and the first letter of the name of the county. How long this provision for badges remained in the law is not now known, but in the next general county poor laws, passed in 1785, it is retained word for word (Acts of 1785, c. 15, p. 17; c. 57, sec. 17). No liquor was to be given away or sold on alms house land. Disorderly persons could be committed to the workhouse by a county magistrate, upon complaint, and if the disorderliness persisted, the guilty could receive up to thirty-nine lashes.

Several school laws were passed during this period, and some of them are still important. In theory there was a school in each country since 1723, but most of them were so entirely worthless that they were only the hundred acres of land that the act of 1723 (*Archives*, XXXIV, 740-746) decreed each school should have. Governor Sharpe, who was much interested in education, said in 1763, that there was not in all of Maryland "even one good Grammar school." (*Archives*, XIV, 115.) In 1772 some agitation arose in Southern Maryland for one school to be built in St. Mary's County to serve St. Mary's, Prince George's, Charles and Calvert Counties (*Maryland Gazette*, July 30, November 5, 1772), and in the sessions of June and November 1773 a petition was presented from "sundry Inhabitants of Saint Marys Calvert Charles and Prince Georges Counties for the Erection of a School at the Cool Springs" (p. 42; vol. LXIII, 319). By the time the petition got down to the Lower House, more detail had been added. The schools in those counties, with their lands, were to be sold and that money, with the arrears due the schools, could endow one large school at Cool Springs (pp. 85, 108, 133, 307, 336). Calvert County later dropped out of the plan. The petition was granted April 12, 1774, and a committee composed of all the Prince George's and St. Mary's delegates and one each from Charles and Anne Arundel Counties reported "An Act to unite the Free Schools of St. Mary's Charles and Prince Georges Counties" (p. 344). The act (pp. 377-379) provided for the Charlotte Hall that is still in existence. The school started with the proceeds of the sale of the school lands and with the considerable sums raised by subscription, and it