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*Bacon's Laws the Typographical Monument of Colonial Maryland*

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but that the price to subscribers should be adjusted when the work had been completed. Furthermore, it was recommended, that in any bill to be brought in for carrying on the design, it should be expressly declared that any laws now in dispute should be considered as in the same state "as if the said Body had not been collected, compiled and published; and that no Law whatever, or any Part thereof, shall be repealed, abrogated, or made null or void, or receive any additional Force or Strength, thereby." The Lower House had no desire that Bacon's or any other collection of laws should have the force of a code until the objectionable "Tonnage" act should have been expunged from the books. A week or so later, the House accepted the report of its committee and deferred full consideration of it to the next session of the Assembly.<sup>1</sup>

In the October session of the year 1760 a bill was introduced entitled "An Act for Encouraging a Collection and Publication of the Laws of this Province," by the terms of which a committee was to examine and compare the laws of Mr. Bacon's proposed collection with the originals and report their findings to the next session of Assembly. In case of the approval of that Assembly, Bacon was to have leave to proceed to print and publish the collection. It was provided, as had been suggested by the committee of the year 1758, that no additional force was to be lent to any disputed law by reason of its inclusion in that volume, and further carrying out the recommendations of that report, it was agreed that in the event of publication Bacon should be allowed three hundred pounds currency for eighteen copies "cast off upon good Paper, in large Folios, and with a fair Type," the public copies to be delivered, one to each house, the Provincial court and each county court. This bill was indorsed by the Lower House "will pass," but it was returned to that body from the Upper House with the uncompromising endorsement, "will not pass."<sup>2</sup> The struggle had begun, and had it not been for the interest of Governor Sharpe in the project, it is likely that the clashing of irreconcilable opinions would have prevented forever the publication of Bacon's collection.

In the session of April 1761<sup>3</sup> this bill or another of the same tenor was reintroduced and passed by the Lower House after having been amended to read that "the Act by which the Lord Proprietary takes the 12d. Sterling per Hogshead on all Tobacoes exported out of this Province, be not inserted in the Collection of Laws to be made by Mr. Thomas Bacon, but

<sup>1</sup>V. & P., December 23, 1758.

<sup>2</sup>V. & P., October 15, 1760; *Maryland Gazette*, October 30, 1760.

<sup>3</sup>V. & P., April 25, 1761.