

be put in an Appendix thereto" as a law in use but not in force.¹ After several adventures, it was returned from the Upper to the Lower House on May 6, 1761, with the endorsement "Read the Second Time, and, with the Amendments, will Pass," but it is certain that Sharpe had no intention of signing a bill so at variance with the Proprietary's interests as this one had been shown to be. He permitted it to be endorsed affirmatively in the security of his knowledge that he intended to allow no bills of that session to pass the seal. He prorogued the Assembly almost immediately without affixing his mandate to the several bills which had been passed, and writing to Secretary Calvert several months later,² he asserted that he was urged to this course by the gentlemen of the Council who alleged that the Assembly "had been sitting near a month without doing the Business for which alone they had been convened & had shown by the Bill they had framed entitled 'An Act for Encouraging a Collection & publication of the Laws of this Province' . . . that those Members of the Lower House who were left (for all the moderate men were gone off) had nothing in view but by offering such Laws as they knew would not pass to lay a foundation for popularity against the ensuing election."

After this occurrence Bacon's proposed book no longer was to serve as the shuttlecock of Provincial politics.³ Sharpe's peculiar personal interest in its publication was to give a turn to events which should remove it from the consideration of future Assemblies.

THE PUBLICATION OF BISSETT'S "ABRIDGEMENT" IN 1759

In the year 1759, when the contest over Bacon's publication was just beginning, a lawyer of Baltimore, one James Bissett, took advantage of the situation so far as to prepare a hasty abridgement of the Provincial laws, from which, as one of the "Patriot" party, he omitted the acts which were offensive to the opponents of the Proprietary. His *Abridgement of the Laws of Maryland* was printed in Philadelphia by William Bradford, the nephew of Andrew, and having been sold widely throughout the Province,

¹ Alarmed by this attempt of the Lower House to curtail his privileges, the Proprietary instructed Sharpe in October 1761 that his subscription to Bacon's publication was to be paid only on the condition that "his Book or Books of our said Laws do strictly contain all acts of Assembly and all matter and things that has been at any time Enacted belonging to and for my Private Emolument and now stands Enacted." Proceeding, he ordered Sharpe as Governor to withhold his consent from any act of Assembly which provided for the publication of the book with these acts omitted or entered only in an appendix. (Calvert Papers, No. 654).

² Sharpe Correspondence, *Archives of Maryland*, 14: 24.

³ Schlesinger, A. M., *Maryland's Share in the Last Intercolonial War*, in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, vol. 7, and the work of Mereness before cited, treat the larger aspects of the bickering between the Proprietary and the Lower House, of which the fate of Bacon's proposals in the Assembly presents in a concrete issue a plainly defined case. See note to No. 206 of the bibliographical appendix.