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*William Parks, Public Printer of Maryland and Virginia*

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each of the members of the Assembly, the Commissioners of the Peace and the justices of the County Court.

2. He would print journals, votes, speeches, etc., at a price per sheet later to be fixed.

3. If the first two proposals were accepted, and if he were given fair assurance of a permanent establishment in Maryland, he would print a whole body of the laws hitherto made in the Province and ease the public of the charge of it and himself run the hazard of its publication by subscription.

Upon receipt of these proposals, the two Houses appointed a joint committee to treat with Parks on their separate articles or on "whatever else should be thought necessary for his encouragement in the Service of the Country." There was dissension among the conferees as to the acceptance of the second article of the proposals, and reaching a deadlock in the discussion of its terms they agreed finally to refer it back to the consideration of both Houses. The first article of the proposals, with its very much greater rate of payment than previously had been considered necessary, they approved with the qualification that the two thousand pounds of tobacco from each county were to be paid by the year and not by the session as the printer had proposed. In regard to the third article, they recommended that the body of laws should be published at the public charge, and that the printer should be paid for them at the rate of twenty-four shillings a copy, the distribution of the copies to be the same as that prescribed for the session laws.<sup>1</sup> The conferees of the Lower House reported to the delegates that they had proposed in committee, under the second article, an allowance to the printer of twenty shillings a sheet for their journals and proceedings, and upon receiving this report, the House approved it and

"Resolved that the said Parks be allowed after the Rate menconed . . . for printing any the publick proceedings of the last Sessions, And that he be Appointed and have the Character of publick printer to the province."<sup>2</sup>

Although they concurred with the delegates on the first and third articles of the proposals, the Upper House objected to the printing of the journals and proceedings as "an unnecessary charge to the publick," and in regard to the title which the printer should bear, their Honors informed the delegates sharply that the Governor had already licensed Parks "to print the Laws as Printer to his Lordship," and that title, their message said, they conceived "to be a sufficient distinguishing Character."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>U. H. J., March 23, 1725/26, *Archives of Maryland*, 35: 451 and 452.

<sup>2</sup>L. H. J., March 21, 1725/26, *Archives of Maryland*, 35: 476 and 477.

<sup>3</sup>U. H. J., March 23, 1725/26, *Archives of Maryland*, 35: 455. In his first issue of the "Proceedings," later to be described, Parks "played safe" by adopting for himself two titles; in the imprint he described himself as "Printer to the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor, and the Province."