

words "amused" and "amusements" (pages 483, 485, 572, 574) are used in the now obsolete sense of *beguiled* and *beguilements*.

An important Act at this time was that relating to the Gauge and Tare of Tobacco Hogsheads and fixing the Duty thereon. By this measure the duty on tobacco was increased in favor of the Proprietary, the amount of the increase to be accepted by him in lieu of the quit rents reserved in the land grants throughout the Province, a provision which afforded great relief to the poorer tenants. The Act of 1716 was rejected by the Proprietary because it provided that the portion of the duty intended for the support of government should be paid directly to the Governor, which was regarded as an invasion of the Proprietary's prerogative. In the Act of 1717 it was provided that the payment should be made to the Proprietary for the support of the government. This Act was continued in force by successive renewals until 1732, though somewhat modified in form in 1730.

The question of prerogative also arose over the law for the licensing of Ordinaries (Inns and Taverns), which the Proprietary claimed as his right, and refused to accept the revenue from this source from the Assembly "as a compliment." It required the ingenuity of a committee of conference of the two houses of the Assembly to frame this Act in a manner acceptable both to the Proprietary and to the Lower House. It was eventually so worded as neither to admit nor to deny the prerogative.

The fees charged by public officers, appointees of the Proprietary government, were complained of as excessive, and led to much dispute, the Lower House persisting in efforts for their limitation, which were resisted by the Upper House and the Governor. A bill for their regulation which was finally passed and signed in 1719, failed to receive the approval of the Proprietary.

The importation of convict servants into the Province began to provoke resentment. In 1719 a bill was introduced, the object of which was to restrict this importation, which the Assembly was powerless to prohibit, by the imposition of difficulties and obstructions. The bill finally passed both houses, though the Upper House showed a very tender regard for the interests of the merchants and ship-owners who found their profit in the traffic in convict labor. The measure, however, did not receive the signature of the Governor.

The career of Thomas MacNemara, who was long a disturbing element in the Province, and the efforts of the Assembly to deprive him of the right to practise in the Courts, occupy so much space in the records as to call for notice.