

The Lower House on April 16 then appointed a committee to draw up a bill for raising and supporting a force of not more than 500 men for use on the frontier (p. 61); the terms of this bill are discussed elsewhere (pp. xxiii-xxv). A committee was appointed on April 8 to act with a committee from the Upper House to examine the accounts of the commissioners or trustees of the Paper Currency Office, or the Office for Emitting Bills of Credit, as it was called by the Upper House (pp. 19, 49, 50). It was also more familiarly known as the Loan Office. Another committee was directed to bring before the Lower House a copy of the proceedings of the commissioners which had met in October 1756 to lay the public levy (p. 53).

The Lower House then proceeded to bring forward for discussion various questions which at previous sessions had been the subjects of disagreement between the two houses. In an address dated April 14, it called the Governor to account for not entering suit against the naval officers at ports of entry who had allowed servants having seven years or more to serve, and who were in fact transported convicts, to land before paying the import duties imposed by the Maryland law of 1754 (p. 56). This dispute as to the legality of a tax on convicts is gone into in detail later so need not be discussed here (pp. xlv-xlvii). The Supply bill for his Majesty's service was introduced on April 18 and was promptly passed without amendment, and sent to the Upper House on April 20 (pp. 62, 64). Elsewhere it will be told how it was amended in the upper chamber, and the sharp differences of opinion which then developed between the two houses as to the methods of taxation to be employed to raise the necessary funds, and as to the restrictions which the Lower House sought to impose upon the Governor in the handling of these funds and in the disposition of the troops. Two other questions which had occupied the attention of the Assembly at previous sessions, and were to be subjects of acrimonious dispute at future meetings, cropped up at this session. These were the measures directed against the Roman Catholics by the Lower House (pp. 79-87) and the vindictive attitude of this house towards John Rawlings, a former justice of Frederick County. The Catholic question is separately discussed at length elsewhere in this introduction (pp. xli-xlii). The reader is referred to a previous volume of the *Archives* for a summary of the Rawlings affair (lii, pp. xiv-xv). Charges of high handed methods in the administration of his office had been brought against Rawlings in the Lower House in 1755, and he had been summoned before its bar. The Governor, who had investigated these charges and found them unjustified, had pointedly reminded the house that he, and not the legislative branch of the government, was responsible for the courts and the conduct of the judges, and it was not the business of the house to meddle in such matters. A renewed attempt on the part of the house at this session to revive the old controversy, notwithstanding the fact that Rawlings had died some time since, brought a sharp rejoinder from the Governor in which he advised the house to attend to the important business before it, and accused it of having omitted in the record of the proceedings of that body certain parts of his message of March 25, 1755, on this subject (pp. 100-105, 114-115).