

ment (p. 206). It resolved that all commissions to judges should have incorporated a clause requiring that all justices in the Province should enforce all the laws of England except where these had been superseded or modified by laws of the Province; that the oaths taken by judges should contain a declaration that justice should not be delayed or influenced by instructions from King or Proprietary; that the people of Maryland were entitled to the benefits of the Common Law of England, as this Province had been purchased from the Indians and could not in any way be deemed as "a conquered country"; and lastly, that although the house was convinced that the Act of 1704 under which twelve pence export duty was collected on each hogshead of tobacco by the Proprietary for his personal use, had legally expired, even were it still in force, three pence of this should be devoted to the purchase of arms and ammunition for the defence of the Province and not go into Baltimore's pockets.

Several disputed election cases which came before the Lower House for decision are fully commented upon elsewhere in this introduction (pp. xxxiii-xxxv). The attempt of the Lower House, made two days after the session began, to have the Sergeant-at-arms arrest in the Governor's home, John Ridout, the Governor's secretary, and bring him before the bar of the house so as to force him to disclose certain information in regard to public matters, justly aroused the Governor's ire and resulted in a heated dispute in which the Governor vehemently maintained the independence and immunities of himself and of those officially associated with him, as a coordinate branch of the government. This episode, known in these contemporary records as "this unlucky Affair of Mr. Ridout's" is discussed in considerable detail elsewhere (pp. xxxv-xxxvii).

The Lower House then instructed a committee composed of Philip Hammond, Edward Tilghman, Edward Dorsey, Mathew Tilghman, William Murdock, and Charles Carroll the Barrister, to draw up the important Supply bill which the Assembly had been brought together by the Governor to enact. This was the "Supply Bill for His Majesty's Service" to raise the men and money which the Province had been called upon by the King's ministers to contribute for the prosecution of the war. It was nearly four weeks later, when on November 12, the bill was brought by the committee before the Lower House, where it was considered in committee of the whole. The details of the two months bitter struggle which ensued between the two houses as to the terms of this bill, its final failure to pass because they were unable to agree upon the sources of taxation by which the £45,000 required was to be raised, and the restrictions which the Lower House sought to place upon the use of the troops by the Governor, are all fully narrated later (pp. xxv-xxvi).

On September 30, 1757, William Murdock, one of the "agents" entrusted with the disbursement of the funds raised under the various previously enacted Supply bills, who was also a member of the Lower House, presented the books and accounts of the agents for examination (pp. 209-210). These were duly "inspected" by a committee appointed by this house, and a report on the expenditures filed (pp. 213-214, 257-262). A joint committee was appointed by both houses to inspect the accounts of the commissioners for emitting Bills of