

tional land tax (pp. 386-390). Another new act increased the pay of grand and petit jurors in the Provincial courts (pp. 394-396). Why a bill to "revive" an act "directing the manner of Punishing Fornication and Adultery before a single Justice" should have passed the Lower House, and been rejected in the Upper House is not disclosed (pp. 380, 349).

SESSION OF APRIL—MAY 1761.

The Assembly met at its sixth, and what was to be its last session, on April 13, 1761, after called meetings in March and April had several times been postponed by prorogation by the Governor (*Arch. Md.* XXXI, 437, 467). Sharpe in his speech to both houses opened with expressions of condolence upon the death of George II, and congratulations that he was succeeded by such an illustrious sovereign as his grandson, George III. He urged the Assembly to comply with the request of the new King that men be promptly raised to serve with his regular forces (pp. 399-400). As at recent sessions the Governor had transmitted to the Assembly letters from William Pitt, the King's principal minister, and from General Amherst. Pitt's letter dated at Whitehall December 17, 1760, a circular letter to the governors of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas, asked the assemblies of these provinces to raise as many men as possible, to cooperate with the regular troops under Amherst, and repeated the promises contained in former letters reaffirming the status of commissions to Provincial officers appointed by the governors of the several provinces. He wrote that while arms, tents, and victuals would be furnished by the Commander-in-Chief, the forces raised were to be levied, clothed, and paid at the expense of the several provinces (pp. 400-402). Amherst in his letter dated at New York March 15, 1761, repeated the assurances contained in Pitt's letter, and requested the immediate compliance with these requisitions so as to secure more advantageous concessions from the enemy in the terms of peace (pp. 402-404).

In the Upper House a new member appeared at this session. This was John Ridout, the Governor's secretary, who had been appointed to fill one of the two vacancies in the Council caused by the death from smallpox on September 21, 1760, of William Goldsborough, and of Benjamin Tasker Jr. who had died "of a slow fever" on October 17, 1760. The other vacancy was not filled until later. In the Lower House there were also a number of changes in personnel due to death. Although warrants for new elections to fill certain vacancies had been issued by the Lower House during its last session, none of these elections had taken place until after its adjournment on October 15, 1760. The five new members who now appeared in the house were John Hammond, elected from Anne Arundel County to succeed his father, Philip Hammond, one of the most truculent leaders of the popular party; Thomas Ringgold from Kent, the wealthy Chester Town merchant, who succeeded Alexander Williamson, a former Speaker; John Veazey from Cecil, who succeeded Captain Henry Ward, another victim of smallpox; Nathan Magruder from Frederick, who succeeded Edward Dorsey, the well known Annapolis attorney who had for several years represented Frederick County in the Assembly; and William