

and then made a speech to both houses, the purport of which will be referred to later (pp. xviii, 3-5).

After returning to the lower chamber the delegates chose John Allen Thomas of Talbot County as Clerk of the House, who, after the Governor had approved his selection, was escorted to the Upper House where he qualified as Clerk by taking the same oaths as the delegates had taken and a special oath of office (p. 70). Captain Robert Saunders was chosen Sergeant-at-Arms, and Andrew Buchanan, the Annapolis inn-keeper, was chosen Doorkeeper of the House. Richard Tilghman, Jr. and Richard Tilghman, III, were selected as clerks of Lower House committees. Dr. George Steuart of the Lower House then administered to them all the several oaths mentioned above and also the respective oaths of their several offices (pp. 70-71). A day or two later William Wilkins was also appointed one of the clerks of committees (p. 79).

Rules of order and procedure identical with those that had been used at preceding sessions were adopted (pp. 71-72), and the hours of sitting were decided upon (p. 74). The "Reverend Mr. Cain" [Samuel Keene], who officiated as curate of St. Anne's Annapolis, was selected to read prayers at the opening and closing of the daily sessions (p. 74). He had acted in the same capacity at the April-May, 1761, session.

The house then unanimously adopted a series of resolves, that were identical with similar resolves embodying the attitude of the Lower House on sundry political questions in controversy, which had been adopted at previous sessions for many years. These resolves seem to have the character of a Bill of Rights for the people and of a Declaration of Independence against Proprietary aggressions. In these resolves vigilance was urged upon the Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice of the house to see to it that no changes be made in the form of the oaths of office taken by judges which would lessen their obligations to hear and determine all cases according to the laws of England and of the Province of Maryland, nor were they to be influenced in any way in their judgments by directions or orders from King or Lord Proprietary. The resolves further affirmed the rights of the inhabitants as free citizens of a free English colony (and not as inhabitants of a conquered country) to enjoy and have the benefit of all English laws and liberties. The resolves also declared that the collection by the Proprietary of an export duty of twelve pence on every hogshead of tobacco sent out of the Province was not warranted by law under the Act of 1704 as asserted by the Proprietary, but that even if that Act were held to be valid, three pence of the twelve pence should go towards the defense of the Province, and not, like the remainder of that duty, into the pocket of the Proprietary (pp. 72-74). These resolves have been more fully discussed in the preceding volume of the *Archives* (LVI; xv-xvi).

The house then proceeded to appoint the members of various standing committees. Those first mentioned apparently acted as chairmen and were in most cases leaders of the anti-Proprietary majority in the house. The appointment of committees was apparently made by the house itself and not by the Speaker. The standing committees of the Lower House were: (1) Committee of Elec-