

who, after signing a few belated bills in their presence, on December 20 in a brief speech prorogued the Assembly until the first Monday of March 1766 (pp. 251, 260, 261). It did not meet again, however, until May 9, 1766.

The more important questions which came before the Assembly at this session, and which deserve further consideration, will now be taken up under their several headings.

STAMP ACT

On the opening day of the session, September 23, 1765, the Stamp Act came under consideration by the Assembly, although Governor Sharpe had made no mention of it in his opening speech. The late deputy postmaster of Annapolis, Jonas Green, and the then deputy postmaster, Anthony Stewart, delivered to the Speaker of the Lower House letters from the House of Representatives of the Province of Massachusetts, which were read in the Lower House of Assembly and ordered to lie on the table. These were the circular letters which the House of Representatives of Massachusetts dispatched to the houses of representatives, or burgesses, of the several colonies, requesting them to send delegates to a meeting to be held in New York on the first Tuesday of October to implore the King and Parliament to grant relief from the threatened enforcement of the Stamp Act, recently enacted by Parliament. The Massachusetts house said that at a session of its general assembly held in May last it had been informed of the act of Parliament relating to the sugar trade with foreign colonies and the resolution of the House of Commons relating to the Stamp duties and other taxes that it was proposed to impose on the colonies, which would deprive them of the right of assessing their own taxes and their right of freedom from taxes imposed upon them without their own consent. The letter further declared that the house felt that if "no Remonstrance is preferred on the part of the Colonies such Silence must be interpreted as a tacit cession of their Rights and an humble Acquiescence under all their Burden", and that their agent in England [Jackson] informed them that in a conference with Mr. Greenville [sic], he had been told that "the ministry were desirous of Consulting the ease and quiet and Good will of the Colonies". It was therefore hoped "that humble dutifull Remonstrances may yet have their effect". The house had directed its Agent to endeavor to secure the repeal of the act, and it was "desirous of the united Assistance of the several Colonies in a petition against such formidable Attacks" upon the rights and the liberty of commerce and the property of the colonies. The house had appointed a committee to inform the other colonies what steps Massachusetts had taken. The letter, dated June 13, 1764, was signed by the members of the committee appointed by the house, James Otis, Thomas Cushing, Oxenbridge Thacher, Thomas Gray, and Edward Sheaffe.

There was also laid before the Lower House of the Maryland Assembly a letter dated June 8, 1765, signed by Samuel White, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, proposing that a meeting of representatives from the various colonies be held in New York the first Tuesday of October