

also upon defaults on execution", made sheriffs responsible to plaintiffs for their failure to produce in court defendants under arrest. The court was empowered to order judgment for the amount sued for, against the person previously taken in execution but not produced in court, the sheriff to be penalized or amerced for this amount, together with costs (pp. 438-439). The other law involving legal procedure was that "for amending or declaring the law in the cases therein mentioned". Passed by the Lower House, it was considerably amended in the Upper House (pp. 310-311, 403, 317). This act, as finally agreed upon, changed or amended a number of old laws "in the cases therein mentioned" in the following respects. (a) The qualification that jurors in the Provincial and county courts be freeholders, and that no freeholder might serve as a juror in any case, if at the same court sitting he was himself a party to another suit, was reaffirmed, the act providing, however, that no verdict heretofore given shall be set aside on the ground that those qualifications had been disregarded, but did specifically reserve to the defendant thereafter the right to challenge a juror on the grounds given above. To avoid misunderstandings which had heretofore arisen a freeholder was defined as a man who held (or whose wife held) at least 50 acres of land, or an "estate of freehold" of the value of at least £50 sterling. (b) Redefined and increased the security required of bailsmen under former laws. (c) Redefined stays of execution. (d) Required compliance with awards by arbitration. (e) Added costs to distrains by sheriffs to enforce the payment of public levies. (f) Provided that appeals to the Provincial Court found to involve less than £20 Sterling (or 5000 pounds of tobacco) be set aside by a writ of procedendo (pp. 482-485).

*Local laws.* Of the thirteen local laws passed at the 1768 session, the most important was that providing for the removal of the county seat of Baltimore County from dying Joppa to rapidly growing Baltimore Town. This was entitled "An Act for erecting a Court House and Public Prison in Baltimore County in the Town of Baltimore, and for making sale of the old Court House and Prison". The lengthy petitions presented to the Assembly by those favoring, and by those opposed to, the change, and the hearings before the two houses show the widespread interest and feeling which the proposal aroused. This public reaction, the various petitions, pro and con, and the terms of the act itself, are elsewhere commented upon in the section, Baltimore Town, the New County Seat (pp. lxxxv-xc, 442-445). As showing the increasing importance of Baltimore as a trading center and port of export of flour, and the desire to preserve its good name, was the passage of a law "to prevent the exportation of flour, staves and shingles not merchantable from the Town of Baltimore—and to regulate the weight of hay, and the measures of grain, salt, flaxseed, and firewood, within the said town." The preamble of the act recites that it was designed to put an end to the deceits of millers and others in the manufacture of flour for export, the faulty weights and measures for hay, salt and flaxseed, and the deceitful practices of shippers in the handling of staves and shingles. It authorized the appointment by the town commissioners of an inspector of flour, and of cullers, garblers, and counters of staves and shingles, measurers of grain, salt and flaxseed, weighers of hay, and wood corders. All casks