

death of her husband, Mrs. Green had continued to do the Assembly printing without interruption, although no public levies had been made for her payment since her husband's death (pp. 455-458). At the close of the 1768 session, just before Governor Sharpe abruptly dissolved the Assembly because the Lower House had, contrary to the orders of the Crown, taken notice of the letter of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts protesting against the imposition of import duties on tea, glass, and other articles brought in the colonies, and had itself petitioned the King and passed resolutions protesting against these duties, the Lower House ordered that there be printed in the *Maryland Gazette* the Governor's message in regard to the Massachusetts letter and the reply of the Lower House to it (p. 418). The house also ordered that its resolves relating to bribery and treating at elections be "standing rules" of the house, and be printed in the *Maryland Gazette* (p. 418). It further ordered that the bill for licensing ordinary keepers, hawkers, peddlers, and petty chapmen, be also immediately printed (p. 418). As this bill became a law and was printed in the Session Laws for 1768 (pp. 473-484), we are left in the dark as to whether it also first appeared as a separate pamphlet. Certainly no copy is known of such a pamphlet. Perhaps the Lower House felt that the Governor might veto the bill, and sought in that event to assure the publicity which would result from its printing.

#### BALTIMORE TOWN MADE THE COUNTY SEAT

A battle royal raged in Baltimore County at the 1768 Assembly over the removal of the County Seat of Baltimore County from the dying town of Joppa on the Gunpowder to the rapidly growing Baltimore Town on the Patapsco. Not only was the harbor of Joppa rapidly filling up with silt, but the increase of the population and sea borne commerce of Baltimore and its neighborhood, as well as the agricultural development to the west of the town beyond tidewater, made such a change desirable.

The matter came up early in the session with the presentation of a petition in the Upper House, May 30, 1768, from sundry inhabitants of Baltimore County, praying the removal of the court house and prison to Baltimore Town (p. 286), followed by a similar petition on June 8th, against removal (p. 294). Fortunately, both these petitions, to be commented upon later, with their very numerous signatures, have been preserved. It seems likely that the petition against removal was fathered by John Paca, whose son, William Paca, a member of the Lower House, later became a signer of the Declaration of Independence and governor, and whose plantation was near Joppa (p. 296). The petition for removal seems to have been fathered by John Moale, a new member of the Lower House from Baltimore County (p. 352). Both petitions were referred by the Upper House to the lower chamber. On June 6th, immediately following the receipt of the petition for removal, a motion that it be granted was approved by the Lower House by a vote of 42 to 5, those voting against it being Buchanan and Bordley of Kent, Beale of Prince George's, William Paca of Anne Arundel, and Thomas Cockey Deye of upper Baltimore County. A committee was appointed, headed by Thomas Jenings, with Chase, Johnson, Ridgely, Moale and