

these cited the reasons why removal was sought. Of these forty-one broadsides, thirty-four were printed in English alone, and seven were printed with the petition in English and in German, the latter in German type. It is of interest that all these printed petitions appear to have come from the press of Nicholas Hasselbach, a Pennsylvania German, who had in 1765 moved to Baltimore and established the first printing press in that town. These printed petitions appear in three forms. Those in English alone are in two forms which show only trivial differences; these are nos. 1-28, 35-37, [39]-[41] (pp. 520, 563). In the petitions in both languages the English precedes the German version; these are nos. 29-34, [38] (pp. 552-556). The interested reader will find these early examples of Baltimore printing fully discussed in Lawrence C. Wroth's *A History of Colonial Printing in Maryland*, 1922 (pp. 113-114, 232-233). The petitions for removal as presented to the Assembly are preceded by an "Advertisement" in manuscript which recites that they have complied with resolves of the Lower House which require petitions for local legislation to be advertised at least two months before an Assembly meeting; and in further compliance with these resolves that the notices, that such application would be made, had been set up at the door of the court house at Joppa and at the seven churches and chapels of the Established Church in Baltimore County named in the "Advertisement".

The petition for removal then goes on to assert that in addition to the court house at Joppa being too small, it being the smallest court house in the Province, it is flimsy and exposed to the deprivations of evil-doers; and that the jail is not only insecure, thus encouraging frequent escapes, but has no through draft, resulting in the prisoners suffering loss of health; that the town is on a low promontory connected with the mainland by an isthmus, which when flooded by high tides and heavy rains is nearly impassable, making the town an island; that the town can now be reached only by very small vessels. It is further recited that there are few houses in Joppa, and that those who attend courts must ride by night to houses in the neighborhood for lodgings, thus endangering their lives by colds, pleurisies and other disorders. Baltimore is then extolled. The town is declared to be situated on a fine river, navigable by large ships, and has a rapidly increasing population and trade; there are sufficient inns to accommodate large numbers with ease and plenty; the court house and jail would be by their surroundings better protected; and people from all parts of the county would find here a good market to sell their goods. While Baltimore is not as central as Joppa, the experience of neighboring colonies shows that this is not a serious objection. For all these and other good reasons the petitioners asked that the court house and jail be moved to Baltimore Town. A very considerable number of those signing bore German names, and were either residents of Baltimore Town or of the western part of the county with a large German population. Many of these names in German script are well nigh illegible, and several show a transitional form between the correct German spelling of Christian and family names and the euphonic English spelling into which they were becoming transformed.

The petitions against removal were circulated in manuscript and not in printed