

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Baltimore, December 1, 1941

To the Maryland Historical Society

GENTLEMEN :

The Maryland Historical Society is entrusted by the State with the publication of the *Archives of Maryland*. The Committee on Publications now presents to the Society Volume LVIII of the *Archives*, the *Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, 1762-1763*, which is the twenty-seventh volume that has been published dealing with Assembly affairs. In this volume are printed the journals of the Upper House, the journals of the Lower House, the laws enacted in the years 1762 and 1763, and various contemporary papers pertaining to Assembly affairs to be found in the Appendix.

The Assembly, which was elected in the autumn of 1761, held only two sessions, one in 1762 and one in 1763. A new Assembly was elected in the autumn of 1764. Much to the indignation of the people, however, no meeting of the Assembly was called by Governor Sharpe between November, 1763, and September, 1765, as it was in this interval that the obnoxious Stamp Act was passed, and thus no opportunity was given by Sharpe to the Lower House to voice its protests.

The two sessions whose proceedings and acts are recorded in this volume were devoted largely to the consideration of various controversial questions, and the messages exchanged between the Governor and the Upper House on the one hand and the Lower House on the other became increasingly informative, acrimonious, and lengthy. Most of the legislation passed at these two sessions were continuances of old general laws about to expire by time limitation, local laws, and private acts. The only act of great importance to all classes was the Tobacco Inspection Act, passed in 1763. This law not only regulated the raising, storing and marketing of tobacco, which was the staple and the currency of the Province, but fixed in terms of tobacco the fees which might be charged by all public officials, and the rates at which various European gold and silver coins might circulate in Maryland in relation to the value of tobacco.

Most of the controversies between the two houses involved the relations of the Lord Proprietary and the people. Baltimore, really interested only in the revenue which he could draw from his Province, looked upon every political demand by the Lower House merely as an attack upon his prerogative and thus