

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Baltimore, December 1, 1942

To the Maryland Historical Society

GENTLEMEN:

Sixty years ago the State of Maryland entrusted to the Maryland Historical Society the publication of the *Archives of Maryland*. Biennially since 1882 the General Assembly of Maryland has continued to make provision for the publication of its colonial records under these same auspices. The Publications Committee of the Society now presents as Volume LIX of the *Archives* the *Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland 1764-1765*, which is the twenty-eighth volume that has been published dealing with Assembly affairs. The period covered by this volume was that in which men's minds were pre-occupied with the Stamp Act and its threatening consequences. In addition to the journals of the proceedings of the Upper House and the Lower House, and the laws enacted during the 1764-1765 period, there will be found in the Appendix various other contemporary records intimately connected with matters which came before the Assembly.

No session of the Assembly elected in the autumn of 1761 was held during the year 1764; and it was in December of the latter year that Governor Horatio Sharpe issued writs for the election of a new Assembly. Of the fifty-eight delegates elected to the new Assembly, forty-two had been members of the preceding Assembly. The Popular, Country, or anti-Proprietary party, as it was variously called, was still in control and the same leaders were at the helm. The Upper House, composed as it was of members of the Council, who owed their appointment to the Lord Proprietary, was, as usual, under his dominance, with Daniel Dulany alone showing any independence of thought. The impending passage of the Stamp Act, which occurred in February, 1765, filled the thoughts of the people with serious forebodings. Sharpe, fearful of what might occur in the Lower House, did not call the Assembly together in 1764, and made smallpox, epidemic in Annapolis in 1765, an excuse in the earlier months of that year for postponing its meeting. The treatment by the Annapolis mob of Zachariah Hood, appointed distributor of stamped paper for Maryland, when on August 25, 1765, he was burned in effigy, his house destroyed, and he was driven from the city, brought to Sharpe the realization that, if the Assembly were not promptly called together, some direct action by the elected delegates would be taken. When on June 8 the Massachusetts House of Representatives proposed to the lower houses of the other colonies that a meeting