

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Baltimore, December 1, 1944

To The Maryland Historical Society

GENTLEMEN :

The volume of the *Archives of Maryland* which is now presented by the Publications Committee to the Maryland Historical Society is the *Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, 1766-1768*. It is the sixty-first volume of the general series and the twenty-eighth volume dealing with Assembly affairs.

The three years from 1766 to 1768 inclusive, which this volume covers, were politically tranquil except at the beginning and at the end of the period. The opening of the year 1766 saw the repeal of the Stamp Act and the subsidence of public resentment, and it was not until the close of 1768 that Maryland became fully conscious of the far reaching political implications of the recent passage by Parliament of the Townshend revenue acts, imposing duties upon tea, glass, paper and painters' colors brought into the colonies, although the import of these acts was before long to produce uproar and violence through the colonies greater than had the Stamp Act.

In the interval between the repeal of the Stamp Act and the passage of the Townshend Acts, the relations of Maryland and the mother country were excellent, and efforts were even being directed by the Lower House to make use of the Crown as a means of curbing what were looked upon by the people as encroachments upon their rights by the Lord Proprietary. Most of these grievances of the people were economic and involved the retention by the Proprietary of monies derived from various licenses, fines, duties, and taxes claimed by him under his charter, and by the people as belonging to them. There was also widespread resentment at the concentration of power at Annapolis in the hands of the Proprietary group, or what was known as the court party, the members of which held nearly all the lucrative civil and judicial offices. During the 1766-1768 period, however, these long standing conflicting claims became less vocal and the clashes between the Governor and the Upper House as representing the Proprietary interest on the one hand, and the Lower House on the other as representing the people, although no less frequent, were less acrimonious, so that these years as reflected in the Assembly may perhaps be described as politically an era of apparent good feeling. To be sure, the Lower House continued to pass controversial bills curtailing Proprietary privileges, and the Upper House to reject them, but these legislative moves were