

Blakiston got three successive gratuities, but on April 20, 1703, Queen Anne forbade the Governor's receiving any further presents.²⁰ After Baltimore's restoration the Assembly in 1718 voted John Hart £200 sterling for espousing the interest of the province against the Catholics, and in 1769 they gave Robert Eden \$800 currency as a mark of their esteem.²¹

It will appear that, after 1691, the Governor's gross income from all these sources, although it varied considerably, could hardly have fallen much below £1500 sterling, and that it must have risen at times to well above £2000. In his "Exact Estimate" of 1767, Sharpe rated it at £1861.²² This was not counting his allowance for house rent.

In the early proprietary period each incumbent had had a house of his own at St. Mary's. Lionel Copley, the first royal Governor, lived there in a house provided by Lord Baltimore.²³ Then after removal of the capital to Annapolis, under Francis Nicholson, the Assembly began to vote him an annual allowance for rent. This was to be just a temporary expedient till an executive mansion could be erected, but the parsimonious delegates refused to vote money for such a structure until the Paper Currency Act of April, 1733. Building a palace then became a means of getting this paper into circulation.

Unfortunately Governor Thomas Bladen, who had failed to get on with the Assembly anyway, now undertook to erect too large a house. In 1744, after laying out the whole sum of £4000 currency, he had to apply for half as much again, merely to complete the fabric. This the Lower House refused. While the Governor and delegates quarreled, the unfinished palace, now called "Bladen's Folly," sank into a long decay.²⁴

²⁰ *Ibid.*, XXII, 352; XXIV, 29, 229, 291, 329; XXIX, 357; *Calendar of State Papers, Colonial, 1702-03, loc. cit.*

²¹ *Archives*, XXXIII, 274; LXII, 124.

²² See note 16 above. The French and Indian War caused "a prodigious Decrease" in Gov. Sharpe's revenues. He estimated his entire income as chief executive in 1756 at £1400 sterling and in 1761 at £1200. In 1757 he complained that he was unable to save much over £300 a year. (Horatio Sharpe to William Sharpe, May 2, 1756; Sharpe to Board of Trade, Dec. 21, 1761; Sharpe to Lord Baltimore, June 30, 1757; *Ibid.*, VI, 400; XXXII, 27; IX, 35).

²³ The mansion Copley occupied had been built by Thomas Cornwalleys and was called "St. Peter's," otherwise "the Great House" or "the Governor's Castle." Cf. *Ibid.*, XX, 120; VIII, 382; H. C. Forman, *Jamestown and St. Mary's, Buried Cities of Romance* (Baltimore, 1938), 253-56.

²⁴ For a history of this controversy see Mereness, *op. cit.*, 349-53. A description of the house in its unfinished state may be found in Andrew Burnaby, *Travels*