

other without explanation, or without even a brief statement that they were open to the same objections as when they had been previously thrown out. Occasionally amendments were added without explanation entirely changing the tenor of the bill.

The disputed Steuart-Woodward election and the disciplining of Samuel Wilson for his attack upon Philip Hammond, occupied much of the time of the Lower House at this session. Both of these episodes are fully discussed elsewhere in this introduction (pp. lii-lv). Of course the most important bill to come before the Assembly was the £36,000 Supply bill for his Majesty's Service and Defense of the Frontier Inhabitants, or the Assessment bill as it had now generally come to be known. This bill, prepared by a committee of the Lower House of which Philip Hammond was chairman, was introduced on December 9 (p. 92). It was based on the resolves which the house had previously adopted (pp. 76-78). No copy of the Assessment bill passed by the Lower House at this session is known to be in existence, but from its title and the *Sharpe Correspondence*, there is no reason to believe that it differed in any important respect, except the amount to be raised was now fixed at £36,000, from that passed by the Lower House at the March-May 1758 session in which the figure was £45,000, which has been discussed in the introduction to the previous volume of the *Archives* (*Arch. Md.* LV, xxviii-xxxii). This was virtually an income tax measure imposing a five per cent tax annually on incomes from salaries and emoluments, and on the assessed value of real and personal property. Passed by the Lower House, it was for the fourth time rejected in the Upper House. Its course in both houses is fully discussed elsewhere in this introduction (pp. xliv-xlv). Another matter of acrimonious dispute between the two houses also again came up at this session. This was a bill to reduce the allowances of members of the Assembly and of justices. Action upon it was referred to the next session (pp. xxvii, 116-117). This bill has been discussed in the preceding volume of the *Archives* (*Arch. Md.* LV, xlvi-xlviii).

Edmund Key, the aristocratic and prominent delegate from St. Mary's County with strong Proprietary leanings, in a debate in the Lower House on November 30 upon the appointment of a committee to draft a Supply or Assessment bill, a subject productive of much political ill temper, referred to some of the members of that committee as "indolent". Composed as this committee was of the leaders of the popular party in the house, Edward Tilghman, Edward Dorsey, Philip Hammond, Robert Lloyd, Charles Carroll the Barrister, Thomas Harris, and Alexander Williamson, such disrespectful words stirred up a tempest in a tea pot. Key, by a resolution of the house adopted the following day, was "called upon to explain himself with Relation to the Word reflecting upon the Gentlemen appointed, confessed that the Word dropped from him thro' Inadvertency, without any Design to reflect upon the House, or any Member thereof. Which submission the House consented to accept, and waived all further Proceeding thereon". Unfortunately, however, we are left in uncertainty as to the probable truth of Mr. Key's charge of indolence against the members of the committee (pp. 82-83). Soon after