

## APPENDIX

In the Appendix will be found printed not only a number of contemporary documents having a direct bearing upon matters before the Assembly in the 1758-1761 period, but some important correspondence of Governor Sharpe, which was apparently unavailable, or overlooked, when the Sharpe Correspondence was printed a number of years ago (*Arch. Md.* VI, IX, XIV, XXXI).

Much of this hitherto unpublished material which has a direct bearing upon the Assembly proceedings is in the form of petitions addressed to the Governor and both houses requesting legislative relief. A few of these are undated, but appear to be of this period. A bill to divide All Saints' Parish, Frederick County, passed by the Upper House at the March-April 1760 session and rejected in the Lower House, will be found printed on pages 501-502. There is an undated petition, also presented at this session, requesting the passage of an act to tax the inhabitants of this same parish for the repair of the parish church and two chapels of ease (pp. 502-504). There are two undated petitions relating to Prince George's Parish, lying in Frederick, one requesting the passage of an act for its division into two parishes (pp. 504-506) and another presented at the March-April 1760 session, for the erection of a chapel of ease on Hawlings River, a branch of the Patuxent (pp. 506-508). The petition, presented at the April-May, 1761, session, asking for an act to validate the proceedings of a meeting of the vestry of St. Stephen's Parish, Cecil County, is printed on page 508.

Six petitions from sundry languishing prisoners for debt in county jails are printed in the Appendix (pp. 509-514). Although the legal phraseology is similar in all, there is variation in the human interest in each of these cases which makes them worth reproducing. Earlier Assembly proceedings show that four of these petitioners were in prison and had petitioned for relief in 1757 (*Arch. Md.* LV, 169). The petitions now printed reveal that some of these unfortunates had been prisoners for debt for as long as four years. Each petitioner expressed willingness to give up everything he possessed to help pay his debts, which he could not do in full as long as he was kept in prison. One even expressed a willingness to indenture himself as a servant to pay his creditors. Some had helpless families dependent upon them. The ultimate fate of these wretched debtors is only known in the case of a certain John Turnbull in prison in 1757, who was not released until legislative relief was secured in 1765. Some of the others may have been released by creditors who had relented. Some doubtless died in prison. In the past it had been customary for the Assembly at frequent intervals to pass acts releasing certain specified "languishing prisoners" for debt. Since the session of May 1757, when such an act was last passed, no relief had been granted because the Upper House was unwilling to relieve debtors to the Lord Proprietary, who the other chamber insisted should be included in the act (pp. 62, 123). Nor was relief again granted to debtors by legislative action until 1765.

The bill authorizing the publication of Bacon's Collection of Laws, discussed at length in a preceding section (pp. lxxi-lxxiii), was passed on October 15,