

voted down, 17 to 15, a contribution of £600, and immediately thereafter similarly disposed of one of £500 by the same vote, but did by a vote of 21 to 9 refer the whole matter of relief to the consideration of the next Assembly. Party lines do not seem to have been strictly drawn in these votes (pp. 256-257).

There was much resentment among the people because Governor Sharpe had failed to call the Assembly together when the agitation about the Stamp Act first became general, which at this session took the form of a belated "remonstrance" directed to him (pp. 172, 230-231). Questions which arose as the result of the Stamp Act came before this body a day or two after it resumed its sessions on November 1, but as all matters pertaining to this act are discussed in considerable detail in a separate section of this introduction (pp. xl-xliv), they need only be briefly referred to in passing in this general survey of the events of the session. For the second time Sharpe requested the advice of the Lower House as to what disposition he should make of the stamped paper consigned to Maryland. Captain James Hawker had taken this for safe-keeping on board His Majesty's ship *Sardein*, and when the Governor asked the Lower House to offer advice as to its disposition, the house refused to do so, saying that any advice on this subject "was not agreeable to the Sentiment of our Constituents" (pp. 137-138, 140). Murdock, Tilghman, and Ringgold, the three Maryland representatives to the Stamp Act Congress in New York, reported, November 27, to the Lower House on the proceedings of the Congress in New York in which they had taken part, submitting copies of the addresses to the King and to both branches of Parliament, the letter sent by them to Charles Garth, whom they had appointed to represent the Province in England in Stamp Act matters, and the accounts of their expenses. The house then voted unanimously its formal thanks to them for the way they had executed the great trust reposed in them (p. 180). A formal letter of instructions to Garth was then drawn up and approved by the house. This important and lengthy political document embodying the remonstrances of the people of Maryland against the Stamp Act, protested not only against the act as an infringement of the rights of the people of all the colonies, but more particularly because it was in direct conflict with the rights of Marylanders under their charter (pp. 206, 211). This letter is discussed more fully elsewhere, but should be read to appreciate the arguments advanced (pp. 206-211, xlvi-xliii). The house at the close of the session delegated its authority in Stamp Act matters to a committee of five members, who were to keep in touch with Garth as to the progress of events and who were to report to the next Assembly (p. 257).

The bitterness which at recent assemblies had characterized the relations between the two houses had been absent in a remarkable degree at the November-December session until consideration of the Journal of Accounts, which carried the appropriations for the expenses of the government, now over ten years in arrears, came before them. The Committee on Accounts, which had charge of the preparation of the Journal and had been appointed by the Lower House on the second day of the session, was also ordered to incorporate in its report to the house a statement of the expenses attending sittings of the Assembly since 1756 (p. 172). The Journal was introduced in the house on