

session of the General Assembly, it urged "completing the government house so far as is necessary to make it fit for the reception of his excellency the governor."

At the next session it was ordered that the work on the governor's house be completed under his direction.¹²

Thereafter, beginning as early as 1791, the General Assembly was periodically asked to provide money for repairs and alterations, and the funds involved became more important as the years went by and the house became more ancient.¹³ An offer to contribute to the beauty of the house by a private citizen was rejected by the General Assembly in 1792. Patrick McGuire asked permission to plant a white thorn hedge around the government garden. No explanation of the refusal of the Legislature is found in the records.¹⁴

The circumstances surrounding the purchase of the Governor's Mansion by the Navy are interesting. During the War Between the States the Naval Academy was moved to Newport, Rhode Island, and the Academy buildings were used as a Union hospital.¹⁵ When the war was over, there was a good deal of opposition to the return of the Academy to Annapolis, "under a resolution passed on motion of General Schenck, instructing the committee on naval affairs to 'inquire into the propriety of the immediate removal of the United States Naval Academy, from its present location in the State of Maryland, to some point in a loyal State, where the pupils will be secure against the surrounding political influences, hostile to the national government, which now prevails at Annapolis.'" ¹⁶

The Naval Committee reported adversely to Annapolis, and a debate followed on the floor of the House. The advocates of Annapolis were General Phelps and Governor Thomas, and they carried the day.

No sooner had the Academy been authorized to return than there was another threat to remove it. There has been preserved an exchange of letters between Governors Bradford and Swann, and Senators Johnson and Blair which are worth quoting in their entirety because they illustrate the chronic difficulty which the Naval Academy has experienced in acquiring land in Annapolis.

His Excellency, Govr. Bradford,
Annapolis

Senate Chamber
5 Decr. '65.

Private.

My dear Sir:

The Secretary of the Navy, will, I learn, recommend the removal of the Naval School from Annapolis and the President will approve of it.

¹² *Journal of the Lower House*, April Session, 1787, p. 184.

¹³ *Journal of the Lower House*, November Session, 1791, p. 75.

¹⁴ *Journal of the Lower House*, November Session, 1792, pp. 30, 42.

¹⁵ Soley, *op. cit.*, pp. 132-134.

¹⁶ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Maryland*, Baltimore, 1879, III, p. 694.