

supplies the Assembly continued to tax the estates of the Proprietaries. This called forth renewed opposition from the latter, and the people became so highly incensed that steps were taken to do away with the Proprietary government. It was determined to petition the Crown to purchase the province from the Proprietors and make it a Crown colony. Franklin was again appointed the provincial agent to convey the petition and urge the measure before the Ministry in London. With that object in view he sailed for England, November, 1764. The rupture with Great Britain, however, culminating the next year in the Stamp Act, soon subordinated all other questions, and Franklin exercised an influence little anticipated, becoming not merely the agent of his own province, Pennsylvania, but really the representative and defender of all the colonies.

Though Maryland did not go so far as Pennsylvania, and indeed had little occasion to, yet the applause given to the acts of her sister province indicates that very little interference would have been sufficient to drive her to a similar step.

Down to this time there had been no desire on the part of the colonies for union or independence of England, and there was no concerted action before 1765 for such a purpose. The colonies were at variance in their government and the long distances between centers of population had prevented much intercommunication. All unity of action was merely sympathetic cooperation for defense. Indeed, the colonies had no grievances against the English Crown except the Navigation Acts. Maryland, in fact, did not come into contact with the Crown, for the latter had no taxing power over the province. The provincials were so pleased with the overlordship of the Crown that they made the mistake of supposing that Maryland would be better off as a Royal colony than as a Proprietary colony. The Assembly's reception of the report of Maryland's two commissioners to the Albany Convention was significant: "We do not conceive those Gentlemen were