

And afterwards the house attended M<sup>r</sup>. Speaker to present him to his  
the Governour where M<sup>r</sup>. Speaker was pleased to make a short Excusatory  
Speech disabling himself by reason of some Imperfections humbly —  
desired his Excellency to direct the House to make choice of some more able  
and sufficient member of that house to serve in that Station to which his  
Excellency replied that he very well approved of the House's Choice for which  
he returned his Excellency humble thanks for thinking him worthy for the  
Execution of a place of so great charge & trust promising him to use his utmost  
and savour Care and diligence therein and so offered unto him in the Name  
and on the behalfs of the whole House of Assembly that they might have their  
accustomed and usual priviledges Access to his person upon all urgent Occasions  
and free Liberty of Speech Which was granted and then his Excellency was  
pleased to say to them as followeth. —

M<sup>r</sup>. Speaker & you Gents. Delegates. —

Your now meeting at this late and unreasonable time of the Year —  
proves your utmost Diligency in the dispatch of the necessary Affairs  
now to be laid before you, the late melancholly Accident might have  
been prevented had my often Admonitions took place for never saw  
any publick Buildings left solely to providence but in Maryland, I  
hope this sad Experiment will awake your care for times to come & in  
the Interim your best considerations to secure the Laws, and Records of  
your Country for the Advantage and Quiet of future Generations,  
What is proper to be done in rebuilding your State House soe very  
necessary for the Accommodation of the publick I leave intirely to  
your owne serious Debates and Decision for I have no other Aim then  
the true Interest and Service of your Country and shall be  
heartily sorry to finde any here soe farre mistaken to imagine the  
East will can be separate from that of the Crowne of England since I have  
Given you the strictest Assurance of my constant Resolucion to your  
welfare I have the Honour to Command here w<sup>th</sup> a most tender  
regard to her Majestys honour and Service using my best endeavour  
to Advance the prosperity & reputation of this Province I can never  
Doubt but my Integrity in your Service has been sufficiently Evident  
By some tryall Since my Administration. as you Heartily owned  
thanks the last Session Therefore avoiding all heat and Misconstruct-  
ion. I hope you will with us and her Majestys Honble Councill most  
heartily Apply your selves to the present exigency of your Country  
As and which will be most acceptable to her Majestys  
Greatfull