

now assembled for as I have ever preferred the good of the County to my own private interest so I am fully determined to continue in the same resolution - Gent. I have it in Command from the Prop<sup>r</sup> to acquaint you that he has not dissented to the Law for lessening the Officers fees, believing you yourselves will (as the Multiplicity of business increases) think fit to put it upon the former Establishment - as to the late Tob<sup>o</sup> Law I cannot say whether His Lordships has or has not assented to it but daily expect orders from England relating thereto and in the mean while was ever may be thought on, for the health good and satisfaction of the people shall heartily concur in -

Our Militia in my Opinion deserves consideration for altho' we are at perfect peace with the Indians, and our neighbouring Colonies have happily concluded their treaties w<sup>th</sup> them yet a well disciplined Militia is a Grace to a County and necessary upon any Emergency - It was proposed to the Lower House in the late Assembly that every Capt. should have the power of levying the fine on those under his Command who absented themselves from the Musters w<sup>ch</sup> would be a means to keep the Militia in good Order, but as the Lower House would not consent to it I could not think of making any step without their concurrence for I shall ever think it a duty incumbent on me in matters that concern the generall welfare of the people to rely on both Houses therefore I recommended this to your consideration - The practice of running Tob<sup>o</sup> over Patowmack into Virginia (thereby depriving the proprietor of the County of their Just dues) deserves some care to prevent the same for the future - I putten I have nothing more to say before you but the dispatch of the publick Affairs thereby putting the County to the least Expence in w<sup>ch</sup> you will effectually convince those you represent that they have made a happy choice -

Cha: Calvert

M<sup>r</sup> Speaker and the rest of the members return to their own House where M<sup>r</sup> Speaker resumes the Chair and reports what His Hon<sup>r</sup> the Governour had before said -

Then the House proceeds to the choice of a Clerk - Mich<sup>l</sup> Benifer is Unanimously chosen as Clerk - Ordered that John Beale Esq<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>r</sup> Thom<sup>s</sup> Gant go to the upper House to present the said Mich<sup>l</sup> for His Hon<sup>r</sup> the Governour's approbation and to see him qualified - They return and say they see him qualified, by taking the severall Oaths appointed by acts of Assembly, and subscribing the test - Afterwards the said Mich<sup>l</sup> is in the House before the Scrivener James Stoddart Esq<sup>r</sup> one of the Justices of the Provinciae Court and a member of this House took the following Oath of Clerk Viz<sup>t</sup>