

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 1773.

The Members of the Lower House went to the Upper House. His Excellency required them to return to the Lower House and choose a Speaker.

They returned, and unanimously made Choice of Mr. *Matthew Tilghman*, a Delegate returned for *Talbot County*, to be their Speaker, and placed him in the Chair.

Mr. *John Hall* and Mr. *Pace* were sent to acquaint his Excellency, that this House hath made choice of a Speaker.

George Stuart and *William Fitzbugh*, Esqrs. from the Upper House, acquaint the Members of this House, that the Governor requires their Attendance in the Upper House to present their Speaker.

The Members of the Lower House went to the Upper House, and presented to the Governor Mr. *Matthew Tilghman* as their Speaker.

His Excellency approved the Choice, and made the following Speech, viz.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,

I AM apprehensive that the Meeting of the General Assembly at this Time, may be rather inconvenient to your private Affairs, though after the unusual Length of your recess occasioned by the Death of our late Lord Proprietary, and the peculiar State of this Province, in consequence of that Event, you may perhaps deem it expedient to embrace this Opportunity of enacting such Laws, as may promote the general Welfare. I have already communicated (in publishing my Commission and issuing the Writs of Election for this Assembly) the Succession of Mr. *Halsford* to the Proprietaryship of this Province; I have the Honour to be continued Governor thereof, with his Majesty's most gracious Approbation of my Conduct heretofore, which I shall be supremely happy in meriting a Continuance of, as well as of the Confidence reposed in me by my Re-appointment; and you may be assured, Gentlemen, that it will ever be, as it always has been, my Wish and Endeavour, to promote the general Good of *Maryland*, in which I am well assured, I shall be assisted by the Concurrence, not only of the new Proprietary, but also of the Guardians of his Minority.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Lower House,

If the Inconvenience of this Season be such, as that a Meeting at another, would be more agreeable to you, I will, upon being informed of your Inclinations, prorogue this Assembly to a Time more convenient to your private Affairs; but should you think proper to enter upon, and proceed in, a general Course of Business, I shall with the greatest Pleasure attend the Duties of my Department, and most cheerfully concur with you, Gentlemen of both Houses, in establishing such Acts of Assembly, as may be conducive to the public Utility.

Mr. Speaker, with the rest of the Members, returned to the Lower House. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The House proceeded to choose a Clerk, and unanimously made Choice of Mr. *John Duckett* as their Clerk.

ORDERED, That Mr. *Key* and Mr. *Hammond* do acquaint his Excellency, that this House hath made Choice of Mr. *John Duckett* to be their Clerk, and desire his Excellency's Approbation.

They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the Message, and that his Excellency signified his Approbation.

ORDERED, That Mr. *Thomas* and Mr. *Turbutt Wright* do go with Mr. *Duckett* to the Upper House, to see him qualified as Clerk of this House.

They return, and acquaint Mr. Speaker, they saw him take the several Oaths to the Governor, sign the Oath of Abjuration, repeat and sign the Test, and take the following Oath of Office, viz. "You *John Duckett* do swear, that as Clerk of the Lower House of Assembly, you shall true Entries make, of all such Matters and Things, as by the Honourable Speaker, for the Time being, and that House, shall be to you directed; The Secrets of the said House you shall not divulge, to the Prejudice of the House, or any Member thereof; but shall in all Things, as Clerk to the said House, well and truly demean yourself according to the best of your Knowledge. So help you GOD."

ORDERED, That his Excellency's Speech, a Copy of which having been delivered to Mr. Speaker, be read; and it was read accordingly.

The House being informed that Mr. *Judas Beall*, a Delegate returned for *Prince-George's County*, was attending; ORDERED, That Mr. *Sim* and Mr. *Coutee* do go with that Gentleman to the Upper House to see him qualified. They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker they saw him qualified in the usual Manner. The Gentleman took his Seat in the House.

The House appointed Mr. *Allen Quynn* Serjeant at Arms, and Mr. *Robert Reynolds* Door-keeper

ORDERED, That they be qualified.

The House adjourns till To-morrow Morning 9 o'Clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, June 16, 1773.

THE House met. All Members present as on Yesterday. The Proceedings of Yesterday were read.

The House being informed that Mr. *William Ward*, a Delegate returned for *Cecil County*, was attending; ORDERED, That Mr. *Wootton* and Mr. *Thomas* do go with that Gentleman to the Upper House to see him qualified. They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker they saw him qualified in the usual Manner. The Gentleman took his Seat in the House.

RESOLVED,