

and recommending the choice of some gentleman, whom the House might judge more properly qualified to fill it.

Little reply was made to this address, and the House adjourned till the afternoon, when the subject was again taken up:

Mr. Chase being pressed to propose some other gentleman, he named Mr. P. Key, a member for Saint-Mary's County; and Mr. Thomas Cockey Deye, the former of whom was afterwards elected, he being called for, when the numbers appeared, Mr. Deye was led to the chair in the usual manner, and the House proceeded to business.

The number of members who appeared in the House that day amounted to fifty-three, a much greater number than usual at the commencement of a session.

This extraordinary attention was thought to be occasioned by a resolve of the preceding session appointing an early day of this for bringing forward a bill for the support of the clergy, which had been published for the consideration of the people, and on which their representatives were desirous of deciding.

It might likewise have been owing in some degree to the very just censures formerly passed on many of the members for the neglect of so material a part of their duty.

As there were not a sufficient number of members to compose a Senate, the election of a Governor was unavoidably postponed beyond the time fixed by the constitution.

This circumstance, however, did not seem to create any considerable uneasiness, as a similar omission had taken place the last four years without any apparent inconvenience.

It is curious to observe how far the greatest innovations and most terrifying events may be rendered familiar by custom.

The first breach of this part of our constitution was made in the year 1781, supposed to have been occasioned by the inclemency of the weather at the time the Assembly should have met. A number of the members were pressing with all their might to get into Annapolis time enough to form an Assembly in the evening—but their endeavours were fruitless—they could not make up a sufficient number, and the constitution was thought by many to have fallen in consequence of it. Whether this opinion was well or ill founded, it might be difficult to deter-