

Maryland ss:

Porte of Annapolis March the 10th 1697/8.

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Whereas the Generall Assembly of this province according to his Maty^s writte of Election, directed to the Severall and respective Sherrifes of the Severall Countys to sumon and call together the freeholders and Inhabitants of the said Countyes to elect and choose Delegates or Representatives for their Severall Countyes, as also to the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the City of S^t Mary's and the freemen of the said city to elect and choose two citizens for to serve for the said City, which said Writts bear date and were Issued the 11th day of Ian^{ry} in the in the ninth year of his Maty^s reigne &c Annq: dmi 1697 could not possibly be convened and mett together att the porte of Annapolis upon the 23^d day of ffeb^{ry} 1697/8 as by the said writts of Election was appointed his Ex^{cy} the Gov^r with advise of the Gentlemen of his Maty^s hon^{ble} Council did by his Maty^s writt of prorogation bearing date the 23^d day of ffeb^{ry} 1697/8 prorogue, deferr and put off the said meeting of the Generall Assembly which to have been on the 23^d day of Ffeb^{ry} aforesaid untill the 8th day of March ensuing att which said 8th day of march severall Gen^t being elected, to serve for their Severall countyes as also for the City of S^t Maryes did according to the prorogation a^d meet in the State house in this porte, but for as much as they did not conceive themselves as then a sufficient number to proceed to business or choose a Speaker, none of the Gen^t elected for the Severall countyes on the Eastern Shoar of the province appearing in the house or being then arrived, they sygnifyed their resolution to his Ex^{cy} the Gov^r Whereupon he was pleased by his Maty^s other writt of prorogation dated the 8th Ins^t further to prorogue them untill the 10th day ensuing att which time it was hoped that all or most of the Gen^t on the Eastern shoar being arrived (to witt of Talbott, Kent, and Cæcill Countyes the Severall Gen^t Elected according to the prorogation last mentioned did assemble themselves together in the State house and having made his Ex^{cy} the Gov^r acquainted therewith he commanded them having taken the oaths, by law appointed and subscribed the Test to Elect and choose their Speaker.

Whereupon they Elected and choose the hon^{ble} Major Thomas Smithson Speaker of the house, and accordingly