

U. H. J.
Liber No. 34

The Lower House attend and his Excellency orders them to return to their House and make Choice of a Speaker

Mess^{rs} Stoughton and Dashiell from the Lower House acquaint his Excellency their House hath made Choice of a Speaker

Edmund Jenings Esq^r and Col^o Hammond are sent to the Lower House to inform them his Excellency requires their Attendance in the Upper House to present their Speaker for his Approbation

The whole House attend and present Col^o Edward Sprigg as their Speaker with which Choice his Excellency declares himself well pleased whereupon his Excellency makes the following Speech
Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly

It is much against my Inclination that I am obliged to meet you at this early season but as the Safety of his Majestys Subjects in this and the Neighbouring Provinces is the Motive I am perswaded You will chearfully submit to some little Inconveniences for the Publick good

In a Letter I have received from M^r Clinton the Governor of New York he represents in strong Terms that the Sollicitations and Arts practised by Our Enemies the French and their Jessuitical Emissaries have rendered the fidelity of the Six Nations of Indians greatly to be suspected and that there is too much Reason to apprehend that they will be seduced and drawn of from Our Alliance unless speedy and proper Methods be taken to prevent it

p. 103 This is the Purport of M^r Clintons Letter and I think it incumbent on me particularly to recommend this Affair to your serious Consideration. It is a matter which as it offers you an Opportunity of shewing Your Care for the Publick Safety so it gives You an Opportunity of Manifesting your Duty and Zeal for his Majestys Person and Service, an Occasion the more gladly to be embraced at this time as We are not Yet informed of the Issue of that unnatural and wicked Rebellion broke out in Great Britain in favour of a Popish Pretender

I cannot help adding those poor Indians have at all times, if We duly Consider their Circumstances a Claim to Our Compassion and Assistance but in our present scituation when their Friendship is of great Importance to us, It would be highly impolitick to leave them to be seduced by our Enemies who will not fail of applying to their Necessities which as they gave us the first Opportunity of relieving I doubt not You will come to such a Resolution as will contribute to secure the Fidelity of these People and disappoint the Schemes of an Enemy ambitious of making all Mankind as mere slaves as themselves

Mr. Clintons Letter will be laid before You

Mess^{rs} Lloyd and Harrison from the Lower House acquaint his Excellency that their House hath made Choice of M^r William