

concurr'd therein, that the said Major Smithson was a person every way
capable of that employ^{mt} and therefore told him that he could not
excuse him.

Then Mr. Speaker on behalfe of the house, desired His Ex^{ty} that the
Liberty and priviledges of the house might be certifi'd and allowed them
by His Ex^{ty} and that he might have free access to His Ex^{ty} person upon all
occasions requiring the same, which His Ex^{ty} was pleas'd to assure them
of for which Mr. Speaker in the name of them all gave His Ex^{ty} the
heartie thanks of the house.

After which His Ex^{ty} was pleas'd to order a gown to be given to
Mr. Speaker wherein he was immediately invest'd.

Also His Ex^{ty} gave to Mr. Speaker a small Mace which he told
him he might make use and deliver to the person that should be
appointed to attend this house, in the nature of Serj^t attorn^{rs}, who by
bearing the same should have authority to take such persons and bring
them before Mr. Speaker and the house, as Mr. Speaker and the house
should direct him.

Then was His Ex^{ty} pleas'd to signify to the house the reason of their
being now call'd together, bespeaking them as followeth.

Hon^{ble} Gentlemen,

God Almighty having been pleas'd by His Maty^{ties}
Unimitable Valour and Conduct to restore an honor^{ble} peace to His own Kingdoms
and Dominions as well as to His Confederates. I think we are in all
duty bound to keep us Solenⁿ a Day of thanksgiving in this His Maty^{ties}
Province as we are Capable of, concerning which I do not in the least
doubt that you agree with me as also in signing a most dutyfull and Loyall
address to His most Gracious Maty upon this happy occasion.

And I judge this a proper tyme to have read to you then Ex^{ty} the
Lords Justices Proclamation for publishing the peace betwix His Maty^{ties}
and the French King with the severall Articles thereof. As also the
R^{ts} Hon^{ble} the Lords Com^{rs} for Trade and Plantations there letters to me
concerning the said Proclamation, which being read His Excellency
further added—

Mr. Speaker I here give you His Maty^{ties} most gracious Speech
to both houses of Parliam^{ts} on Friday the third of December 1697, and by
the latter part of it you will see how extraordinary happy all of us are
who have the good fortune of being Subjects to so gr^{ate} a King.

Sent^{ly} His Maty^{ties} Royall Comission and Instructions to me I
have endeavour'd (according to my duty) to follow, and pursuant to
some of them by the advice and consent of His Maty^{ties} hon^{ble} Councille
and the late house of delegates I have already on His Maty^{ties} behalfe
pass'd severall Laws and Ordinances and I hope (that by the Divine