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alleging that Major Thomas Small who is Elect one of the Representatives for that County upon his Journey thither was taken very ill and rendered unable to come thither - he is therefore Excused.

Resolved the following Message be sent to the Governour.

By the house of Delegates March 12th 1697.
May it please Your Excellency

It having fallen under the Consideration of this House whether it were Convenient and Consonant to the Rules and Methods of Parliament and Assemblies that your Exc^y should be present here whilst the house is sitting. We have Resolved that the same as it hath not heretofore been usuall so it ought not now to be practicable, therefore humbly desire that when your Exc^y pleases to confer with this house you will order us to attend you at the Council Chamber it being more for the Grandeur and Honour of the Kings Government, that we should there attend your Exc^y; then that you should give yourself the trouble to come down to us.

We are with all dutifull respect Your Exc^y. Most humble Serv^{ts}

Signed & Ord^d W. Bladen Cl^k. House of De^l.

Sent by Capt. Manglop, Major Lowe, Maj. Thomas Smith, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Seech, Capt. Hoskins, Mr. Feun, Mr. Silghman, Mr. Campbell, Cavill and Mr. Wright, who returned to the house and say they have delivered their Message.

Several papers relating to the Acts of Trade and Navigation as also a Commission to Administer an Oath to His Exc^y the Gov^r for the increase of Shipping and Navigation, read in the House.

The house adjourned till 7 of the Clock on (Monday) Morning.

Monday March 14th 1697.

House met, and being called over, was absent Mr. James Crauford.

Ordered that there be two Journalls kept of the proceedings of this house, And that the Clarke employ an assistant.

Resolved that the following Oath of Clark of the House be administered to William Bladen the present Clark.

You W. Bladen as Clark of the House of Delegates do swear that according to the best of your Skill and Knowledge you will well and faithfully Execute your said Office and keep a fair Journall of the Houses proceedings and returne the same into the Secretarys Office without any alteration, and that you shall not divulge or disclose the secrets of the house to any person whatsoever. So helps you God.

Mr. William Harris and Mr. John Hall Gent. to the hon^{ble} the Chancell^r along with the Clark to have them Sworne.

Who returned to the House and Reporte, that they saw the above Oath administered unto him which he took.