

(And afterwards the House attended Mr Speaker to present him to his Excellency, the Governor, where Mr Speaker was pleased to make a short accusatory Speech, disabling himself by Reason of some Imperfections humbly desired his Excellency to direct the House to make Choice of some more able and sufficient Member of that House to serve in that Station. To which his Excellency replied that he very well approved of the House's Choice. For which he returned his Excellency humble Thanks for thinking him worthy for the Execution of a Place of so great Charge & Trust, promising him to use his utmost Endeavour Care and Diligence therein, and so offered unto him in the Name, and on the Behalf of the whole House of Assembly, that they might have their accustomed and usual Privileges, Access to his Person, upon all urgent Occasions, and free Liberty of Speech; which was granted, and then his Excellency was pleased to say to them as followeth.

Mr Speaker, & you Gent. Delegates, Your now Meeting at this late and unreasonable Time of the Year, inspires your utmost Solicitudity in the Dispatch of the necessary Affairs now to be laid before you; the late melancholy Accident might have been prevented had my often Remonitions took Place, for I never saw any publick Buildings left solely to Providence but in Maryland, I hope this sad Experiment will awaken your Care for Time to come & in the Interim your best Considerations to secure the Laws and Records of your Country for the Advantage and Quiet of future Generations. What is proper to be done in rebuilding your Stadt-House so very necessary for the Accommodation of the Public I leave entirely to your own serious Debates and Decision for I have no other Aim than the true Interest and Service of your Country and shall be heartily sorry to find any here so far ^{mistaken} to imagine in the least it can be separate from that of the Crown of England. Since I have given you the strictest Assurance of my constant Resolution to govern whilst I have the Honour to command here with a most tender Regard to her Majesty's Honour and Service, using my best Endeavours to advance the Prosperity & Reputation of this Province I can never doubt but my Integrity in your Service has been sufficiently evident by some Trial since my Administration as you hand somely noticed with Thanks the last Session. Therefore avoiding all Heats and Misconstructions I hope you will with me and her Majesty's Honble Council most heartily apply yourselves to the present Affairs your Country now lies under which will be most acceptable to her Majesty and very grateful to myself for when you do truly well for yourselves all Men will applaud your Judgments.

Gentlemen, The Account of ^{our} the Indians giving us a late Disturbance shall be laid before you which really requires ^(you)