

that Honourable House to take a Review of themselves, and to fix their Choice upon some other One among them, who may be better able to discharge the Duties of their Speaker, as well as be much more Worthy of your Approbation.

To which his Excellency was pleased to Reply, That he could not but Commend the Conduct of the House, and Approve of him as Speaker.

When afterwards Mr. Speaker proceeded in the following manner ;

Sir, As it is your Excellency's Pleasure to Confirm their Choice, it is now become my Duty to Accept the Office ; and in the Discharge thereof I shall endeavour to approve myself an equal Freeman ; Zealous in the Interest of the Lord Proprietary, as well as in that of my dearest Country.

I am now on behalf of that Honourable House which placed me here, to Require the free Use of all those their accustomed Rights and Privileges, as they hitherto have, and as they ought to be Enjoyed in Assembly : All Freedom as to our Persons, All Freedom of Speech, and a Free and Easy Access to your Excellency's Person in all Cases of Importance that may require it.

I shall Trespass upon your Patience, Sir, but for one Moment longer, while I observe,

That I take it to be a fact universally allowed, that there never was a Legislature of this Province, if considered in every it's distinct and several Branches, composed of more able and more eminent Members than is the present, and that no Assembly of this Province was ever called together at a juncture that required the utmost Exertion of such extraordinary Qualifications more than does the present, That never more was Expected from a Session of Assembly, or ever did the Publick Affairs of the Province much more require somewhat to be done, in order to Heal the Differences and Reconcile the Farring Interests of the Lord Proprietary and his faithful Tenants. May then, Sir, a happy Event result from all our Consultations, May the Effects of our Proceedings every way answer the great Occasion, and the great End of our being called together, May they contribute, greatly contribute, Sir, to the Honour of his Lordship, the Satisfaction of your Excellency, and the Peace and Well-being of the People of Maryland.

The Governor made the following Speech :

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,

I Proposed to have deferred calling you together for some time in hopes of an Opportunity of laying before you an Answer from our Lord Proprietor to the Address of the Lower House Ordered to be presented to