

sworn Clerk of the House of Delegates: Who return and say, that they did present Mr. Gregory to the House to have him sworn, and that the House did accept of and approve him; but refuse to swear him, unless he took also an Oath of Secrecy, which they say is usual.

Message from the House of Delegates, by Mr. Simon Wilmer and Mr. Thomas Halsey, who say, That the House desire such Oath of Secrecy may be administered to their Clerk.

His Excellency observes to the House, their insisting to have the Clerk of their House sworn to Secrecy, tells them that he does not understand what they mean thereby.

Then came from the House of Delegates Mr. William Hutchinson and Capt. Philip Hokeins, and desire that Mr. Gregory might be sworn Clerk of their House; and accordingly Mr. Gregory was sworn.

In April Assembly, 1700, came from the House Col. John Thompson, Lieutenant-col. Thomas Smith, Mr. Richard Tilghman, and Mr. John Wight, who acquaint his Excellency that the House is met according to Proclamation of Prorogation to this Day, and desire his Excellency will be pleased to appoint them a Clerk: Whereupon the following Message was sent to the House, By the Honourable Col Henry Joules and Thomas Teach, Esq;

By his Excellency the Governor and Council in Assembly, April 26, 1700.

Gentlemen,

Understanding by your verbal Message by Major Thomas Smith, and three others of your Members, that your House is met according to Proclamation of Prorogation to this Day, and that you desire a Clerk to be appointed you; his Excellency is pleased to leave it to your House to nominate such Clerk, and present him to him for his Approbation, no one having as yet addressed his Excellency for that Office.

Signed per Order, William Bladen, Cl. Gen.

Came Capt. Richard Hill, Mr. James Saunders, and four other Members; who return the Thanks of the House to his Excellency for his great condescension, and acquaint him that the House are very desirous to have Mr. William Taylard, one of their Members, to be their Clerk, if his Excellency be pleased to assent thereto.

In Answer to which, was sent by Col. Charles Hutchins and Col. John Addison; viz.

By his Excellency the Governor and Council in Assembly, April 26, 1700.

Since the House have offered Mr. William Taylard to be their Clerk, his Excellency is pleased to say that he does approve of him, to be a fit and qualified Person for the Execution of that Office; and if the House will dispense with his Service in regard of his being one of their Members, he is willing to commissionate him.

Signed per Order, William Bladen, Cl. Gen.

Then came Mr. William Hutchinson, with four more of the Delegates, and say, the House return their hearty Thanks to his Excellency for his condescension, and signify the House's Willingness to dispense with the Service of their Member; and intreat his Excellency to commissionate him to be their Clerk.

Mr. William Taylard sworn Clerk of the House of Delegates, took the Oaths, subscribed the Test and Association.

In May Assembly, 1701, came Mr. Samuel Young and Mr. George Muschamp from the House, who present Mr. William Taylard to his Excellency, desiring he may be commissionated Clerk of their House; which his Excellency is pleased to approve of. And accordingly the same Mr. Taylard took the Oaths appointed by Act of Parliament, instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, and the Oath of Clerk of the House of Delegates; likewise subscribed the Test and Association.

In September Assembly, 1704, Lieutenant col. James Maxwell and Major Greenbury come with Mr. William Taylard, whom they present to his Excellency from the House, as chosen to be their Clerk.

His Excellency was pleased to admit thereof, and accordingly Mr. Taylard was sworn, in Presence of the said Members.

In September Assembly, 1708, came from the Lower House Mr. Wornall Hunt and Mr. Matthias Vanderheyden, together with Mr. Richard Dallam; and Mr. Hunt says, that their House made choice of Mr. Richard Dallam to be their Clerk, humbly praying that his Excellency and this Honourable Board will be pleased to swear and admit him as such: To whom his Excellency was pleased to say, that he would consider further of it.

Kenelm Cheseldyne, Esq; was sent to acquaint the House of Delegates, that his Excellency and this Board would have their Message relating to Mr. Dallam reduced into Writing.

Mr. Hunt and Mr. Vanderheyden enter the Council, and deliver in Writing to his Excellency the following Message; viz.

By the House of Delegates, September 28, 1708.

This House humbly recommend Richard Dallam to his Excellency, for his Approbation, to be their Clerk.

To his Excellency the Governor, and the Hon.

Thomas Smithson, Speaker.

her Majesty's Council, in Assembly.

In Answer whereunto, the following Message, sent by Kenelm Cheseldyne, Esq;

By his Excellency the Governor and Council in Assembly, September 28, 1708.

Mr. Speaker,

'Tho' we are well satisfied it is her Majesty's Prerogative to appoint proper Officers to attend the Assembly, and that you have no Right to the Election of any but what shall be approved of by this Board; we are willing, rather than the Country's Business should be delayed, to admit of the Clerk nominated by you pro hac vice (salvo jure), but resent it, that you rejected the Clerk appointed by his Excellency, without giving any Reason.

Signed per Order, Evan Jones, Cl. Coun.

Col. Good and Capt. Franklin, from the House, enter the Council, and deliver his Excellency the following Message:

By the House of Delegates, September 28, 1708.

This House humbly thank his Excellency, for his favourable condescension in approving of the Clerk by us recommended; and desire he may be qualified, by taking the usual Oaths.

To his Excellency the Governor, and the Hon.

Thomas Smithson, Speaker,

her Majesty's Council, in Assembly.

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