

L. H. J. M^r Denton appeared this day

p. 277 The following Letter from the Honourable Speaker was communicated to the present members

To the Honourable House of Delegates for the Province of Maryland Gentlemen

The Indisposition of my Son increasing I am under the necessity of withdrawing myself from the Service of the Publick

My Attendance the whole Session has been very Fatiguing, but that I would still have chearfully undergone could it be any longer done with Safety and I assure You that nothing less than the Present Melancholy Occasion where the Life of my Child is so nearly concerned, should have induced me to it As Your Regard and Indulgence to me hath been very particular upon many Occasions for which I now make my last Acknowledgments so I have no doubt of finding your favourable Excuse in this my Case of necessity: and it is therefore that I presume humbly to intreat you to proceed to the Choice of another Speaker in the Place of him who is

Your Honours Most Obedient Servant

Phil: Hammond

Thursday Morning

Col^o Hanson and Major Sprigg went to Acquaint the Governor that M^r Speaker could not attend the Public Service

Col^o Hammond from the Upper House acquaints the Members of this House the Governor requires their Attendance in the Upper House immediately

The Gentlemen of the Lower House went to attend his Excellency who desired them to return to their House and make Choice of a Speaker

They return and unanimously make Choice of Col^o Robert King to be their Speaker and placed him in the Chair

Mess^{rs} Smith and Hanson sent to acquaint the Governor this House hath made Choice of a Speaker

James Holliday Esq^r from the Upper House acquaints the Members of this House that the Governor desires them to Present their Speaker Thereupon the Gentlemen of the Lower House went to the Upper House and presented to the Speaker Col^o Robert King as their Speaker

The Governor approved the Choice

M^r Speaker and the other Members returned

M^r Speaker resumed the Chair

An Ingrossed Bill entitled An Act for the Relief of John Blandford and Hannah Ratcliffe Read and Assented to.

The Bill entitled An Act investing Archibald Douglas of Cecil County Son and Heir of William and Mary Douglas deceased &c^a was Read the second time & will Pass