

Maryland

At a Session of Assembly

held at the City of Annapolis in Ann Arundel County on Monday the 27th Day of September in the seventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Ann Queen of Great Britain France and Ireland and the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging by Virtue of her Majesty's Writs of Election directed to the several and respective Sheriffs of the several Counties requiring them to summon and call together the Freeholders and Inhabitants of each County and to elect and choofe four Deputies and Delegates to serve as Representatives for their several Counties and to the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis and St. Mary's to elect and choofe two Citizens to serve for each City in this present General Assembly. Which said Writs bear Date 16th Day of August last past returnable to this Day At which Time were assembled in the Great House several Members who having acquainted his Excellency the Gov^r of their Meeting, were by him sent for to the Council Chamber, whereupon they withdrew and his Excellency commands them to make Return to their House and make choice of their Speaker and present him. Whereupon they returned and elected and chose J^{ts} Thomas Smithson to be their Speaker and place him in the Chair and then go and present him accordingly to his Excellency for his Approbation who acquaints them that he approves of their choice and wills him to take upon him the same: then Mr. Speaker on Behalf of the House desires by his Excellency that the Liberties and Privileges of the House might be ratified and allowed by his Excellency and that he may have free Access to his Excellency: Person on all Occasions requiring the same. Which his Excellency was pleased to assure 'em of for which Mr. Speaker in the Name of the whole House returned his Excellency their hearty Thanks. After which his Excellency was pleased to signify to the House the Reason of their being now called together by bespeaking them as followeth

Wth Speaker and you Gentlemen Delegates,

I cannot believe but every Person here present is well satisfied, my Consideration of the many severe Difficulties the poor Province labours under was the only true Reason I did not call an Assembly sooner being desirous to demonstrate to you Gentlemen and our Friends in Europe I have endeavoured to be as careful a Steward of the Country's Money as I have been on all Occasions assiduous to approve myself an honest Governor and a real well wishing Protector of your Interest nor did I design to trouble you till the Spring purely on that Account had not her Sacred Majesty's Commands lately directed me to lay several Things before you Give me Leave Gentlemen therefore to rank them distinctly for your more serious mature Consideration not doubting but with loyal honest Hearts you will handsomely digest and comply with the just Commands of our Gracious Sovereign the best of Queens and hope you will have such an awful regard to the Lawful Authority of our Monarch thoroughly to weigh what may be the consequences of your disobedience or trifling with her Majesty's Royal Commands.

Gent^l Our great Patern the Parliament of Great Britain to their eternal Honour have denied her nothing to make the Country we depend on great And her Majesty's Reign the most glorious of all other Monarchs, and shall we a poor handful of her remotest Subjects dispute or boggle at what her Majesty thinks reasonable & wisely