

in Chiefe in over this province &^{ca} Came & sent to the house that they should Immediately attend him in Councill. Original
Journal.

Accordingly the sev^rall members of the house came & acquainted his Ex^{cy} that they were mett according to his Ma^{ty}s Writt of Election and prorogation. Whereupon his Ex^{cy} gave Comānd that they should go & choose a speaker, who accordingly repaired to the house, and after some Shortt tyme Returne againe & acquaint his Ex^{cy} that they conceived themselves not sufficient in number to proceede to the choice of a Speaker for that According to the Constitution of this Province they should be the Major part of the house, (to witt) four & Twenty in number p^rsent to make such Choice, which they than not being conceived they could not pursue his Ex^{cys} Directions to choose a Speaker.

They are asked which way they thinke most propper & authenticke for the Deferring the Assembly till an other day who are all of Opinion that the propperest way will be by writt of prorogation which is Ordered accordingly to Issue, and was p^rpared, read & approved of in Councill and afterwards Signd by his Ex^{cy} and passed the broade Seale of the Province.

His [Ex^{cy}] being pleased to absent himselfe and Sev^rall members of the house appearing in Councill the said Writt of prorogation was openly & distinctly read unto them as follows

William the third by the Grace of God of England Scotland, ffrance, & Ireland, King Defender of the ffaith &^{ca} To the members of our privy Councill and house of Delegates for this our province of Maryland greeting Whereas the meeting of the Gen^l Assembly of this province was by our Certain Writt of prorogation (issued the Twenty ffirst day of ffebruary Last past) deferred and putt of untill the Eighth day of march Instant. But for Certain Urgent Causes and considerations, us more Especially moving; We do thinke fitt to ffurther Deferr putt off & prorogue the sitting of the said Assembly untill the Tenth day of this Instant March and the same is hereby prorogued Accordingly, Wherefore you and Every of you are to take due notice and in nowise to faile meeting at this place the said Tenth day of March, appointed, given at the Towne & porte of Annapolis under the broade Seale of our said province this said Eight day of March 1697 and in the Tenth yeare of our Raigne Witness our trusty and well beloved ffrancis Nicholson Esq^r Cap^t Gen^l & Gov^r in Chiefe in & over our said province and Territory of Maryland
ffr. Nicholson