

U. H. J. for their Speaker, with which Choice His Excellency declares himself  
 Liber No. 36 well pleased, and makes the following Speech.  
 June 15

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly.

I am apprehensive that the Meeting of the General Assembly, at this Time may be rather inconvenient to your private Affairs though, after the unusual length of your Recess occasioned by the Death of our late Lord Proprietary, and the peculiar State of this Province in consequence of that Event, you may perhaps deem it expedient to embrace this Opportunity of enacting such Laws as may promote the general Welfare.

I have already communicated (in Publishing my Commission and issuing the Writs of Election for this Assembly,) the Succession of M.<sup>r</sup> Harford to the Proprietaryship of this Province. I have the Honour to be continued Governor thereof, with His Majesty's most gracious Approbation of my Conduct heretofore, which I shall be supremely happy in meriting a Continuance of, as well as of the Confidence reposed in me by my Reappointment; and you may be assured, Gentlemen, that it will ever be, as it always has been my Wish and Endeavour to promote the General Good of Maryland, in which I am well assured I shall be assisted by the Concurrence, not only of the new Proprietary, but also of the Guardians of his Minority.

M.<sup>r</sup> Speaker and Gentlemen of the Lower House.

If the Inconvenience of this Season be such, as that a Meeting at another would be more agreeable to you, I will, upon being informed of your Inclinations, Prorogue this Assembly to a Time more convenient to your private Affairs. But should you think proper to enter upon and proceed in a general Course of Business, I shall with the greatest pleasure attend the Duties of my Department, and most cheerfully concur with you Gentlemen of both Houses in establishing such Acts of Assembly, as may be conducive to the Publick Utility

Mess.<sup>rs</sup> Key and Hammond from the Lower House acquaint His  
 p. 646 Excellency that their House hath made Choice of M.<sup>r</sup> John Duckett for their Clerk, and hope for His Excellency's Approbation, to whom his Excellency is pleased to declare that he approves of their Choice.

Mess.<sup>rs</sup> Nicholas Thomas and Turbutt Wright attend with M.<sup>r</sup> John Duckett Clerk of the Lower House to see him Qualified, who takes the several Oaths to the Government, appointed to be taken by Act of Assembly, and Subscribes the Abjuration and Test, and also takes the following Oath of Office Viz.<sup>t</sup> "You John Duckett do Swear, that as Clerk of the Lower House of Assembly, you shall true Entries make of all such Matters and Things, as by the Honourable Speaker, for the Time being, and that House, shall be to you directed. The Secrets of the said House you shall not divulge, to the Prejudice of the House or any Member thereof; but shall in all