

Original p^resented him to his Ex^{cy} the Gov^r for his approbacōn who
Journal. upon the said Maj^r Smithson disableing himselfe therein
p. 158 their choise upon mature consideracōn and that he himselfe
concurr'd therein, that the said Major Smithson was a person
every way capable of that Imploym^t and therefore told him
that he could not excuse him.

Then M^r Speaker on behalfe of the house, desired his Ex^{cy}
that the Libertys and priviledges of the house might be rati-
fyed and allowed them by his Ex^{cy} and that he might have
free access to his Ex^{cys} person upon all occasions requireing
the Same, which his Ex^{cy} was pleased to assure them of for
which M^r Speaker in the name of them all gave his Ex^{cy} the
hearty thanks of the house.

After which his Ex^{cy} was pleased to order a gown to be
given to M^r Speaker wherein he was imediately invested.

Also his Ex^{cy} gave to M^r Speaker a small mace which he
told him he might make use and deliver to the person that
should be appointed to attend this house, in the nature of
Serg^t att Arms, who by bearing the Same should have
Authority to take such persons and bring them before M^r
Speaker and the house, as M^r Speaker and the house should
direct him.

Then was his Ex^{cy} pleased to sygnify to the house the
reason of their being now called together bespeaking them as
followeth.

Hon^{ble} Gentlemen,

God Almighty having been pleased by his Maty^s unimitable
valour and Conduct to restore an hon^{ble} peace to his own
Kingdoms and Dominions as well as to his Confederates. I
think we are in all duty bound to keep as Solemn a Day of
thanksgiving in this his Maty^s Province as we are capable of,
concerning which I do not in the least doubt but that you
agree with me as also in signing a most dutyfull and Loyall
address to his most sacred Maty upon this happy occasion.

And I Judge this a proper tyme to have read to you their
Ex^{cys} the Lords Justices proclamation for publishing the peace
between his Maty^s and the ffrench King with the severall
Articles thereof. As also the R^t Hon^{ble} the Lords Com^r for
Trade and plantations their letter to me concerning the said
proclamation which being read his Excellency further added.

M^r Speaker I here give you his Maty^s most gracious speech
to both houses of Parliam^t on ffriday the third of December
1697, and by the latter part of it you will see how extraor-
dinary happy all of us are who have the good fortune of
being Subjects to so greate a King.