

U. H. J. Thereupon the said Samuel Skippon took the Several Oaths Appointed by Law and Signed the Oath of Abjuration and Test, and likewise took the Oath for the due Execution of his Office

Col John Mackal and M<sup>r</sup> Robert Tyler Acquaint this House that there is a Sufficient number of their House met to proceed upon Business, and desire to know his Hon<sup>rs</sup> Commands.

Whereupon Col Will<sup>m</sup> Holland is Sent down to the Lower House to acquaint them that his Hon<sup>r</sup> the Governor requires the Speaker and the whole House to attend him immediately in the Council Chamber

The s<sup>d</sup> Col Holland returns & Says he has delivered the said Message

The Speaker and Lower House of Assembly give their Attendance accordingly; upon which occasion his Hon<sup>r</sup> the Governour made the following Speech Viz.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses

It is with the Utmost Regret that I found myself under a necessity of Convening you at this unseasonable Time of the year, but as the occasion is so evident, it Ushers with it a due Apology; for very few of the Tobacco makers can conscientiously comply with the Oaths prescribed in the late Act for meliorating Tobacco w<sup>ch</sup> puts such a Stop to Trade as neither Planter or Merchant is the better by that Law. For if the people will not freight their Tobacco the Consequence to them and the Merchants is too evident to need a Comment; if they Ship without complying with the Law, it may create greater  
p. 3 Trouble to the Courts and Charge to the People than indeed ought to be wished. But as it is allowed, that a Melioration of Quality was and still continues necessary, which is the Chief Design of that Act, I doubt not, but you'll readily Agree that there is a Necessity for an Explanation or Amendment to the Law. For my Part there is nothing that is proper for you to Ask, and me to Grant, but I shall heartily concur in for the Good of Maryland

Inasmuch as through the indispensable necessity of the above occasion you are met; I thought it my Duty to Acq<sup>t</sup> you that our most Gracious Sovereign; in a late Speech to the British Parliament, has taken the low Estate of our Trade into his Princely Consideration, and for our Relief recommended the making of Naval Stores in these parts such Instances of his Paternal and Royal Care of us, must certainly more and more endear him to all his Good Subjects And to Shew our Gratitude to the Best of Kings the least we can do,