

the publick Roads, having proved very ineffectual, let me also beg your peculiar Regard to this Subject; Our Situation for Commerce has many natural Advantages, which will be diminished, or improved, in Proportion to our neglect, or Care, in shortening Distances, and facilitating the Carriage of our Native Produce to Market.

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 54  
Oct. 2  
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Gentlemen of the Lower House

Nothing could be effected at the last Session, in Consequence of his Excellency, the late Lord Botetourt's Letter, soliciting a Contribution towards defraying the necessary Expence, that would attend the Erection and Maintenance of a Light House on Cape Henry. I have, pursuant to the Address of the late Assembly, directed the Naval Officers to furnish me with an Account of the Tonnage, which I shall order to be laid before you, as also a Letter from the Speaker of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, to your Speaker, containing, as I am informed, the like Account of the Tonnage of that Province, and I must now request the Establishment of some fund, for a Service, in which the Trade of Maryland is so much interested.

Gentlemen of both Houses

Be assured of my most chearful Concurrence in every Measure tending to promote the real Interests of this Country; and that I shall deem myself happy, in Proportion to the Prosperity the People of this Province shall derive from my Administration.

M.<sup>r</sup> Speaker (with the rest of the Members) returned to the Lower House

M.<sup>r</sup> Speaker resumed the Chair

The House proceeded to choose a Clerk, and unanimously made Choice of M.<sup>r</sup> John Duckett

Ordered That M.<sup>r</sup> Beall and M.<sup>r</sup> Tyler do acquaint his Excellency that this House hath made Choice of M.<sup>r</sup> John Duckett to be their Clerk, and desire his Excellency's Approbation. They return and acquaint M.<sup>r</sup> Speaker they delivered the Message and that his Excellency signified his Approbation.

Ordered, That M.<sup>r</sup> Contee and M.<sup>r</sup> Wootton do go with M.<sup>r</sup> Duckett to the Upper House to see him qualified as Clerk of this House. They return and acquaint M.<sup>r</sup> Speaker that they saw him take the several Oaths to the Government sign the Oath of Abjuration repeat and sign the Test and take 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 Things, as Clerk to the said House, well and truly demean yourself according to the best of your Knowledge

So help you God"