

A sufficient Number of Members being met to Compose an House of Assembly, Col. *Hanson* and Mr. *Matthews* went to acquaint his Excellency the Governor therewith, and further, that Col. JOHN MACKALL who was Speaker, is Deceased.

Benjamin Tasker and *George Plater*, Esqrs. from the Upper House, acquaint the Members of this House, that his Excellency the Governor requires their Attendance in the Upper House immediately.

The Members of this House went to the Upper House.

The Governor Ordered them to return and make Choice of a Speaker.

The Members return, and unanimously make Choice of Mr. PHILIP HAMMOND to be their Speaker, and Placed him in the Chair.

Col. *Hanson* and Mr. *Matthews*, Ordered to acquaint the Governor, a Speaker for the Lower House of Assembly is Chosen.

Edmund Jennings, Esq; and Col. *Hammond*, from the Upper House, acquaint the Members of this House, that the Governor requires them to Present their chosen Speaker.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

The Members of this House went to the Upper House, and Presented Mr. PHILIP HAMMOND for their Speaker, who declared in the following Words.

May it please your Excellency,

The Honourable the Lower House of Assembly for the Province of Maryland now stand before you, upon an Occasion, which if their Wishes had prevailed, would not have happened.

They see themselves deprived of the Service of an ancient and valuable Member, One who for some time heretofore presided in their Chair, with Honour to Himself and Advantage to the Publick: This they esteem as a real Misfortune; which Misfortune, Sir, I fear will be rendered more general, as they have in Obedience to your Excellency's Direction, proceeded to Choose, and are now about to Present me their Speaker to succeed him.

*I am perswaded that their Candour towards me upon this Occasion, has prevailed with them to over-look my Weakness and Incapacity: For if they had considered my Infirmities whenever they had thought of the nature and importance of the Office, they could not but have discovered me to have been a Person unable to discharge the Duties of it in any tolerable manner. From the just sense therefore that I have of my own Insufficiency, as well as from a regard of that Duty which I owe to my Country, and that the publick Business may not be impeded by any Irregular or Imperfect Execution of that difficult Employment, I find myself under a necessity to intreat your Excellency's kind Intercession with
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