

1754
Dec

A sufficient Number of Delegates to compose a Lower House of Assembly being convened at the Stadt-House, Mr. *William Murdock*, a Delegate returned to serve in this Assembly for *Prince-George's County*, and Mr. *Robert Lloyd*, a Delegate returned for *Queen-Anne's County*, attended on his Excellency the Governor to acquaint him therewith.

George Plater, and *Richard Lee*, Esqrs. of the Upper House, and Mr. *John Ross*, Clerk of the Council, came into the Stadt-House, in whose Presence the aforesaid Delegates took the several Oaths to the Government required by Law, signed the Oath of Abjuration, repeated and signed the Test.

Benedict Calvert, Esq; from the Upper House, acquaints the Members of this House, that the Governor requires their Attendance in the Upper House.

The Members of the Lower House went to the Upper House: His Excellency required them to return to the Lower House and choose a Speaker: They returned, and unanimously made Choice of Col. *Henry Hooper*, a Delegate for *Dorchester County*, to be their Speaker, and placed him in the Chair.

Col. *Robert Jenckins Henry* and Mr. *Benjamin Mackall* are sent to acquaint his Excellency, that this House hath made Choice of a Speaker.

Col. *Benjamin Tasker* from the Upper House, acquaints the Members of this House, that the Governor requires their Attendance in the Upper House to present their Speaker.

The Members of the Lower House went to the Upper House, and presented to the Governor, Col. *Henry Hooper* as their Speaker; his Excellency gave his Approbation of their Choice, and then made the following Speech, viz.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,

AS the late Transactions of the *French* on this Continent, and the fatal Consequences that must inevitably attend their Execution of the Scheme they have projected against us, have been so often descanted on, in the most public Manner, since the same unhappy Cause that calls us together at this disagreeable Season, first obliged me, after my Arrival, to desire an extraordinary Meeting of the several Branches of this Legislature; I presume there is little Occasion for me, at this Time, to repeat the several Arguments which the present Posture of Affairs must suggest to you, as sufficient Motives to prompt you to exert yourselves at this important Juncture. You are not, I conceive, now to learn, that in Pursuance of a Plan to secure a Communication between their Northern and Southern Settlements, and, in Time, render themselves Masters of all the Continent, from *Cape Breton* to the Gulf of *Mexico*, that restless and ambitious People have proceeded to build several Forts on his Majesty's Lands; one especially at a small Distance from the Frontiers of this Province, and have Garrisoned it with a large Body of Regular Troops; that they already extend their Claim to Lands far within the Limits of this Province, and are making great Preparations for enlarging their Conquests; that not satisfied with cutting us off from all Intercourse with the *Indian Natives*, with whom we have hitherto, it seems, presumed to carry on a Contraband Trade, they have employed Numbers of those Natives to depopulate and distress these Colonies, and have also themselves, committed every Kind of Hostility on our Fellow-Subjects, who have been unfortunate enough to be exposed to their Cruelty and Insults.

These,