

Assembly until there be a Speaker of the House of Assembly. It is therefore His Excellency's pleasure, that you, Gentlemen of the House of Assembly, do repair to the place where the sittings of the House of Assembly are usually held, and there choose a fit person to be your Speaker; and that you present the person who shall be so chosen to His Excellency, in this House, forthwith, for his approbation."

The House of Assembly retired, and after some time was again commanded to attend, and being come—

Mr. Weldon said—

"The Assembly having received Your Excellency's commands, returned to the place where they usually sit, and immediately proceeded to choose a Speaker. They have elected me to that important office, and now present me to be approved of by Your Excellency."

The President of this House said—

"*Mr. Weldon,*

"I am commanded by His Excellency to assure you that he is fully sensible of your zeal for the public service, and of your sufficiency to execute the duties of the office to which you have been elected by the House of Assembly, and that he doth most readily approve of their choice, and allow and confirm you to be their Speaker."

Then the Speaker of the Assembly said—

"*May it please Your Excellency,*

"Having been pleased to confirm the choice which the House of Assembly have made in electing me as their Speaker, it now becomes my duty, on behalf of the Assembly, to demand that they have all their ancient and undoubted rights and privileges, especially freedom of speech, freedom from arrest, access to Your Excellency whenever the public service may require it, and that the most favorable construction be put upon their proceedings; and on my own behalf, I have to intreat that any error of mine may not be imputed to the Assembly."

Then the President of the House said—

"*Mr. Speaker,*

"His Excellency hath the utmost confidence in the loyalty and attachment of this House of Assembly to Her Majesty's Person and Government, and in the wisdom, temper and prudence which will accompany all their proceedings, and he doth most readily and willingly grant and allow them all their privileges in as full and ample a manner as they have at any time heretofore been granted and allowed.

"With respect to yourself, Sir, though His Excellency is sensible that you do not stand in need of such an assurance, His Excellency will ever put the most favorable construction on your words and actions."

Then His Excellency was pleased to open the Session by the following Speech to both Houses:—

"*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

"*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"**H**AVING called you together at the earliest period that has been practicable since the termination of the Elections, which were unavoidably deferred to