

ANSWER

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MASSACHUSETTS,

TO THE

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

May it please your Excellency,

THE House of Representatives, receive with peculiar satisfaction your Excellency's communication to both Houses, and sincerely rejoice in the unequivocal testimony of the increased confidence and approbation of your fellow citizens, manifested in your recent election.

When your Excellency, in compliance with the anxious wishes of the people, consented the last year to leave the pleasures and tranquility of your favorite residence, and resume your high office ; you rendered to your country a service never to be forgotten.— A new order of things had arisen in this Commonwealth, inauspicious to personal security and the public peace. The most alarming innovations upon our ancient laws and usages were introduced under the sanction of the highest authorities. Freedom of speech and the right of the people to discuss in their assemblies the measures of Government, were denounced. The Law Officers of the Commonwealth were instructed to ransack files of newspapers in search of libels. To perpetuate the usurpation of party power, and effectually to prevent the reaction of public sen-

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