

ance of a writ of summons, issued by the governor.

At the day appointed for their appearance, such as are elected convene themselves at the assembly-chamber, in the city of New-York; and, by the clerk of the house, inform the Governor of their meeting. If they are above thirteen in number, some persons (generally the judges of the supreme court) are sent to the assembly-chamber, empowered by a commission to take their oaths and subscriptions. They are then called before his Excellency, who recommends their choice of a speaker. For that purpose they again retire, and conduct the person they elect into the chair, which is seated at the upper end of a long table. After that he is presented to his Excellency, in the council-chamber; and upon his approbation of their choice, which is of course, the speaker addresses himself to the Governor, and in behalf of the house prays, 'That their words and actions may have a favourable construction, that the members may have free access to him, and they and their servants be privileged with a freedom from arrests.' The Governor, after promising these things on his part, reads his speech to both houses; and, at the request of the speaker, delivers a copy for the use of the assembly.

We need not enlarge upon the customs of the general assembly, for they take the practice of the British house of commons for their model, and vary from them in but very few instances. Money-bills are not returned to them by the council-board, as the lords do to the commons; and yet the reasons for this practice are much stronger there than at home. When the Gover-