

After which the President of His Majesty's Council, by his Excellency's Command declared the Choice the House had made, was approved of by his Excellency:

The House being returned, and the Speaker having taken the Chair,

Mr. Speaker *reported*, that the House had been in the Council-Chamber, where His Excellency having been pleased to approve of the Choice the House had made of him to be their Speaker, he had spoken to the following Effect :

May it please your Excellency,

Since your Excellency has thought proper to confirm the Choice of the *House of Assembly*, I am induced again to undertake this Office from the past experience I have had of your Liberality and Candor; hoping at the same time, that I shall continue to enjoy the same favorable indulgence, which I have in the like Situation heretofore experienced.

It would be a neglect of Duty in me, was I to omit humbly to assure your Excellency, that I feel Sentiments of the highest Gratitude to you, for the very gracious manner in which you have been pleased to approve of this Proceeding of the *House of Assembly*; and I flatter myself, with the hope that your Excellency, will still continue to judge favourable of any Errors I may have the Misfortune to commit in the Discharge of my Duty; this kind Consideration, it shall be my endeavour to merit, by a steady and unalterable Attachment to His Majesty's Person and Government, and a constant Exertion, to promote by every Means in my Power, the real Interest and Prosperity of this Province.

It my Duty, this being the first Meeting of the present Assembly, humbly to demand in their Name, and on behalf of his Majesty's faithful Commons in this Province, an entire Conservation of all their Priviledges: That they may have Freedom of Speech in their Debates, and not be molested in their Persons. That they may have the exclusive Right of judging of the Qualifications and Conduct of their own Members; and if I shall be required to answer any Questions, that I may at first be at Liberty to consult with the House thereupon, and whenever the publick Good shall require it, I may by the desire of the House, have free Access to your Excellency's Person. These and all other Privileges which former Assemblies heretofore enjoyed, I am humbly to beg may be continued to this House.

Mr. Speaker also *reported*, That the President of the Council by his Excellency's Command in reply said.

I am commanded by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to declare to the House, that the Priviledges to which the House and its Members are entitled to by the Law of the Land, and the Royal Instructions, shall in all cases be acceded to them.

After which Mr. Speaker said, his Excellency was pleased to make a Speech, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent Mistakes, obtained a Copy which he read to the House, and is as followeth, viz.

*Gentlemen of the Council and
Gentlemen of the Assembly.*

I HAVE great pleasure in meeting the Legislature so soon after a General Election, as the Representatives chosen have had the best opportunity afforded them of becoming acquainted with the state and Condition of the Country, and with the most likely means of promoting its Interest and Prosperity.

The Loyalty and Attachment to our most gracious Sovereign, and his Government; the attention to enhance the general Interest, and the Harmony which prevailed ever since I have been honoured with the Administration of the Government have proved highly Beneficial to all degrees of his Majesty's Subjects in the Province, and will, I hope, be continued and rendered further Conducive to the public Welfare.

No Portion of his Majesty's Dominions, or any part of his People have stronger Reasons, humbly to offer to the Supreme Disposer of Events their most sincere and grateful Acknowledgements for the manifold Favours enjoyed under the Protection of his Providence; for Preservation from the contagious Diseases with which the surrounding Countries have been repeatedly afflicted; for