

Constitutional Rights of the Loyal People of the Province required his support, could not have been overlooked by their Representatives:—In every stage of his political career he had shewn himself worthy of confidence.”

Mr. Hill, a Member for the County of Charlotte, then addressing himself to the Clerk, recommended to the House that Lemuel Allan Wilmot, Esquire, be elected to the office of Speaker; whereupon

Mr. Wilmot arose, and declined the honor of being put in nomination therefor.

The Honorable Mr. Weldon, being the only person placed in nomination, was then taken from his seat by Mr. Partelow and Mr. End, and conducted by them to the Chair; and when standing on the step, expressed himself as follows:—

“I beg the House to believe that I feel grateful for this mark of their confidence: To succeed a Gentleman who has so long and so ably filled the Chair is a task of no ordinary kind, and I may well distrust my own abilities; but if honesty of purpose—strict impartiality, and a due regard for the rights and privileges of this House, will secure to me the confidence of the Assembly, I shall endeavour to deserve it.”

Mr. Weldon then took the Chair.

A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, requiring the immediate attendance of the House in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker elect, with the House, went up to the Council Chamber.

And being returned—

Mr. Speaker reported, that he addressed His Excellency to the effect following:—

*“May it please Your Excellency,*

“The Assembly having received Your Excellency’s commands, returned to the place where they usually sit, and, in the exercise of their undoubted right, 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 Honorable Mr. Black then spoke as follows:—

*“MR. WELDON,*

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

That he, Mr. Speaker, then further addressed His Excellency in the following words:—

*“May it please Your Excellency,*

“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 all their proceedings:—On my own behalf, I have to intreat that any error of mine may not be imputed to the Assembly.”

To which the Honorable Mr. Black again replied:—

*“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.”

Mr.