

General 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 then withdrew, and after some time was again commanded to attend ; and being come,

Mr. Harding said—

*" May it please Your Excellency,*

" Your Excellency having communicated your pleasure to the Assembly, they returned to the place where they usually deliberate, and immediately proceeded to choose a Speaker ; they have elected me to that important and honorable situation, and they now present me to be approved of by Your Excellency."

The President of this House said—

*" Mr. Harding,*

" I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor 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,*

" Your Excellency having been pleased to approve of the choice which the House of Assembly have made in electing me to be their Speaker, it now becomes my duty on their behalf, and in the name of the Assembly, to claim and demand that they have all their ancient and accustomed rights and privileges ; particularly freedom of speech—freedom from arrest—access to Your Excellency at such times as they may think the Public Service requires it ; and that the most favourable construction be put upon all their proceedings : And on my own behalf I have to request, that any error of mine may not be imputed to the House of Assembly."

Then the President of this 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 assurance, His Excellency will ever put the most favourable construction on your words and actions."

Then