

Maryland's

Porte of Annapolis March the 10th 1697.

Whereas the Generall Assembly of this Province according to his Maty's writte of Election, directed to the severall and respective Sheriffs of the severall Countys to Summon and call together the freeholders and inhabitants of the Said Countys to elect and choose Delegates or Representatives for their severall Countys, as also to the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen of the City of S^t. Marys and the freemen of the Said City to elect and choose two Citizens for to serve for the Said City, which said Writtes bear date and were Issued the 11th day of Jan^y in the in the ninth year of his Maty's Reigne & Ann^y. (omi 1697. could not possibly be Com^{ed} and met together at the porte of Annapolis upon the 23^d day of Febr^y 1697. as by the said writte of Election was appointed his Ex^{ty} the Gov^{ty} with advise of the Gentlemen of his Maty's hon^{ble} Councill did by his Maty's writte of prorogation bearing date the 23^d day of Febr^y 1697. prorogue, deferre and put off the Said Meeting of the Generall Assembly which to have been on the 23^d day of Febr^y aforesaid untill the 8th day of March ensuing at which said 8th day of March severall Gent^{ys} being elected, to serve for their severall Countys as also for the City of S^t. Marys did according to the prorogation a^{fo}. meet in the State house in this porte, but for as much as they did not conceive themselves as then a sufficient Number to proceed to business or choose a Speaker, none of the Gent^{ys} elected for the severall Countys on the Eastern Shoor of the Province appearing in the house or being then arrived, they signified their resolution to his Ex^{ty} the Gov^{ty}.

Whereupon he was pleased by his Maty's Other writte of prorogation dated the 8th Inst. further to prorogue them untill the 10th day ensuing at which time it was hoped that all or most of the Gent^{ys} on the Eastern Shoor being arrived (to witt of Talbot, Kent, and Cecil Countys the severall Gent^{ys} elected according to the prorogation last mentioned did assemble themselves together in the Statehouse and having made his Ex^{ty} the Gov^{ty} acquainted therewith he commanded them having taken the oaths, by law appointed and subscribed the Test, to elect and choose their Speakers.

Whereupon they Elected and choose the hon^{ble} Major Thomas Smith for Speaker of the house, and accordingly presented him to his Ex^{ty} the Gov^{ty} for his approbation who upon the said Maj^r Smith's disabling himself therein answered that he thought the house of delegates have made their choise upon mature Consideration, and that he himselfe