



Title page of the *Votes of the House of Assembly*. (Courtesy of the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.)

PROCEEDINGS of the ASSEMBLY  
of the  
LOWER COUNTIES on DELAWARE  
1770-1776,  
of the CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION c  
and of the  
HOUSE of ASSEMBLY  
of the  
DELAWARE STATE  
1776-1781

Edited by  
Claudia L. Bushman, Harold B. Hancock,  
and Elizabeth Moyne Homsey

*With an Introduction and Addenda by Harold B. Hancock*



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Monday, October 22d. 1770.

The House met according to Adjournment.

At calling over the Names of the Members they all appear'd except Evan Rice, Benjamin Noxon, Jacob Kollock and Charles Ridgely Esqrs.

Order'd, that Thomas McKean, Cæsar Rodney and William Killen, Esquires, wait upon his Honor the Governor to inform him that the House had met pursuant to an Act of General Assembly of this Government, and proceeded to chuse their Speaker, and desir'd to know when, and where, they should wait on his Honor to present the Speaker.

The Members, being returned, do report, that they waited on his Honor the Governor, according to Order; and that his Honor was pleased to say, he would be ready to receive the House in half an hour at Mrs. Ann Clay's.

The House waited on the Governor at the Time appointed; and being returned, the Speaker assum'd the Chair and from thence reported that the House had waited on his Honor the Governor and presented their Speaker, and that he was pleased to say, he very much approved their Choice.

Then the Speaker, in the Chair, qualified himself according to the Law; and afterwards, the Members that were present took the several Qualifications prescribed by Law, and subscribed the same.

Then David Thompson, Clerk of the House, took the Qualifications and Oath necessary to be taken by a Clerk of this House, and subscribed the same.

Then several Petitions from a great Number of the Freeholders and other Electors of the County of Sussex, complaining of undue Practices in their late Election and praying a Warrant to the Sheriff of Sussex County for holding a new Election, which Petitions were read a first Time.

On Motion of Mr. McKean, That the Petitions now read should be read a second Time by a special Order of the House, and the same being seconded after sundry Debates, the Question was put, Whether there should be a special Order for that Purpose?

Carried in the Negative,

## For the Affirmative

Thomas McKean,  
Vincent Loockerman,  
John Clowes,  
John Haslet,  
William Killen,  
Burton Waples.

## For the Negative.

William Armstrong,  
Cæsar Rodney,  
Levin Crapper,  
George Read,  
Benjamin Burton,  
John Evans,  
Thomas Robinson.

Order'd on Motion, that all absent Members attend the House, forthwith on Notice given them, and that the Clerk of this House do immediately transcribe this Order, to be Signed by the Speaker in Order to be sent to them.

Then the House adjourned to Tuesday, at ten O'Clock, A. M.

Tuesday, October 23d. 1770. P. M.

The House met according to Adjournment.  
And adjourned to Wednesday at ten O'Clock, A. M.

Wednesday, October 24th. 1770.

The House met according to Adjournment.  
Messrs. Evan Rice, Benjamin Noxon and Charles Ridgely, appear'd, and after taking the Qualifications by Law directed, took their Seats in the House. The Rules of the House, for the Year 1769, being read,  
Resolved,  
That the aforesaid Rules be the Rules of this House.  
Ordered,

Thomas McKean, George Read and Cæsar Rodney Esqrs., be a Committee to wait on the Governor, and acquaint his Honor, that the House is qualified according to Law, and desire to know if his Honor hath anything to lay before the House.

Upon Motion, Messrs. Thomas McKean, William Killen, George Read, William Armstrong and John Haslet, are appointed a Committee for Grievances for the ensuing Year, and that they have full Power and Authority to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Order'd on Motion, that the Petitions from the Freeholders and others Electors of the County of Sussex complaining of an undue Election &c. should have a second reading.

Which was read a Second Time accordingly:

Upon Motion,

Whether the Gentlemen returned as Members for the County of Sussex should be sitting Members during the Consideration of these petitions?

Which being Seconded,

The Question was put,

*Carried in the Negative, Nemine Contradicente.*

Whereupon the Members for Sussex withdrew.

Ordered upon Motion, that the Gentlemen returned as Members for the County of Sussex, and all other the Freemen of this Government be admitted to hear the Debates of this House relating to the contested Election.

Then the House Adjourned untill Thursday Morning at ten O'Clock.

Thursday, October 25th. 1770. A. M.

The House met according to Adjournment.

Then the Committee appointed to wait on the Governor to acquaint his Honor, that the House was qualified according to Law, and to desire to know if his Honor had anything to lay before the House, do report, That they waited on the Governor according to Order; and that his Honor was pleased to say, that he had no Business to lay before the House.

Speaker, and desired to know when, and where, they should wait on his Honor to present the Speaker.

The Members being returned, do report, that they waited on his Honor the Governor, according to Order; and that his Honor was pleased to say, he was ready to receive the House immediately at Mrs. Ann Clays.

The House waited on the Governor forthwith and being returned, the Speaker assum'd the Chair, and from thence reported, that the House had waited on his Honor the Governor, and presented their Speaker, and that he was pleased to say, he very much approved their Choice. Then the Speaker, in the Chair, qualified himself according to Law, and afterwards, the Members that were present took the several Qualifications prescribed by Law, and subscribed the same.

Then David Thompson Clerk of the House, took the Qualifications and Oath necessary to be taken by a Clerk of this House and Subscribed the same.

Gen[eral]ly

The Rules of the House, for the Year 1769, being read,

Resolved,

That the afsd. Rules be the Rules of this House.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Messrs. George Read, John Haslet and Benjamin Burton be a Committee to wait on the Governor, and acquaint his Honor, that the House is Qualified according to Law, and desire to know if his Honor hath any thing to lay before the House.

The Members being returned, do report, that they waited on the Governor according to Order; and that his Honor was pleased to say, that he would inform the House tomorrow Morning.

Then the House adjourn'd until ten O Clock tomorrow Morning.

Wednesday. October 23d: 1771. A. M.

The House met according to Adjournment.

A Petition from Isaac Dushane of Redlion Hundred complaining of the hardships he sustains by being obliged to keep in continual good repair the Mill Dam at the Village of St. Georges, as the same is made the public Road &c. and praying Relief in the Premises, was presented and by order read a first time.

Ordered to lie on the Table for further Consideration.

A Petition from James Parry a Prisoner in the Goal of Sussex County praying the Aid of an Act of Assembly of this Government for his enlargement was presented and by Order read a first time.

Order'd to lie on the Table.

The Door-keeper informed the House that Mr. Secretary waited at the Door.

Ordered,

That he be admitted,

And he was admitted; and informed the House, that his Honor the Governor desir'd to speak with the House this Forenoon at Mrs. Ann Clays.

Then the House waited on his Honour the Governor at Mrs. Clays and being returned the Speaker assum'd the Chair and from thence reported that in

compliance with a Message from his Honor the Governor, the House had waited upon his Honor and that his Honor was pleased to present a written Speech which the Speaker laid on the Table.

Order'd,

That the said Speech be transcribed upon the Minutes of this House, which follows in these Words, to wit,

The Governor's Speech to the Assembly

Gentlemen,

"It gives me great Pleasure to have so early an Opportunity of acquainting you with my Appointment to the Government of these Counties, and to assure you of my sincere Inclination upon all Occasions to promote the true Interest and Prosperity of the People committed to my Charge.

"I have a sensible Pleasure in reflecting upon the Harmony which subsisted between my Predecessor and the Representative Body of these Counties; And I do assure you that nothing shall be wanting on my part which I can contribute to preserve the like good Understanding with you.

"I have no particular Business to lay before you at this time; but shall always be ready to concur with you in any Measures which may promote the Happiness and Welfare of the People you represent.

Richard Penn

Ordered,

That George Read, Thomas McKean and William Killen Esquires, be a Committee to prepare an Address in Answer to the Governor's Speech.—

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Messrs. Evan Rice, John McKinly, John Haslet, Alexander Porter and Thomas Robinson, be a Committee for Grievances for the ensuing Year, and that they have full Power and Authority to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Messrs. William Killen, George Read, Levin Crapper, John Banning and John Clowes, be a Committee for Elections and Privileges for the ensuing Year.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Messrs. Vincent Loockerman, Burton Waples, Alexander Porter, Benjamin Burton and Thomas McKean, be a Committee to inspect and examine the temporary Laws of this Government, to know whether any of said Laws are expired, or near expiring.

Then the House Adjourned 'till 3 O Clock. P. M.

Eodem Die P. M.

The House met according to Adjournment.

The Committee appointed to prepare an Address in Answer to the Governor's speech now laid one on the Table which they submitted to the correction of the House.

Ordered,

That the said Address be read, which was done accordingly.

On Motion,

The said Address by special Order was read a second time paragraph by paragraph, was approved and ordered to be engrossed.

On Motion,

Messrs. Evan Rice, William Killen and Burton Waples were appointed a Committee to wait upon his Honor the Governor to know when and where the House should wait on him to Address him in answer to his Speech of this Morning.

The Gentlemen being returned, do report, that they had waited upon his Honor the Governor according to Order, and that he was pleased to say he would be ready to receive the House in half an hour at Mrs. Ann Clays.

The Address in answer to the Governor's speech being engrossed and compared,

On Motion,

Resolv'd that the Speaker sign the same.

Then the House waited on his Honor the Governor and addressed him in the Words following, Viz.

"An Address of the Assembly in answer to his Honor the Governor's speech.

"May it please your Honor,

"We the representatives of the freemen of the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex upon Delaware, beg leave to congratulate your Honor on your appointment to and safe arrival in this your Government, and to return you our most sincere and hearty thanks for your very kind and affectionate speech.

"The knowlege we have of your Honor, from your residence in your other province for several years, your condescending affability, candor, and the perfect assurance you are pleased to give us of your sincere inclination upon all Occasions to promote the true interest and prosperity of the people committed to your charge cannot fail of procuring the esteem of our Constituents and exciting in us the warmest emotions of gratitude.

"The many amiable qualities your honored Predecessor was possessed off, very justly endeared him to the Representative body of these Counties, as well as to all who had the Honor of his acquaintance; and we cannot but retain the deepest Sense of the happiness the good People of this Government enjoyed under his Administration. The Pleasing prospect we have of a continuance of that harmony in the Legislative, that always subsisted between him and the Assemblies here affords us a very singular satisfaction.

"We thank your Honor for the most obliging manner in which you have declared your readiness to concur with us in any measures that may promote the happiness and welfare of our constituents.

"In return for so much goodness permit us, Sir, to declare, that as well from inclination as duty we will do everything on our parts both in our public and private characters, that may have a tendency to render your Honor's administration easy and happy.

Signed by Order of the House  
David Hall, Speaker

The House being returned, the Speaker assum'd the Chair, and from thence reported, that the House had waited upon his Honor the governor with the

afsd Address, and that his Honor was pleased to return the following answer

Gentlemen,

"I heartily thank you for your Affectionate Address to me, as well as for the kind Regard you have expressed for my Predecessor.

"It gives me great satisfaction to find that the good People of this Government entertain so favorable an Opinion of me. I do assure you I have nothing more at Heart than their true Interest, and I flatter myself that you will at all times find my Actions correspond with my Professions.

Richard Penn

Then the House adjourned 'till Thursday Morning ten O Clock.

Thursday October 24th. 1771. A. M.

The House met pursuant to Adjournment.

On Motion,

The Petition from James Parry for enlargement from his confinement was read a second time, by special Order the same Petition was read a third time

Ordered,

To lie on the Table for further Consideration.

On Motion,

That a new Trustee of the General Loan Office of Kent County be appointed to succeed John Vining Esqr. dec[ease]d. and the same being seconded, passed in the Affirmative nemine contradicente.

On Motion of Mr. Haslet, that Thomas Nixon be appointed a Trustee of the Loan-Office of Kent County, and a debate arising in what manner he should be appointed, the same was detained under consideration 'till the Afternoon.

Then the House adjourn'd 'till 3 O Clock. P. M.

Eodem Die. P. M.

The House met pursuant to Adjournment.

And resumed the consideration of the appointment of a Trustee of the General Loan-Office of Kent County in the stead of John Vining Esqr. deceased for the residue of the time mentioned in the last Act of Assembly Intituled "An Act for the new Appointment of Trustees for the several General Loan-Offices within this Government, and after some Debates,

Resolved,

That this House has an exclusive Authority of appointing such a Trustee.

On Motion, of Mr. Haslet, That Thomas Nixon be appointed a Trustee of the General Loan-Office of Kent County.

And the same being seconded, The House was divided, Whereupon Mr Speaker gave the casting Voice in favor of the said Thomas Nixon.

On Motion of Mr. Haslet, that the Yeas and Nays be enter'd on the Minutes of this House, the same are as follow.

For the Affirmative.

William Killen  
Burton Waples  
Thomas McKean

For the Negative.

George Read  
John Evans  
Thomas Robinson

All of whom being present, except Messrs. *Ridgely* and *Killen*, the House proceeded to the Choice of a Speaker, and *Cæsar Rodney*, Esquire, was chosen, by a Majority of Voices.

The Speaker being placed in the Chair, the House proceeded to the Choice of a Clerk, and *David Thompson*, Esquire, was chosen, *Nemine Contradicente*.

And the House appointed *John Booth* their Doorkeeper and Sergeant at Arms;—

And then adjourned 'till To-morrow Morning at Ten o'Clock.

Thursday, October 21. A. M.

The House met according to Adjournment, and the Speaker assumed the Chair;—and adjourned 'till Three o'Clock, P. M.

Eodem Die, P. M.

The House met according to Adjournment.

Ordered,

That Messrs. *Evans*, *Haslet*, and *Crapper*, be a Committee to wait upon his Honor, the Governor, and inform him, That the House had met pursuant to an Act of General-Assembly of this Government, and proceeded to choose their Speaker, and desire to know when and where they should wait on his Honor to present their Speaker.

The Gentlemen, being returned, do report, That they had waited on his Honor the Governor according to Order; and that his Honor was pleased to say, He was ready to receive the House immediately at Mrs. *Clay's*.

Then the Speaker, with the whole House, waited on his Honor the Governor; and being returned, the Speaker assumed the Chair, and from thence reported, That the House had waited on his Honor the Governor and presented their Speaker, and that he was pleased to say, He very much approved their Choice.

Then the Speaker, in the Chair, qualified himself according to Law, and afterwards the Members that were present took the several Qualifications prescribed by Law, and subscribed the same.

Then *David Thompson*, Clerk of the House, took the Qualifications and Oath necessary to be taken by a Clerk of this House, and subscribed the same. The Rules of the House, for the Year 1769, being read,

Resolved,

That the aforesaid Rules be the Rules of this House.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Messrs. *McKean*, *Read* and *Haslet*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in an Address to his Honor the Governor, upon his Re-accession to this Government.

The Committee now report, That they had essayed a Draught of an Address to his Honor the Governor, upon his Re-accession to this Government, which they laid on the Table, and submitted to the Correction of the House.

On Motion, by Order,

The same was read the first Time.

By special Order, the same was read the second Time, Paragraph by Paragraph, passed the House, and was

Ordered to be engrossed.

The Address to his Honor the Governor being engrossed and compared;

Resolved,

That the Speaker sign the same,

Which was done accordingly, and is in the Words following, *viz.*

An ADDRESS from the Assembly to his Honor the GOVERNOR.

To the Honorable JOHN PENN, Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Counties of *New-castle*, *Kent* and *Sussex*, upon *Delaware*, and Province of *Pennsylvania*.

May it please your HONOR,

We the Representatives of the Freemen of the Counties of *New-castle*, *Kent* and *Sussex*, upon *Delaware*, beg Leave to wait upon your Honor, with our sincere Congratulations, upon your Re-accession to the Government and chief Command of this Colony.

The Felicity the good People of this Government enjoyed under your former Administration, and that of our late worthy Governor, gives us a well-grounded Prospect of future Happiness, whilst one of your Honorable Family presides over us; and we confess we feel a particular Satisfaction in being governed personally by one of our Proprietors, whose true Interests and that of our Constituents are so intimately connected.

Your tender Regard for our Laws and civil and religious Liberties, during your Continuance in the chief Command of these Counties for many Years heretofore, very deservedly engaged the Esteem and Affection of the People; and we now assure your Honor, that we still retain the same Sentiments, and have an earnest Desire to continue that perfect Harmony and good Understanding which has hitherto subsisted between you and the Assemblies here, wishing for nothing more than to be able to give your Honor the most convincing Proofs of it.

October 21. 1773.

Signed by Order of the House,  
CÆSAR RODNEY, Speaker.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Messrs. *McKean*, *Read* and *Haslet*, be a Committee to wait on his Honor the Governor, and inform him, That the House propose to address his Honor upon his Re-accession to this Government, and desire to know when and where they shall wait upon his Honor for that Purpose.

The Gentlemen being returned, do report, That they waited upon his Honor the Governor according to Order, and delivered the Message to them committed; and that his Honor was pleased to say, He would be ready to receive the House at Eleven o'Clock To-morrow Morning at Mrs. *Clay's*.

Then the House adjourned 'till To-morrow Morning, Ten o'Clock.

Friday, October 22. A. M.

The House met according to Adjournment.

Then the Speaker, with the whole House, waited upon his Honor the Governor with the aforesaid Address; and being returned, the Speaker resumed

*Ordered,*

That Messrs, *Porter* and *Haslet*, be a Committee to wait upon his Honor the Governor with the aforesaid Bill for his Perusal and Concurrence.

The Gentlemen being returned do report, That they waited upon his Honor the Governor according to Order, and delivered him the Bill committed to their Charge; and that his Honor was pleased to say, he would take the same into immediate Consideration.

Then the House adjourned 'till Three o'Clock, *P. M.*

*Eodem Die, P. M.*

The House met according to Adjournment.

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the Accounts of the several General Loan-Offices within this Government, appointed by the House, in *October* Sessions, 1772, now report, That they had examined and settled the Accounts of the respective Loan-Offices of *New-castle* and *Sussex* Counties; but for want of Time, had not been able to state the same in a proper Manner for the Inspection of the House; and that the Accounts of the Loan-Office of *Kent* County, were not in Readiness for their Inspection.

On Motion,

*Resolved,*

That the same Committee continue a Committee for the final Settlement of the said Accounts, and that the said Committee do examine and settle the Accounts of the said several Loan-Offices for the present Year also.

The Door-keeper informed the House that Mr. Secretary waited at the Door.

*Ordered,*

That he be admitted.

And he was admitted accordingly; and informed the House, that his Honor the Governor had by him returned the Bill for amending the Supplement to an Act for the better Regulation of the Meadow, Marsh and Cripple, on *Holland's-Creek*, in *New-castle* County, &c. to which his Honor agreed, and was willing to enact into a Law.

Then the House took into Consideration his Honor the Governor's Support;

And on Motion,

That the Sum of *Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds* should be given to his Honor towards his Support of Government:

*Resolved,*

That the said Sum be given to his Honor the Governor towards his Support of Government; and that the Speaker draw Orders on the several Trustees of the Loan-Offices of this Government for that Sum, to be paid according to the Proportion Act.

*Ordered,*

That Messrs. *McKean*, *Clarke* and *Robinson*, be a Committee to wait on his Honor the Governor, and desire to know when and where his Honor will receive the House, in order to have the several Bills passed this Session, and to which his Honor had agreed, enacted into Laws.

The Gentlemen being returned do report, That they waited upon his Honor

the Governor according to order, and delivered him the Message to them committed; and that his Honor was pleased to say, he would be ready to receive the House in half an Hour at Mrs. *Clay's*.

Then the House waited upon his Honor the Governor, when he was pleased to enact the several Bills, to which he had agreed, into Laws, and ordered the Great-Seal of this Government to be affixed to each of them; and at the same Time the Speaker presented him with the Draughts on the Trustees of the several Loan-Offices within this Government, and returned the Thanks of the House to his Honor for his Readiness to concur with them in such Measures as they judged beneficial to their Constituents:—

To which his Honor was pleased to answer, That he accepted the Draughts presented to him as Proof of the Esteem of the House, to whom he was much obliged. All which, upon the Return of the House, the Speaker reported from the Chair.

The Speaker then appointed Messrs. *Clarke* and *Manlove*, to see the Great-Seal affixed to the several Laws passed this Session, the Titles whereof are as follows, *viz.*

1. An ACT to prevent counterfeiting the Paper-Money of other Colonies.
2. An ACT for erecting a Bridge and Causeway over *Lewes* Creek from the Town of *Lewes* to the Cape Side of the said Creek, in the County of *Sussex*.
3. An ACT for the Encouragement of the Owners of Mills within this Government, and for the repealing an Act of Assembly, intituled, "An Act to encourage the building of good Mills in this Government," and the Supplement thereto, passed in the 34th Year of his late Majesty's Reign.
4. An ACT for making perpetual a former Act, intituled, "An Act for the amending the Laws relating to Testamentary Affairs, and for the better settling Intestates Estates," except such Parts thereof as are hereby altered and amended.
5. An ACT to enable the Owners and Possessors of several Tracts of Meadow, Marsh and Cripple on *Augustine-Creek* and *Silver Run*, in *New-castle* County, to make and keep the Banks, Dams, Canals and Sluices in Repair, and to raise a Fund to defray the yearly Expence accruing thereon.
6. An AMENDMENT to an Act, intituled, "A Supplement to an Act, intituled, An Act to enable the Owners and Possessors of the Marsh-Meadow on the North Side of *Christiana* River, called *Brandywine* Marsh, and of a Tract of Meadow, Marsh and Cripple, on the South Side of the said River, called *Hollands-Creek* Marsh, and also of a Tract of Marsh-Meadow near *Newport*, called *Conrads* Cripple, to keep the Banks, Dams and Sluices in Repair, and raise a Fund to defray the Expence thereof," so far as the same relates to the said *Hollands-Creek* Marsh.

On Motion,

*Ordered,*

That Two Hundred Copies of the several public Laws, passed this Session, and One Hundred Copies of the Votes of this Session, be printed; and that Messrs. *McKinly* and *Read* be a Committee to agree with a Printer for that Purpose.

Then the House resolved itself into a Grand-Committee of the whole House, to consider of certain Accounts to them referred for the Service of the Govern-

All of whom being present, except Messrs. *George Read, Thomas McKean, John Evans* and *John Clark*, the House proceeded to the Choice of a Speaker, and *Cesar Rodney, Esq;* was chosen, *Nem. Con.*

The Speaker being placed in the Chair, the House proceeded to the Choice of a Clerk, and *David Thompson, Esq;* was chosen, *Nem. Con.*

And the House appointed *John Booth* their Door-keeper and Sergeant at Arms;

And then adjourned 'till To-morrow Morning at Ten o-Clock.

Friday, October 21. A. M.

The House met pursuant to their Adjournment, and the Speaker assumed the Chair.

Ordered,

That Messrs. *McKinly, Ridgely* and *Robinson*, be a Committee to wait upon his Honor, the Governor, and inform him, That the House had met pursuant to an Act of General Assembly of this Government, and proceeded to choose their Speaker, and desire to know when and where they should wait on his Honor to present their Speaker.

The Gentleman, being returned, do report, That they waited upon his Honor the Governor according to Order; and that his Honor was pleased to say, He was ready to receive the House immediately at Mrs. *Clay's*.

Then the Speaker, with the whole House, waited on his Honor the Governor; and being returned, the Speaker assumed the Chair, and from thence reported, That the House had waited on his Honor, the Governor, and presented their Speaker, and that he was pleased to say, He very much approved their Choice.

Then the Speaker, in the Chair, qualified himself according to Law, and afterwards the Members, that were present, took the several Qualifications prescribed by Law, and subscribed the same.

Then *David Thompson*, Clerk of the House, took the Qualification and Oath necessary to be taken by a Clerk of this House, and subscribed the same.

The Rules of the House for the Year 1769 being read,

Resolved,

That the aforesaid Rules be the Rules of this House.

Ordered,

That Messrs. *Porter, Collins* and *Manlove*, be a Committee to wait on his Honor, the Governor, and acquaint him that the House is qualified according to Law, and desire to know if his Honor hath any Thing to lay before the House.

The Gentlemen being returned, do report, That they had waited on his Honor, the Governor, according to Order, and that his Honor was pleased to say, He would send a Message to the House, by his Secretary.

Ordered,

On Motion,

That Messrs. *McKinly, Ridgely, Robinson, Porter* and *Collins*, be a Committee for Grievances for the ensuing Year, and that they have full Power and

Authority to send for Persons, Papers and Records, &c.

Ordered,

On Motion,

That Messrs. *Latimer, Stout* and *Hall*, be a Committee for Elections and Privileges for the ensuing Year.

Ordered,

On Motion,

That Messrs. *Holliday, Clowes* and *McKinly*, be a Committee to inspect and examine the temporay Laws of this Government, to know whether any of said Laws are expired, or near expiring.

The Door-keeper informed the House that Mr. Secretary waited at the Door

Ordered,

That he be admitted; and he was admitted accordingly, and presented to the Speaker a written Message from his Honor, the Governor.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That the same be read, which was done accordingly, and follows in these Words, *to wit:*

A MESSAGE from the Governor to the Assembly.

"Gentlemen,

"As the Jurisdiction of the Government is now extended to the Province Lines, run and marked between these Counties and *Maryland*, in pursuance of Agreements between the respective Proprietaries, and of Decrees of the high Court of Chancery, in *England*, founded on those Agreements: And as the newly acquired Tract of Country is not properly within any particular County there seems to be a Necessity of a Law for establishing divisional Lines between the Counties from the western Termination of the late reputed Boundaries to what is commonly called the tangent Line. I must therefore recommend the Matter to your immediate Consideration.

JOHN PENN."

*New-Castle, October*

21. 1774.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Messrs. *McKinly, Ridgely* and *Hall*, be a Committee to prepare and draw up an Answer to the Message of his Honor the Governor, and lay the same before the House.

Then the House adjourned 'till Three o'Clock, *P. M.*

*Eodem Die, P. M.*

The House met pursuant to Adjournment, and the Speaker assumed the Chair.

The Committee appointed to prepare an Answer to his Honor the Governor's Message, now laid one on the Table, which they submitted to the Correction of the House.

On Motion, by Order,

*John Southers* and him the Petitioner be properly settled, was presented to the Chair, and by Order read the first Time.

On Motion of Dr. *McKinly*,

That the Petition from *John Southers* should, by a special Order of this House, be read the second Time; and sundry Debates arising thereon, the previous Question was moved for and put, Whether the said Petition shall now be read by a special Order?

*And carried in the Negative.*

Two of the Committee appointed to examine the present State of the several Loan-Offices within this Government, now report, That they had made considerable Progress therein, but by the necessary Absence of some of the Committee, on other public Business, they have not been able to compleat the same; and praying that a further Day may be allowed them to make Report;—The same was granted.

*Ordered,*

That Messrs. *Burton*, *Holliday* and *Latimer*, be a Committee to wait on his Honor the Governor, and desire to know when and where the House shall wait upon his Honor to have the several Bills passed this Session, and to which his Honor had agreed, enacted into Laws.

The Gentlemen being returned, do report, That they had waited upon his Honor the Governor according to Order, and that his Honor was pleased to say, He was ready to receive the House immediately at Mrs. *Clay's*.

Then the House waited on his Honor the Governor, when he was pleased to enact the several Bills, to which he had agreed, into Laws, and ordered the Great Seal of this Government to be affixed to each of them; and at the same Time the Speaker returned the Thanks of the House to his Honor for his Readiness to concur with them in such Measures as they judged beneficial to their Constituents, of which they should retain a grateful Sense—All which, upon the Return of the House, the Speaker reported from the Chair.

The Speaker then appointed Messrs. *Burton* and *Rench* to see the Great Seal affixed to the several Laws passed this Session, which they, upon their Return, reported to the House was done accordingly in their Presence.

Then the House adjourned 'till the 13th Day of *March* next.

*Tuesday, March 14, 1775*

*Monday, March 13. 1775.*

THE House met pursuant to their Adjournment, and adjourned 'till Tomorrow Morning, Ten o'Clock.

*Tuesday, March 14. A. M.*

The House met pursuant to their Adjournment, and the Speaker assumed the Chair.

Messrs. *George Read*, *Thomas McKean* and *John Clark*, Members of this House, who were absent at the Beginning of this Session, now appeared in the House, took and subscribed the usual Qualifications, and took their Seats accordingly.

Then the House proceeded to the Choice of an assistant Clerk, and *John McPherson*, Esq; was elected to that Office, and took the usual Qualifications and Oath usually taken by a Clerk of this House, and subscribed the same.

Then the House adjourned 'till Three o'Clock, *P. M.*

*Eodem Die, P. M.*

The House met pursuant to their Adjournment, and the Speaker assumed the Chair.

On Motion of Mr. *Stout*,

Setting forth that Mr. *Holliday* and Mr. *Collins*, Members of this House, were in a bad State of Health, and incapable of attending the House, and praying that they might be excused,

The same was granted.

On Motion of Mr. *Ridgely*,

That the House excuse his Non-attendance during the latter Part of the last Sitting of the House, as well as his not appearing 'till this Afternoon,

The same was granted.

Information being given to the House that Mr. *Burton*, a Member of this House, was indisposed, and unable to attend this Session, He was excused.

Mr. *McKean* informed the House, That the late Representatives of the Free-men of this Government met in Convention at *New-castle* on the first and second Days of *August* last, and among other Things nominated and appointed the Honorable *Cæsar Rodney*, Esq; *George Read*, Esq; and himself, or any two of them, Deputies or Delegates on the Part and Behalf of this Government, in a General Continental Congress, then proposed to be held at the City of *Philadelphia*, on the first *Monday* in *September* following, or at any other Time or Place that might be generally agreed on, then and there to consult and advise with the Deputies from the other Colonies, and to determine upon all such prudent and lawful Measures as might be judged most expedient for the Colonies immediately and unitedly to adopt, in order to obtain Relief for an oppressed People, and the Redress of our General Grievances; the Proceedings of which Convention he delivered in at the Table, and the same were by Order read, and are as follow, *to wit*;