

Thomas Gardiner was chosen Speaker. Mr. Gardiner was favorably received by his lordship, whom he addressed on the subject of the privileges claimed by the Assembly. In reply to this the Governor made a speech to the Council and General Assembly, to which the Speaker replied as follows: "I am commanded by
"this House to return your Excellency our hearty thanks for
"your Excellency's many kind expressions to them, contained
"in your Excellency's speech, and it is to our great satisfaction
"that Her Majesty has been pleased to constitute your Excellency
"our Governor. We are well assured that the Proprietors, by
"the surrender of their rights to the government of this Province, have put us in circumstances much better than we were
"under their administration; they not being able to protect us
"from the villainies of wicked men; and having an entire dependence upon Her Majesty that she will protect us in the full enjoyment of our rights, liberties, and properties, do think our
"stars have been very propitious in placing us under the government and direction of the greatest of Queens, and the best
"of laws; and we do entreat your Excellency to believe that our
"best endeavors shall not be wanting to accomplish those things
"which shall be for the satisfaction of the Queen, the general
"good of the country, and, if possible, the universal satisfaction
"of all people. With our prayers to the God of Heaven, we
"shall join our utmost endeavours to unite our unhappy differences, and hope, with the assistance of your Excellency and
"Council, it will not be impossible to accomplish that blessed
"work. We shall follow the directions given in your Excellency's speech with what dispatch the nature of things require,
"and hope that all our consultations may conduce to the best
"and greatest ends."* Mr. Gardiner's subsequent contentions with the Governor and his party are best described in the words of one of his descendants, the late John Stockton Littell, Esq., of Elton House, Germantown: "Matters in the Council progressed smoothly for a while, and the conduct of the Governor justified the compliment contained in the Speaker's address. But his disposition could not long be concealed from those with whom he was immediately connected in the government. The

* Smith's *History of New Jersey*.