

Mr. Lansdale, from the committee on Internal Improvements, reported a bill entitled, an Act to repeal the Act of 1859, chapter 293, relating to the Potomac Railroad Company;

Which was read the first time.

The hour of 12 M. having arrived, Admiral D. D. Porter and staff, in acceptance of the invitation extended them to seats upon the floor of the Senate, appeared and were addressed by Lieutenant Governor Cox as follows:

*Admiral:* In compliance with joint resolutions of both Houses of the General Assembly of Maryland, adopted with entire unanimity, it becomes my agreeable duty to extend to you and the officers of your staff, a cordial welcome to this hall of legislation, a spot venerable in associations of the past, but chiefly distinguished as the scene of that early Congress at which the Father of his Country relinquished the seals of public office for the more genial pursuits of private life. The fine, historical group upon the right wall of the chamber represents the august occasion; while the portraits in other parts of the hall point the memory of those distinguished men, who graced at that early day, the good old commonwealth of Maryland. It is fitting that amid such associations, and surrounded by art-subjects like these, the ceremony of reception should be dispensed to the brave and loyal men who have so recently illustrated the valor and virtues of the fathers.

The patriotism which inspired the great Washington to deeds of heroism in the cause of human liberty, burned as brightly in the bosoms of the noble commanders under whose guidance the army and navy achieved a lasting triumph over the enemies of the Union. In this roll of the great captains of the age, you, sir, occupy no unenviable position. When the events of the late war shall be traced by the impartial pen of other times, there will appear upon the historic page no prouder record than that of the unfaltering loyalty and daring courage which have rendered illustrious, in one day, the hero of Vicksburg and Fort Fisher. Your name, sir, will become a household word around every American hearth-stone, and the glorious deeds you have wrought out for the republic be embalmed in the grateful recollections of your countrymen for ages to come.

*Gentlemen of the Staff:*—I congratulate you upon your connection with a branch of the service which has reflected so much luster upon the times. Heavier ordnance and less vulnerable armor, formed the great salient features of the