

constant practice--can alone qualify him for its ready application. The position of Presiding Officer is one not only of great responsibility, but often a delicate, and, at times, a disagreeable one. I can only hope to merit your approval by the exercise, at all times, of entire impartiality, a proper regard for the proprieties of the Senate, and the advancement of its business. These are the lights by which my course shall be guided.

It is neither necessary or appropriate, upon this occasion, to discuss general political principles or matters of State policy. But you will pardon me for a suggestion or two upon a subject of peculiar concern to us and to those we represent. One of the many pernicious disorders of the times in which we live, growing out of the demoralization consequent upon war, and the unstable character of the currency, is an almost universal tendency to a too lavish expenditure of public funds. The tendencies and temptations to this vice, in a body composed very largely or (as ours) exclusively of one political party, are numerous and powerful, and when reinforced by the circumstances referred to, are inveterate, if not, indeed, desperate. The reasons why we should specially guard against extravagance are too numerous and familiar to us all to be repeated here. Let us, therefore, resolve in the outset to adopt a policy of wise economy. Another evil growing out of that mentioned, and against which one universal sentiment of opposition exists, with all but interested parties, viz: the multiplication of unnecessary salaried officers, demands correction. Our political opponents have set us an example in this regard we would do well to profit by.

The good old State, of which we are all proud to be citizens, is one of the few in which the old landmarks, hallowed by time, and the exalted characters of those who established them, have been in a measure preserved. Amid the general reck of cherished memories and valued precepts, let it be our mission to preserve and perpetuate them, and, with what of prudence, wisdom, and courage we may possess, unflinchingly to resist the demoralizing practices and destructive maxims of those whose chief boast is that they are in advance and independent of inspiration and the wisdom of their illustrious predecessors.

In conclusion, Senators, let us by mutual concessions and singleness of purpose, so conduct the business of the session as to leave as little ground as possible for just criticism by our foes, or complaint by our friends, that it may be pleasant for us and advantageous to the State.

On motion by Mr. Snyder,

The address of the President was ordered to be entered upon the Journal.