

I trust it will not be considered vanity in me to say, that the circumstances of this day will be treasured up in my memory to which in all after times I will fondly recur.

To be called to preside over the deliberations of this dignified and intelligent assembly of the people's representatives, is an honor sufficient to fill the measure of higher aspirations than mine, and to receive the unanimous testimony of their approbation, inspires me with a sense of the deepest gratitude.

Our associations have impressed me with the purest esteem for you all, even with those with whom it has not been my good fortune to become intimately acquainted. The attachments which have grown out of our public relationship with each other, as public functionaries, will never be forgotten on my part.

When I first entered upon the discharge of the important duties incumbent upon the office, in which your partiality placed me, I felt satisfied that you would aid me with your free and hearty co-operation from time to time, as necessity might require. This expectation has been fully realized; all have been lenient and indulgent; some in sharing the toil and fatigue of the chair, have contributed greatly to my relief.

It was truly said by my worthy predecessor, that the Speaker's Chair was no "bed of down, but was lined with ten thousand thorns," and to administer its duties, upon every occasion, with entire satisfaction to every one, would require almost super-human skill.

It has at all times been my sincere desire to act impartially, and to mete out even justice to you all. And if at any time, in enforcing the rules, a single spark of excitement was manifest, I trust that like the hasty spark from the flint, it was extinguished the moment that gave it birth; that like true philanthropists, we pardon every offence, forget every difference, remember every kindness, and cancel every wrong; that we may leave each other, with that unity of purpose which should ever bind together the representatives of the sovereign people, in their common action for their common good.

Gentlemen, a few moments more and the time will have arrived for our separation. No human knowledge can reveal to us another meeting on this side of the grave. Life is fleeting; subject to innumerable vicissitudes, and hidden in the future. It is the part of wisdom to adopt for our government and guidance the maxims of truth and virtue; and thus be prepared to meet with calmness and resignation, any and every exigency which is consequent upon our existence.

Our destinies are now about to sever, and the relations, which for a time, have united us together. Public ties are about to be broken; but if possible, stronger and more holy ones, are soon to be re-established; the endearing associations of domestic life.

Our blissful dreams and golden anticipations of re-union with the fond objects of our affections, will ere long, I trust, be realized. Where peace, with the ever blooming olive crowns the gate,