

hereby tendered to the Lieut. Governor for the able, impartial and courteous manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate.

The Lieutenant Governor arose and said—

SENATORS :

The hour has arrived for the adjournment *sine die* of the present Senate of Maryland, and I feel prompted to say a few words before making the official announcement.

I am the more inclined to do so as this may possibly be the last time I shall occupy this seat. Two years ago I entered the Senate as its presiding officer with no experience of civil positions, and wholly unfamiliar with the delicate and responsible duties of the Chair.

The indulgence and support of the Senate were unhesitatingly invoked upon the threshold of my labors, and promptly and generously bestowed. How the various and perplexing functions with which I was charged have been executed is within the perview of your own judgment and criticism. I may be permitted, however, to say, that it has ever been my conscientious purpose to deal honorably and fairly with each and every member of this body ; knowing, in the conduct and decisions of the office, neither friend nor opponent, and allowing myself at no time to be influenced by sectarian or political bias. You will do me the credit to this extent at least that strict impartiality has invariably characterized my rulings, and it must always remain an agreeable reflection, as the best endorsement of my official conduct, that during an experience embracing three sessions of the General Assembly, my expressed judgment upon rules of order and public measures has rarely been disputed, and never but once reversed. My sole object has been to do my duty, honestly and impartially, and if I have erred (as I often may have done) the fault has not been one of intention.

The sessions in which I have served will always afford material for pleasant remembrances, and I shall recall many acts of courtesy and kindness from the members and officers of the Senate. If the contrary may have sometimes existed, if real or fancied words of bitterness have been expressed, or thoughts of harshness and unkindness indicated, I desire to forget all ; that no shadow may linger about our intercourse for the most part pleasant and harmonious.

The sudden rupture of associations like ours, Senators, is always tinged with some degree of sadness. On the present occasion the shadows gather deeper hues from the successive instances of mortality which have twice interrupted the business of this General Assembly. The dreary badges of sorrow were visible early in the session, and scarcely had the thirty days of that mourning expired, ere the old crape was