

When he delivered the following Address :

*Senators :*

I highly appreciate and profoundly thank you for the distinguished honor you have conferred upon me, in electing me to preside over your deliberations.

To be chosen to preside in the Senate of Maryland, a body always noted for its dignity and intelligence, is a compliment, of which any one might feel justly proud; but to be chosen, as has been done in this instance, without a dissenting voice, in the preliminary meeting held, to select officers to facilitate the organization of the body, and but one dissenting voice when the vote was finally taken, renders the compliment doubly gratifying, and be assured I will remember it with the most enduring gratitude.

I will endeavor, to the extent of my ability, to merit the confidence so generously reposed in me, so far as that can be effected, by a faithful and impartial discharge of the duties pertaining to the position, to which, by your kindness and partiality, I have been elevated.

I am not insensible of the responsibility I am about to assume. I am aware that the duties of the Presiding Officer of a Legislative Body are, at all times, arduous, and not unfrequently very embarrassing, by reason of complicated and intricate questions, which necessarily arise in the course of the proceedings—questions which experienced parliamentarians might be at a loss to decide. I may, therefore, well have my misgivings and feel a diffidence in assuming those duties, and distrust my ability to meet your just expectations. But, relying on your kind indulgence and support, which I most earnestly invoke, and which I am sure you will always extend to me, I will enter upon them, trusting, with your assistance, to discharge them in a manner to retain the confidence you have reposed in me.

Senators, permit me to say that we are here as the Representatives of the people, and, as such, have a great responsibility resting upon us. Important matters will be brought before us, requiring our closest attention, let us not pass over them hastily, but give them that calm and deliberate consideration which their importance may demand.

In view of the heavy rate of taxes, under which the people are now laboring, let us not, by improvident legislation, increase the burden which is already sufficiently oppressive. Let us practice a wise economy and carefully avoid making unnecessary or injudicious appropriations of the public funds. Let our best efforts be employed to promote the welfare of our constituents and maintain the integrity of our beloved Commonwealth.