

...with its spirit and aims, but penetrates the popular  
mind every where with the same ardor and resolve. Let there  
be no delusions, no compromises, with the old wrong. The  
dead past must be buried; obstacles and false ideas and dog-  
mas thrown to the winds; and this great scheme of eman-  
cipation, so nobly inaugurated, and so promising of good,  
pushed steadily and persistently forward to its true logical  
result. Our favored geographical relations and undevel-  
oped mineral and vegetable resources, so appropriately al-  
located to the present necessities of your present state and  
nation, Government under the wholesome influence of  
free labor, in its true sense, shall make Maryland a  
powerful and prosperous State. In view, therefore, the  
desires of that State, whose hand has been visible in all  
our efforts as far as national life, let us merge all differences  
and party and personal animosities, unite in opening for  
our grand old State a broad, expanded, pathway, upon which  
she may travel in undisturbed peace, wealth and success  
for centuries to come.

To the novel position with which I am charged as President  
of the Senate, I bear the same sincere desire to perform its  
duties with promptness and dispatch, but I fear, with very  
moderate qualifications for the task. Wholly inexperienced  
in the practical duties of legislation, I shall, not unreasonably,  
be compelled to cast myself upon your indulgence. In return,  
while endeavoring to act promptly and impartially, I hope  
never to be forgotten, at least for an instant, in the coun-  
cils and consideration of the Senate, and every member  
of this honorable body.

In the course of the session, conflicting opinions upon topics  
of public concern may sometimes lead to ardent and exalt-  
ing discussion, but let it be remembered that personalities  
should ever be eschewed. None, I am sure, will  
be inclined to forget that the Senate Chamber is regarded by  
the outside world as a model of legislative propriety, dig-  
nity and gentlemanly bearing.

Praying that you may enjoy a pleasant sojourn in the  
"ancient city," and find cheerful hours and happy hearts at  
its close, I now enter upon the prescribed duties of my  
office.