

Mr. Davis, of Montgomery, nominated John Summerfield Berry, of Baltimore county.

Mr. Magruder nominated John F. Dent, of St. Mary's county.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Davis, of Montgomery, and Magruder, Tellers.

On counting the ballots it was ascertained that Mr. Berry had received sixty-four votes, and that Mr. Dent had received two votes.

Whereupon the Hon. John Summerfield Berry was declared duly elected Speaker of the House of Delegates.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Donaldson and Findlay to conduct Mr. Berry to the Chair.

On taking the Chair the Speaker delivered the following

A D D R E S S :

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates :

I am fully sensible of the honor which your vote has just conferred upon me. To be elected a member of this House, by any portion of the people of Maryland, at a time like the present, is an honor exceeded only by the responsibility it imposes. To be called by the almost unanimous voice of the Delegates chosen at such a time, to preside over their deliberations, is a promotion which any man may recount with pride for the remainder of his days. I am fully aware of the responsibility of the duties—at once high and delicate—which this position imposes. I know it requires energy, determination, decision, so mingled with strict impartiality, courtesy, and prudence, as to be often of most difficult performance. And knowing these things, and my own deficiencies also, I must ask that your partiality shall not leave me, when it has placed me here. Without its continuance I must fail. We have been called to the highest duty to the State, at a moment after the greatest imminent danger has passed, it is true, but at a moment when prudence and patience and forbearance in some things, are as indispensable as instant action and the energetic blow in other things. We are to debate and discuss and determine the mode in which that action is to be further carried on. In such debates, on such subjects, in times like these, it is impossible that there should not be wide differences of opinion, leading, in the heat of unguarded expression, sometimes to asperity, sometimes to the most unpleasant situations. It is the duty of the Speaker to prevent this, if he can—to check it, when he must; and unless he can