

fair, impartial and honest manner in which you have worn the ermine of your high office.

While I deeply deplore the strictly partisan purposes for which this Legislature has been convened in extra session, I feel that in time to come it will blur the fair and beautiful name of our grand old commonwealth; yet, sir, our environs here have been made pleasant through the high integrity and, I might add, judicial way in which you have been pleased to dispense justice with an equal hand. I beg you, sir, to accept this watch as a token of the high regard and affectionate esteem in which you are held as the presiding officer over our deliberations.

May it truly never record for you one unhappy moment, and as time carries us along the sun-lit valleys and over the vine-clad hills of life to brighter fields and fairer hopes beyond, our minds will revert to the Extra Session of the Legislature of 1901, with one pleasant recollection, at least, and that will be, our service in this house under your fair, honest and impartial guidance. I now, Sir, on behalf of the members of this body present you this souvenir, their offering.

To which the Speaker replied as follows :

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates :

This is most unexpected. I am much affected by your kindness, and shall ever cherish and value this beautiful token of your friendship. It shall be an heirloom in my family.

It is most gratifying to know that you are satisfied with the manner in which I have discharged the duties of the position of your presiding officer. I have tried to be impartial and faithful to the trust. Any success I may have had is largely due to your assistance and co-operation.

This extra session of the Legislature will soon terminate. We will return to our homes. I want you to carry back the assurance of my sincere friendship for each and every member of the House and its officers, and my best wishes for your future prosperity and happiness.