

permanently, to pervert the character of our Government. Our institutions have been unwarrantably and rudely assailed, and that enduring liberty and happiness designed and hoped for by their authors, eclipsed in the meridian. But the sky is clearing. From every quarter comes the cheering echo of indignant reproof by an outraged people, of the usurpations which infatuated zeal and partizan hate have perpetuated. What the State requires, what the Country demands, is practical, conciliatory, constitutional legislation.

Fortunately for us as a State, we have again a form of government upon the original model, reflecting the views and wishes of a vast majority of our people. But a great deal of important amendatory legislation remains to be perfected, in the interest of, and in obedience to, the known wishes of our people. The burden is upon us.

Ours is an undivided responsibility. *Necessarily* we shall be called upon to consider questions, not only of grave import to the people of this State, but the radii of whose influence may extend beyond our own borders. The unprecedented fact in the history of the country, a Legislature composed entirely of members of one political party, *is alone* enough to draw particular attention to our proceedings, and thus give them a general interest. The welfare of our State is in a great measure committed to our charge. Every consideration which can move the reflecting, patriotic citizen, demands of us *firmness guided by discretion and moderation.*

Confidently hoping that our sessions may be harmonious, that our labors may tend to elevate and establish the standard of republican liberty, and advance the material interests of the State—resolved to exert myself that I may give some “practical gratitude for the honor conferred,” I shall now proceed with diffidence to the discharge of the duties pertaining to the post to which you, Senators, have assigned me.

On motion by Mr. Earle,
The address of the President was ordered to be entered upon the Journal.

On motion by Mr. Earle,
The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 12 o'clock.