

Whereupon John M. Frazier, Esq., was declared, by the Chairman, to be duly elected Speaker of the House of Delegates.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Poteet and Angell a committee to conduct the Speaker elect to the Chair ;

On taking the Chair the Speaker delivered the following

ADDRESS :

In rising to address you upon assuming the duties of presiding officer of this body, I am but following a precedent adhered to by all my predecessors. But let me assure you gentlemen that it is not alone for the purpose of acting in accordance with a time honored custom that I essay to speak to you to-day. The position in which I find myself placed, and my surroundings are alike calculated to excite within me feelings of the deepest emotions. I stood to-day, for the first time in my life, on this floor, in a representative capacity ; and yet your partiality has elevated me to the Speaker's Chair. To be selected for such a position by a body of gentlemen, representing the sovereign people of Maryland, is an honor that I can neither be insensible to, nor fail to properly appreciate. I therefore tender you my deepest acknowledgments for this manifestation of your confidence and regard.

When I think of the delicate duties and heavy responsibilities devolving upon the presiding officer of this body—particularly at this juncture—and reflect for a moment upon my own inexperience, I confess that I should almost shrink from the position, did I not feel that I shall have, at all times, your cordial support and co-operation in my efforts to maintain order and decorum during your deliberations within these walls.

Remember, gentlemen, that in thus giving me your support, and thereby strengthening my hands in the discharge of my official duties, you are smoothing your own pathway in the due course of legislation, for without proper order and decorum, and a due observance of courtesy and respect, your duties cannot be promptly and efficiently discharged. And while I am not here to unduly seek the favor of any one, my highest ambition is, by a faithful and impartial discharge of official duty to merit the approbation of all.

It is no purpose of mine, gentlemen, to presume to indicate the line of policy you are to pursue, nor to attempt to foreshadow in detail the principles you should enact into laws. The organic law of the State has carved out for us work of sufficient magnitude to tax our highest energies, and to call into requisition our best abilities.

Standing where we are to-day, with responsibilities of the weightiest character pressing upon us, we may turn our eyes