

with feelings of pride and profit back to the past. To every Marylander the place whereon we stand is classic ground. Here the men of seventy-six assembled, and within these very walls our forefathers helped to lay the foundations of civil and religious liberty on the Western Continent. Let us in our deliberations strive to emulate their high-souled purposes and patriotic actions. While their work is not sufficient to meet all the requirements of a higher civilization, a growing commerce, and an age of scientific advancements, still we may glean useful lessons by studying well their superstructure and drawing for inspiration upon the fountains of their pure patriotism.

But if the past has claims upon our reverence and regard, the present is here with its demands upon our patriotism and fidelity to the trust reposed in us. A new era has dawned upon Maryland, and a new epoch must be written in her history as a State. She is beginning anew in the race with her sister States for prosperity and renown. Let us then, gentlemen, come fully up to the measure of the work that is before us. To this end let the politician be lost sight of in the philanthropist and the partisan forgotten in the patriot. Let our labors be such as will tend to develop the resources of our State, and place her in the front rank of her sisters.

As representatives of a State forming a component part of the Federal Union, it should always be our pride, as it our highest duty, to render all the aid in our power to vindicate the National honor, to resuscitate the National prosperity and in every nook and corner of the republic to enforce obedience to the national laws.

But in order that our work may be well done, let us look for guidance and support to the Great Governor of Nations and States, as well as individuals. As agents in His Divine hands I hope and trust we shall be able, during our deliberations here, to accomplish much for the welfare of our good old Commonwealth and the glory and honor of our common country.

Which on motion of Mr. Mules,

Was ordered to be inserted on the Journal.

On motion of Mr. Soper,

The Hon. William H. Tuck, Judge of the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel county, was requested to administer the oath of office to the Speaker.

The Speaker was then qualified according to the requirements of the Constitution.