

val somewhat more to your kind feelings to myself personally, than to any merit of my own or the strict justice which I could only expect from other than friends.

When I assumed the duties of this place I invited your cooperation in their performance; because I felt that to preside over a Body like this, composed of gentlemen of the highest position in the different parts of the State, some of whom were already experienced in other Legislative Bodies, and to be called a second time to such a position, was an honor imposing responsibilities, that I felt unequal to, if unaided by yourselves. You have not failed, gentlemen, to respond to the invitation I then made you. You have on all occasions given me the most generous support.

No appeal has been taken from the Chair.

No decision of the Chair has been reversed, by the House. For all these, I must return you my hearty acknowledgments, and thank you, as sincerely as I did for the honor you had done me in placing me here.

I am profoundly gratified for both the partiality which placed me here, and which has certainly supported me since.

Gentlemen, I congratulate you on the close of your labors: you have worked assiduously, constantly, untiringly.

The business of our State under our system of Biennial Sessions accumulates to such an extent, and the local needs of the counties; of municipal and private corporations are so many; that the labors imposed on the House during its short sessions every two years, are very great, requiring constant attention and the whole of your time.

The labors of your committees especially at this session have been unusually arduous; and you have gone through with them, in a way which has commanded the consent of the House to your well prepared measures.

To the officers and employees of the House, and especially those who have been engaged intimately in its practical workings, I must express my high appreciation not more for the marked courtesy which they have at all times and under every circumstance paid me, than for the faithful discharge of every duty imposed upon them.

Elected as you were, Gentlemen, after the outbreak of our civil troubles and when every measure was resorted to, to seduce this good old State from the paths of rectitude and honor; and amidst a state of feeling which had become embittered beyond everything previously known in our history; it would not have been strange, if, in the course of your discussions, prudence and forbearance and moderation in speech and conduct,—so necessary not only to the harmonious, but