

remarks. It is sufficient that I should repeat to you the cordial welcome which you have here received.

President Johnson then replied as follows :

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S SPEECH.

SIR :—In being presented here to-day under these peculiar circumstances, and on a spot which, at an early period of our history, was consecrated to freedom, I confess to you that a reception so kind, and so cordial, and so gratifying, incapacitates me from making suitable acknowledgment ; but I cannot refrain from saying that my visit to this Capital affords me much pleasure—among other reasons, because events have recently transpired which were not the result of any preconceived arrangement or design, but which, it seems to me, were brought about by Providence itself. But a few days since, without any agency on my part, I was called to my native State to participate in a ceremony of great interest to me personally. After my return to Washington I was invited to visit the opposite extreme of the country. When I consider these two events connected with my visit here to-day, it looks to me as the result of a kind and overruling Providence. But the other day it would have been impossible for the Chief Magistrate to travel as far South as I did, and we know from the prejudice existing it would have been unpleasant for my honored friend (Mr. Seward,) to have gone so far in that direction. But when I look at the pleasant incidents connected with our visit to North Carolina, it seems to me, and I trust I am not mistaken in saying, that an era of good will is about to be inaugurated. If I know myself, from the beginning of the late unhappy civil strife, I had but a single object in view, and that was to preserve the harmony, peace and union of these States. It would have been at any time the highest object of my ambition to tie up the bleeding arteries which caused so much blood, and the expenditure of so much money. Now, however, there is a new era, and I trust we shall have peace on earth and good will toward men. I trust the time has come when man is no longer to be set on man, and in the name of God to lift his hand against the throat of his fellow, and that the land that gave a brother birth will be spared from being again drenched with a brother's blood.

To be invited to visit the State of Maryland by a Convention which has a reputation for talent, to be welcomed by the Chairman of your Committee, by the Governor of your State, and by your President, irrespective of party, is peculiarly gratifying to me. The history of Maryland, and especially of Annapolis, is more familiar to you than to me, and therefore it is not necessary for me to indulge in a narration of facts which will last as long as history itself.