

events that have transpired recently have not been the result of any preconcerted arrangement or design. They have been brought about and seem, in fact, to be the result almost of Providence. [Applause.] Only the other day, without designing it, I was called to my native State to participate in a ceremony there that was peculiarly interesting to me. I was next, without any prearrangement of my own, called upon to visit an opposite extreme of our country.

When I look back to those two events and connect them with the event of being here today, it looks to me, as I have said, almost as though it were the result of Providence itself. But very recently we know how party feeling ran and how rancorous it was. We know that it would have been impossible for a Chief Magistrate of this nation to have gone as far South as I was; and we know from the prejudice and ill feeling existing, how unpleasant it would have been for him to have gone as far North. But when we look upon these recent demonstrations, it does seem to me, and I trust in God it is so, that an era of good will and reconciliation is about being inaugurated. [Great cheering.] I know myself, from the beginning of the unhappy civil strike that has divided this people, I had one single object in view, and that was to preserve the peace, the harmony, and the union of these States. [Applause.] It would have been the highest hope of my ambition could I, at any time, have suspended every warlike preparation, and have stayed the tide of exhaustion of means and human life. It would have been the highest object of my ambition could I have gone forth at any moment and have stayed this cruel war and this sacrifice of life.

And now I trust an era of good will has commenced, and that we shall have "peace on earth, and good will toward men." [Great applause.] I trust in God that the time has come when men will no longer be set upon men, and the name of God be invoked against both. I trust in God the time has come when this land that gave a brother birth will be spared from the drenching of a brother's blood. [Applause.]

To be invited to visit the seat of government of the State of Maryland by a Convention with the reputation that this has for talent, a State noted for its early his-