

shaped the destiny and controlled the policy of this Commonwealth.

The reasons it would be futile to discuss on this occasion, the people in the exercise of their sovereign right, saw fit in 1896 to change their public servants. They elected a Republican Governor and a Republican majority of the House of Delegates. Two years afterward they returned a Republican majority to the State Senate as well as to the House of Delegates, thus placing both the Executive and Legislative branches of government into the hands of that party. Whether during the opportunity thus given them, they have governed well or otherwise; whether they have measured up to the expectations of the people who placed them in power, it is not for me to say. Nor is it necessary or appropriate at this time to pass judgment upon them. Whatever the facts in that regard may be, it is certain that the people have restored the Democracy to power in the State. They have again placed every branch of the Government in our hands. They have elected a Democratic Governor, Comptroller and Attorney-General. They have elected a Democratic majority in both branches of the General Assembly. We shall at an early date be placed in possession of the Board of Public Works. Thus we shall have the entire and undivided responsibility of State Government. This responsibility we asked the people to give us. They have complied with our request. We must see to it that they shall not be disappointed.

We promised them good government. They have taken us at our word, and have trusted us again.

We promised them a clean, honest, business administration. They have said they believed we would do what we promised.

We pledged ourselves to measures of reform desired by the people; reform as to the police system of Baltimore city; reform as to the system of public education; reform as to bribery in elections; reform as to the methods in Legislation. These are things, I say, we have promised the people. They are entitled to them. They must and shall have them if it can be made possible by me. The Democratic party has no disposition to ignore them; but I wish to take this public opportunity