

ture should be kept within moderate limits. Let us have no unnecessary appropriations. Let us not incur the charge of extravagance in that regard. The membership of both Houses of our General Assembly is of an unusually high order. In my long experience as a Senator, I can say quite confidently, I have never known the personnel of said membership to have been excelled. The new lease of life, therefore, which the people have seen fit to bestow upon the Democratic party has a most auspicious beginning. It encourages me not only to hope, but to believe that we shall fully measure up to the high standard of merit assumed and promised by the party in the campaign which returned that party to power. By so doing we shall be enabled to retain the confidence of the people, and thus hold the reins of Government for many years to come. But should we fail to meet the just expectations of the people in this regard, we shall be hurled from power as surely and as overwhelmingly as we were defeated at the polls four years ago.

The political events of the past four years in this State prove beyond doubt that the people rule. They make Governors and Legislatures, and they unmake them.

The system of public instruction inaugurated in Maryland thirty-five years ago has borne an abundant harvest. It has grown and expanded to such an extent that the people, even the humblest in the land, have become readers of the newspaper, and close observers and students of public events. They have become intelligent, critical and jealous of their rights. Any attempt to deceive or any dereliction of public duty is at once detected and exposed. It therefore follows that any public official, whether he be Governor, a member of the Legislature, or the humblest officeholder in the State, will be held by the people to a strict accountability; and so it should be.

I realize, my fellow citizens, the great responsibility I shall assume when presently I shall take upon myself the office of Chief Executive of this State.

I am aware of the many embarrassments attendant upon the position. I can only say that I shall try to do my duty. If I should be unsuccessful in any particular,