

borough, having received fifty-eight votes, is duly elected President of the Convention.

Mr. Daniel moved that the President appoint a committee of three members to wait upon the President elect, and conduct him to the Chair :

Which was adopted.

The Chairman appointed Messrs. William Daniel, J. S. Berry, of Baltimore county, and Daniel Clarke, of Prince George's.

The President was conducted to the Chair, and addressed the Convention as follows :

*Gentlemen of the Convention :*

It is with much diffidence that I enter upon the execution of the duties of presiding officer of this body. I am well aware of the responsibilities belonging to such a position in ordinary times, greatly increased as they must be in a period like the present, when the passions of men are aroused by the exciting events of each day, demanding, in the position I now occupy, the exercise of more than the usual amount of forbearance and control. I need not remind you with what solicitude the people of this State are watching our proceedings. I am sure I do not speak with unauthorized hope when I venture the prediction that you will bring to the performance of your several duties a fidelity, attention, and an enlarged patriotism, equal to the expectation of those who sent us here for the purpose of organizing anew the institutions under which we live. At any time this is an important duty. At the present it cannot be performed without a zealous determination to do our whole duty irrespective of personal considerations.

I will not advert to the present condition of our State and National affairs. I deem it most prudent to leave these to the impartial judgment of each individual member ; and while seeking to exclude from our deliberation all partisan prejudices, I beseech you to devote yourselves sedulously to the work before you ; and while in the performance of your duties, not to overlook that respect and esteem that is due from each one to the others. If I should be successful in the pursuit of such a course, I am confident that I shall be sustained and animated by the exhibition of a similar spirit on your part. We must expect to differ in our views. Let us determine to present, and advocate them on all occasions in a courteous manner, one becoming a dignified deliberative body. By respecting the opinions of each other we shall be the bet-