

The period seems to render it appropriate, and in making any allusion to national and State topics I could hardly have said less.

Before taking my seat you will allow me, Senators, to express the great pleasure I have in again meeting you, face to face, within these venerable walls. The pleasant remembrances of agreeable intercourse, one year ago, but deepen the anticipations of coming enjoyment. I can express no higher hope than that our future interviews may be marked by the same gentlemanly bearing and friendly sentiment which distinguished the session of eighteen hundred and sixty-five.

Here I am reminded that since the close of the last sessions death has made vacant one place in our circle. The Senator from Kent, who was accustomed to occupy yonder seat, has been called hence to a loftier theatre of action. We recall his bland and courteous manner, his quiet, unobtrusive disposition, the cautious, conscientious and discreet part he took in legislation. It will be for the Senate to take special notice of his demise, and for other tongues than mine to rehearse his virtues.

Soliciting your indulgent support in the discharge of my official duties, and invoking the blessing of Heaven upon our deliberations, I now declare the Senate open for the transaction of business.

On motion of Mr. Turner,

Two thousand copies of the President's address were ordered to be printed, three hundred of which in the German language.

Mr. Ohr submitted the following Message:

BY THE SENATE,  
January 10th, 1866.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:*

A quorum of the Senate has assembled in pursuance of the proclamation of his Excellency the Governor, and is now ready to proceed to business. We propose with the concurrence of your Honorable Body, the appointment of a joint Committee of three Members of the House, and two on the part of the Senate, to wait on his Excellency the Governor, and inform him that the Legislature is prepared to receive any communication he may be pleased to make. We have appointed on the part of the Senate Messrs. Ohr of Alleghany and Vickers of Kent.

By order,

C. HARWOOD,  
Secretary.

Which was read, assented to and sent to the House of Delegates.