

MONDAY, March 4th, 1867.

After the reading of the journal the President of the Senate arose and said :

I request the indulgence of the Senate for the purpose of presenting a brief statement of a personal nature, and indirectly affecting this body.

It is well known to you, Senators, that various reports, prejudicial to my political standing and personal reputation, have been diligently circulated of late, both here and elsewhere, which I have thus far declined to notice. These have now found their way into the public press, and embrace charges against my private character, which, if true, render me no longer a suitable occupant of the high official position I sustain to the State.

It has never been my habit to reply to mere rumors in regard to my political status or personal reputation, preferring to leave to time the vindication of both. But it is due this Honorable Body, over which it is my duty and pleasure to preside, and which is measurably affected by whatever concerns the public position of its chief officer, that I should now briefly, and I trust, finally, refer to what, under other circumstances, would have been treated with silent and merited contempt. I allude more particularly to the current statement, that I had corruptly bargained, in the event of my accession to the gubernatorial office, and upon the promised rejection of Mr. Swann by the United States Senate, to substitute in his place the existing member of that body from the Eastern Shore. This charge, absurd and unreasonable as it may appear, has been industriously propagated, and in certain quarters, I regret to say, professedly credited.

I, therefore, take occasion, in my place to-day, in the most emphatic manner, to pronounce the statement alluded to, and any and all other reports associated therewith, from whatever source emanating, gross and infamous fabrications. Neither Mr. Creswell, nor any of his friends or party ever, directly or indirectly, approached me, or were approached by me or any of my friends, with propositions of any kind whatever, much less one so infamous as that charged ; nor has the remotest conception of such an arrangement ever entered my brain ; or, as I believe, theirs.

If the charge of desertion of the principles I have so recently and clearly enunciated has been asserted because of independent opinions I may have expressed upon particular measures of policy, I have only to say, that I shall consider myself unfit for place and undeserving public confidence when I cease to declare my honest convictions of grave po-