

not my province to do more than allude to topics which will be amply and ably discussed in the course of your deliberations.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to express the hope that every obstruction to our prosperity, State and National, may be removed out of the way, and that the movement toward whatever is wise and great, pure and noble in Government may be steadily progressive. In vain do we boast our vast territorial domains—the exhaustless sources of national prosperity—the wide diffusion of intelligence and morals—if these necessary ingredients are not bound together by the cords of the Union. Without this we have no spirit of nationality, vitalizing the whole, animating all hearts with the love of a common country, and converging all ideas and interests towards one common purpose and destiny. To secure so desirable a consummation there must be an end of strife—the conflict of extremes must cease—embittered feeling subside—the rights of all sections must be respected, and a liberal sentiment animate the councils of the Government in dealing with the momentous questions of the hour. The wounds inflicted by the unhappy contest from which we have so recently emerged must be healed with as little delay as possible, and old feuds and animosities of every description, and from whatever quarter, buried out of sight forever. No other policy can ever restore the union of the States or give permanent prosperity to the nation. Let us at least, Senators, cultivate the solid virtues of peace, and present, in our Legislative proceedings, an example of forbearance and moderation—a resolute purpose to labour for the good of the whole rather than the benefit of a part—which cannot fail to command the admiration and approval of all good and wise men.

In the discharge of my official functions, as the Presiding Officer of the Senate, I must again invoke your indulgence towards the defects of my administration, as well as that encouragement, counsel and support so essential to the successful discharge of the various and perplexing duties of the Chair.

I take pleasure in declaring the Senate now open for the transaction of business.

On motion of Mr. Stephenson, the Senators elect took and subscribed the oath prescribed by the Constitution.

On motion of Mr. Stephenson,

Ordered, That for the purpose of facilitating the reporting of the proceedings of the Senate correctly and expeditiously, the reporter for the Associated Press of Baltimore City be allowed the privilege of occupying a desk in near proximity to the desk of the Secretary of the Senate.