

The President laid before the Senate the following communication from the Hon. Philip Francis Thomas, United States Senator elect:

ANNAPOLIS, March 16, 1867.

To Lieut. Governor Cox, President of the Senate, and Oliver Miller, Esq., Speaker of the House of Delegates :

GENTLEMEN:—I have had the honor to receive your joint letter of the 12th instant, informing me of my election by the General Assembly, as a Senator of the United States, for the term of six years from the fourth of March, instant.

I receive this evidence of the confidence of the Representatives of the people of Maryland, with profound gratitude, and in accepting the distinguished honor conferred upon me, I beg to offer the assurance that in the new sphere of service to which I am about to be removed, I shall spare no effort to serve my native State with fidelity and zeal, and with a determined purpose to maintain unimpaired all her rights as a co-equal sovereign member of the Federal Union.

The country, as all are aware, is at this moment, surrounded by embarrassments from which there are few persons who can discover an avenue of escape. The Union of the States as it came from the hands of its authors is, this day disrupted by the absence of ten of its members from the Federal Councils and the lovers of free government are looking with intense anxiety for a change in the condition of our internal relations.

There are many who despair of early relief, but judging from the known patriotism of the great masses of the people of the North and West, as well as the deep-seated love of a common country which animates the hearts of the representative men of those great sections, in and out of Congress, I cannot allow myself to believe that the work of restoration will be delayed to any very remote or indefinite period of time.

Reason will, I trust, soon resume her empire over the minds of men of all sections, and the passions engendered by the late civil strife will so far subside as to give full play to that "sober second thought," under the influence of which our beloved country has been, more than once, rescued from impending perils.

Influenced by such hopes and desires, I shall repair to the seat of government, with undoubting confidence that, at no distant day, the Union of our fathers will be reetored in all its integrity, and that our country will resume the career of greatness and power which, under guidance of wisdom and patriotism, surely is its manifest destiny.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP F. THOMAS.

Which was read and ordered to be entered on the Journal.