

the Committee had waited upon his Excellency, the Governor, who informed them that he had no further communication to make to the General Assembly!

The Speaker then delivered the following address:

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:*

Three months since we assembled in this Hall as members of the House of Delegates, chosen by the people to enact such laws as were necessary for the welfare and good government of the State. To-night, by a provision of the Constitution, the session of the Legislature expires. As your presiding officer, I cannot perform my last duty of announcing an adjournment, *sine die*, without addressing a few words to those with whom my association has been so agreeable and with whom I now part with such regret.

The recollection of our sojourn here together, at this ancient City of Annapolis, will long live in my memory; the friendships I have formed will not soon be forgotten, and when hereafter I look back upon the past, the remembrance of the Legislative Session of 1870, will remain as one of the brightest souvenirs of my life.

I thank you for your co-operation in the discharge of my duties. I thank you for the courtesy which has marked your social and official intercourse with me. I appreciate the feelings of friendship you have again and again manifested towards me. I assure you gentlemen I reciprocate them to the fullest extent.

Nor can I allow this opportunity to pass without returning thanks to all the officers of the House for the faithful manner in which they have discharged their respective duties. Especially do I wish to acknowledge my obligations to the two principal Clerks with whom, as Speaker, I have been so closely associated; their experience and assistance, most cheerfully rendered at all times, has been of much service to me during the entire session.

I came to the Chair with the determination, that in my course as Speaker, I would be influenced by no personal or political considerations. It has been my desire, on all occasions, to act with strict impartiality. I think I have done so. It is for you to judge of my record.

Providence has been kind to us; the hand of the destroyer has not invaded our circle. We adjourn to-night with the same number upon our roll, as when we first assembled in this Hall. Let us in our hearts return thanks for His kindness. May His blessing be upon the fruit of our labors!

I hope and believe that our deliberations have resulted in