

Hon. Ferdinand C. Latrobe having received a majority of the votes cast,

The Chair declared Hon. Ferdinand C. Latrobe duly elected Speaker of the House of Delegates.

The Chair appointed Hon. Wm M. Merrick and Hon. E. G. Kilbourn to conduct the Speaker elect to the chair.

On motion of Mr. Chapman,

Hon. Wm. M. Merrick administered the oath of office to the Speaker elect.

Whereupon the Speaker delivered the following address :

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates :*

I appreciate and thank you for the honor you confer in selecting me as your presiding officer.

I am sensible of the responsibilities connected with the position, and I promise to discharge its duties faithfully, to the extent of my ability. I ask your full confidence, assuring you in return, that in my course as Speaker of this House, I will be governed by no personal or party motives, but by what I believe to be for the best interests of the State. Again has that rare occurrence in our country happened in Maryland, of a Legislature composed of members of one political party. Let us not forget, and I am sure we will not, that as Delegates, we represent not a party, but the people of the State. Let our efforts be to promote their interests by judicious, and especially to lighten their burdens by economical, legislation. Let us give to all subjects that may come before us, that consideration which their effect upon the prosperity of our people demands at our hands. Let us avoid hasty action at all times, by a strict adherence to the rules and forms of legislation. Let us, above all, maintain the fair fame and honorable record of our State, entrusted as it is to our keeping, and when we return to the people who sent us here, we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that we have done our duty as their representatives.

Again, I thank you, gentlemen, for the honor you have conferred upon me.

Mr. Blake submitted the following order :

Ordered, That the address of the Speaker be placed on the journal.

Which was adopted.

The members elect were then severally qualified by the Speaker, in the presence of each other, by subscribing to the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution.

Mr. Merrick moved that the House now proceed to election of Chief Clerk.