

Without any experience in this department, without that training which gives fitness for this place, without any qualification for its duties, except an earnest desire and zeal for their faithful performance to the best interests of the State, I accept the position; being sensible of my deficiency, I feel much more sensibly and deeply the honor now bestowed. In the discharge of the duties thus imposed I shall need, as I feel well assured I shall receive, your kind indulgence and forbearance. In the many mistakes which the Chair may make during the session upon which we are entering, I feel well assured I shall have your kind indulgence, and that from the older members of this Assembly the kind suggestions of experience, without which, I feel I shall illy perform the duties imposed upon me. Without prejudice, free from party or sectional bitterness, I shall so endeavor to conduct its business as shall tend to the best harmony and kindest feeling. Oppressed as the people of this State generally are with large taxation, they look to us for a wise and an economical session; let them not be disappointed. It would not only be unwise, but out of place for me to indicate in any manner the necessary legislation which our people require. His Excellency the Governor, in his message to the joint Assembly, I have no doubt, will indicate in an able manner his views upon all the subjects dear and valuable to the people of our State. Looking for aid from Him who overrules the destinies of both men and States, and again thanking you for the great honor placed upon me, I now call this House of Delegates to order.

The following members elect were then severally qualified by the Speaker, in the presence of each other, by taking the oath of office:

*St. Mary's County*—Thomas H. Bond, R. Johnson Colton.

*Kent County*—Samuel A. Merritt, Jesse K. Hines.

*Anne Arundel County*—Eli J. Henkle, James S. Robinson, George W. Nutwell.

*Calvert County*—Samuel R. Bird, John Turner.

*Charles County*—F. M. Lancaster, D. W. Hawkins.

*Baltimore County*—Wm. S. Keech, Charles A. Buchanan, D. Marsh Matthews, Robert Fowler, John Merryman, Lewis Turner, Jr.

*Talbot County*—Joseph B. Seth, William H. Valliant.

*Somerset County*—John S. Sudler, William Coulbourn, E. F. Duer.