

Mr. Carroll was then conducted to the Chair by Messrs. Earle and Steiner,

When he delivered the following address :

*Senators :*

Standing upon this spot, so truly associated with the patriotic memories of the past, I cannot but deeply feel the responsibilities of the position which your confidence has entrusted to me.

To be selected as the Presiding Officer of the Senate of Maryland, by the almost unanimous voice of my fellow-members, is an honor, which, I trust, I shall ever appreciate at its proper value, and while I willingly acknowledge the want of that experience which might enable me to meet with your entire approbation, I can pledge myself to the execution of the varied duties of this position, in a spirit of strict impartiality, and with an earnest desire to serve the best interests of this Assembly.

Although it is not my province to address you in reference to the political questions of the day, we surely may be permitted to congratulate each other upon the favorable circumstances under which we have been called together.

For many years past, the exclusive control and administration of the affairs of this State, have been confided by the people to the advocates of one of the two great political organizations of the country. During all this period, under the guiding influences of the Democratic party, we have seen the duties of our Executive performed with dignity and ability, the administration of our laws has been faithful and impartial, the credit of the State has been firmly maintained, in the midst of financial storms, that have staggered many of the strongest in the land; our Public Works have been managed with economy and skill, education has been dispensed with a liberal hand, labor has been lightened, taxes diminished, order and good government have everywhere prevailed; and now we have the satisfaction of knowing that our earnest efforts to maintain the prosperity of this Commonwealth, have lately been indorsed, by an overwhelming expression of the confidence of the people.

While, therefore, we may justly point with pride to this encouraging condition of our domestic affairs does not the magnitude itself, of the victory so lately achieved by us, but too clearly show upon whom shall rest the responsibility—not only for the action, but likewise for the spirit of the present session ?