

the Honorable Judges of the Court of Appeals, and a large concourse of citizens, after which the oath of office was administered by the Hon. R. H. Alvey, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, agreeable to the Constitution

*Gentlemen of the*

*General Assembly of Maryland:*

In response to the voice of the people of our State, I am here to qualify as Governor of Maryland.

Fully recognizing the responsibility that the acceptance of the office imposes upon me. I appeal to you for co-operation and support, and with the blessings of Almighty God we may hope to meet in a measure the best expectations of our constituents, and thereby contribute to the welfare, peace, prosperity and happiness of the whole people of the State.

Political parties are necessary for the safe conduct of public affairs, and party government is not inconsistent with honest, efficient and economical administration.

We who are here in response to the expressed wish of the dominant political party of the State, must recognize that the responsibility is with us.

But no matter what our political creeds may be, we have no right to give countenance to measures that would in the least be detrimental to the progress and prosperity of the State at large. My predecessor in office has so recently advised you of the financial and general condition of the State, and made such suggestions as his long experience and good judgment have prompted, that it renders it quite unnecessary for me to occupy your time by the expression of my views as to matters of legislation; except to declare that I have no changes to make in the policy laid down by myself upon the hustings, and that I will be the advocate of every just measure of reform that the wisdom of this legislature may advise.

As time goes on, and experience affords me more thorough knowledge than I now possess, and the wishes and requirements of the people present themselves, it will be my duty and my pleasure to lay before you such suggestions as in my judgment would best serve the interest of the commonwealth.