

Senators :

The time having arrived when by Constitutional limitation the session of 1904, of the General Assembly of Maryland must be brought to a close, I take this occasion before adjourning the Senate without day, to express to each one of you my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the uniformly kind consideration and courtesy shown me as your presiding officer, during the entire session of this body. At its beginning, in taking up the gavel, I announced that I would endeavor to be perfectly impartial in the discharge of the duties of the office to which you had called me, and the assurance I have received from all, of both political parties, with the many expressions of your appreciation and regard, are guarantees that I have endeavored, at least, to fulfill the promise I then made.

I shall take with me to my home, the most pleasant recollections of my association with you during the past ninety days, and it will be a green spot in my memory while life lasts.

To those who have filled the clerical and subordinate positions of the Senate I render cheerful testimony of the faithful and conscientious discharge of the duties assigned them. My especial thanks are due the desk clerks who come in daily contact with every Senator, and who have performed their arduous tasks with fidelity and promptness, greatly facilitating the business of the Senate.

During the early days of the session a great calamity befell our chief city, which has affected alike the counties of this State, as well as Baltimore, but it is exceedingly gratifying that the General Assembly has responded promptly in the passage of all measures presented by its representatives for its relief. Let us hope that before many years shall pass, the burnt district will be occupied by handsomer and more commodious business houses, and that the prosperity of the city will be greatly increased.

Our work has been accomplished whether for good or ill, time alone will reveal. We have had to grapple with problems upon which Senators have differed