

I am not an advocate of the useless of extravagant expenditure of the public money, but in my opinion the work should be done in accordance with the requirements of the age and to meet the wants of our increased and rapidly increasing population, and a liberal appropriation should be made to carry into effect the plans which have been agreed upon by the commission.

For more than a century and a quarter the old State House has been the home of the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the government, and within its walls linger the memories of famous men who have left their impress on the State, and have elevated it to the high position it occupies among its sister States of the Union. May their successors who will occupy larger and more imposing quarters, surrounded by all the conveniences which the ingenuity of man can devise, emulate the lives and character of those who have made the State what it is, and may they be men of high ideals, of pure and lofty patriotism, having but one aim in their official relations—the common good of all our people.

The simple ceremonies in the organization of the two branches of the General Assembly this day are the dedication of this new building to the serious and holy purposes of elevating the character, preserving the rights and protecting the liberty of the people. Standing upon the threshold of a new era and looking back to the time when this structure was first erected, one can not but exclaim with the Prophet of old, "What hath God wrought!"

A hundred and thirty years ago a comparatively small body of sturdy pioneers, with arms in their hands to guard against savage foes, faint with the toil of subduing the virgin wilderness, oppressed by the stifling atmosphere of the fast approaching conflict for the preservation of their liberties against the foremost power of the world, reared the beautiful old structure not only as a meeting place for their deliberations, but as an altar to the Goddess of Liberty and an expression of their longing for the beautiful. So it has