

obligations I am under. I am mindful of the fact that I am undertaking a task full of difficulty that can only be met by your hearty co-operation.

The Legislative Session upon which we are about to enter, is one of more than ordinary importance. The majority of you were elected upon a platform, which committed you to preserve in every conservative and constitutional way, the political ascendancy of the white race in Maryland.

In order that this pledge may be carried out, it may become necessary not only to amend the present election law, but that the Organic Law of the State shall be changed in the shape of a Constitutional amendment. Whatever is to be done along this line, gentlemen, let us do it promptly."

The party in power in this State, of which we are an important factor, have made certain pledges to the people of Maryland, and these pledges must be kept, for we will be held responsible for the things which are done here, and for the things we leave undone, let us discharge our duties in a manner that will enable us to render a strict account to the people whom we represent. Let us enact into laws only those measures that are wholesome for the good of the State and people, and are really needed.

I shall endeavor to perform the duties of Speaker the best I can, but I ask the hearty co-operation of each member, and I should not have attempted to fill this very important position, did I not believe I would have your active co-operation.

It shall be my aim to hear you all, and treat you impartially.

My ambition is, that you gentlemen, and I together, may so conduct this House of Delegates that it may reflect honor upon the State we represent. And in conclusion I desire to say that the mistakes I shall make, will be mistakes of the head and not of the heart. I am now ready to take the oath prescribed by the Constitution.

I now request the Hon. Joshua H. Cockey, of Baltimore county, to administer the oath of office.