

I am the more deeply sensible of the honor bestowed, because I am conscious that among those conferring it there are many whom long training and ripe experience in legislative assemblies have eminently fitted for this exalted position.

I am not without great misgivings as to my ability to discharge properly the duties of this office. Without experience, unacquainted with parliamentary usages, I bring to the performance of those duties nothing more than a firm and zealous determination to *do what is right*, so far as in me lies. Trusting that you will at all times cheerfully accord to me your assistance and support, I, in acknowledgment of your kind indulgence, assure you that as Speaker of this House I will not be governed by personal or political considerations, but will strive to know you, each and all, as *representatives of the people* of Maryland.

Coming, as we do, fresh from and of the people, and knowing their wants, let us provide for them; let us as public servants faithfully discharge our obligations, and thereby earn the approbation of those who sent us here, a reward which amply compeesates for the severest and most arduous labors that may devolve upon us.

Hoping that the session upon which we are entering may be characterized by wise and economical measures, I now enter upon the discharge of my duties, and call this House to order.

The following members elect were then severally qualified by the Speaker, in the presence of each other, by taking the oath of office:

*St. Mary's County*—Ignatius E. Mattingly.

*Kent County*—Stephen Boyer, Lewis Usilton.

*Anne Arundel County*—James H. Hodges, James S. Robinson, Frederick Rullman, Jr.

*Calvert County*—John Turner, Samuel R. Bird.

*Charles County*—F. M. Lancaster, D. W. Hawkins.

*Baltimore County*—James E. Hooper, Oliver P. Baldwin, William Whitelock, William H. Curtis, Robert S. Smith, James J. Given.

*Talbot County*—N. C. Fitzjarrell, H. Clay Dodson.

*Somerset County*—Benjamin Lankford, Elisha J. Gunby, Samuel S. Ford.

*Dorchester County*—Wm. J. Lambdin, Washington A. Smith, E. G. Waters.