

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Senate

and House of Delegates

The will of the people of Maryland, whose voice you have to day declared, has elevated me to the highest office in their gift. For this great honor, freely bestowed, by a majority almost unprecedented in our State, I desire to express my most grateful acknowledgments: and deeply sensible of the disproportion between my abilities, and the responsible duties they have devolved upon me, I must ask beforehand that they judge me with somewhat of the partiality they have already shown; and accept as the best acknowledgment I can make of their confidence, an entire devotion to their interest and the public service.

In that service it shall be my highest ambition to reflect in my official conduct, the will of the people whose servant I am. And now, at my entrance into that office, with whose duties I am charged, it is due to myself, no less than to those who have chosen me, that I should frankly and plainly declare the purposes they desired to accomplish by their choice, and the principles which will direct my administration of their affairs. Those principles I regard as more vital to our institutions, than any that have been called in question since the beginning of our government. That they animate the people of this State, is proven by their triumph in three successive expressions of the popular will, by majorities constantly and regularly increasing; until now they have filled every department of political power in our commonwealth, with those whose duty it is, each in his sphere, to embody those principles in the administration, the laws, and it may be hereafter in the Constitution of the State.

The people of Maryland have seriously considered those words of the Father of his Country. "Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence, I conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens, the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake. Since history and experience prove, that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government."

The administration of that great man was embarrassed by the