

Mr. Belt offered the following order:

Ordered, That the thanks of this House are due, and they are hereby tendered to James W. Clayton, the Chief Clerk of this House, for the faithful and efficient manner in which he has discharged the laborious and important duties of his office; and to C. W. Crocker, the Reading Clerk, and other officers of this House for the satisfactory manner in which the various duties of their several positions have been discharged.

Which was adopted.

The Speaker delivered the following address:

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates of Maryland, the time for our separation has arrived, and duty as well as gratitude prompts me to address you a parting word, for the kindness which you have exhibited towards me, by the adoption of the resolution which it has been your pleasure to pass, in relation to the administration of the office, to which your partiality in the beginning of the session called me, I beg you to accept my most grateful acknowledgements. Whatever success has attended my efforts faithfully to discharge the arduous duties of my position, I feel I am greatly indebted to the prompt support and ready courtesy extended to me by the body over which I have had the honor to preside.

Although we came together, many of us as strangers, entertaining as we did diverse views of many of the important measures which have been brought to our consideration, still in a becoming spirit of concession and gentlemanly regard each for the other, we have passed through the brief term for active legislation allowed us by the constitution, with the consciousness of having done nothing intentionally upon which, in after time, we can look back with any feeling of regret.

As for myself, gentlemen, permit me to assure you, that if in the moments of excitement, which the scenes around me have been calculated often to produce, I have by the utterance of a single word, or the fair interpretation of a single action, inflicted the slightest wound upon the feelings of any one with whom I have had the pleasure of being associated here, nothing has been further from my design, and I now sincerely invoke that forgetfulness of the wrong which I believe your generosity will award to the frankness of the confession.

Permit me in conclusion, gentlemen, to wish you a safe return to those who anxiously await you, and to express the hope that all public labors which you may hereafter be called upon to discharge, may be as faithfully met and as successfully performed as those which have been imposed upon you here as representatives of the people of Maryland.

It only remains for me to bid you a cordial adieu.