

Road Company, and the Annapolis and Elk Ridge Rail Road Company.

JOHN JAMES GRAVES,
Chairman.

Which was read.

Also, the following report:

The select committee appointed on the 14th January, to inquire into the truth of certain report as to the stopping of certain baggage by the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Rail Road Company, having already reported by bill, now beg leave to submit the accompanying documents, and recommend their publication among the documents of the house.

JOHN JAMES GRAVES,
Chairman.

Which was read.

The order adopted this morning having been transmitted to the Speaker, confined to his room from illness, the following answer was returned through the hands of Mr. Biser.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:

Through your kindness, I have been apprized that, during my short absence from the seat to which I have been so constantly and closely confined, this house has been pleased to pause from its arduous labors for a moment, to make me the subject of its consideration, and to declare its opinion of the conduct of its presiding officer.

It seems that the manner in which I have performed my service, although I might before have been led to suppose that it had been honored with an implied approval by your past acquiescence, has now the positive sanction of your deliberate judgment by the resolution you have adopted.

I accept this last testimony of your approbation, in the spirit in which it was offered. It is appreciated by me as a fresh token of your confidence; and in returning courtesy for courtesy, I beg leave to add the expression of my gratitude to all, without discrimination of parties, who have concurred in bestowing it rather as a substantial favor, than as an equivocal compliment of custom.

It enhances the gratification I derive from the conviction of my own heart that I have uniformly and faithfully labored to discharge the arduous duties of the chair with strict impartiality, with a rigid regard for the rights of minorities, and with all the lenity towards individuals that justice and a proper observance of your rules would warrant me in exercising.

If those rules have appeared to be, in some instances, too rigid, you will bear in mind that it was not I who established them, and that it was required of me that I should strive to enforce them. If the obligation imposed upon me was great, and at times even painful, you have always been liberal in your exaction of the fulfillment of it:—if the service I have had to perform was laborious, you have by your patience and forbearance assisted to alleviate it:—if it was often novel and difficult for me, you have been kind and indulgent:—and if I have fallen into errors, as doubtless