

I frequently have done, you have always manifested a generous disposition to overlook them from a persuasion, of which I am deeply sensible, that at least my motives were pure and my intentions upright.

To have succeeded in rendering universal satisfaction, when I have had so frequently to decide upon the instant, and to pronounce upon perplexing points of order growing out of the excitement produced by earnest and almost angry debates, in regard to which the oldest and wisest might honestly disagree, is more than I could have promised myself,—nay, more than could possibly have been realized if I had even been free from human frailty.

You perceive from the first, that it was my singular lot to be appointed under circumstances less fortunate for the incumbent, than those which have usually attended my predecessors. Every officer of the house, at this most important session, was altogether new and unpractised as such, from the highest to the lowest of them, whether in the hall or in the committee room; and although every member of this body was no doubt cheerfully disposed to favor me with all the light he could place before me, yet so many of you were like myself as it regarded experience in parliamentary matters, that you have generally exercised a cautious and most delicate reserve as to prompting me by your friendly counsel.

In a few hours more, this chair will have become vacant, and all the busy occupants of those seats I now survey will have disappeared. The closing scene is about to be drawn, when this venerable hall of our fathers, where echo's ceaseless din is at present heard, will become the temporary abode of silence, solitude, and gloom.

We are shortly to return to the counties and habitations we left, to mingle again with those whose confidence delegated us to do their service upon this floor. May we all be able respectively to render a good account of the talents that were committed to our keeping. May every one of you be certain to meet, that which your zeal, fidelity and diligence have entitled you to anticipate, a glad and hearty welcome from your worthy constituents, a cordial greeting from your anxious friends, and above all a happy restoration to your respective families, and a joyful re-union with the fond objects of your affection.

As the jaded crew of the tempest-beaten bark, after the fatigues of a tedious voyage are over, with quivering lips exchange the faltering words which tell a last adieu, and each mess-mate casts a lingering look back upon his comrades with a moist eye, indicative of the fullness of the heart and more expressive of its sympathy than all the eloquence of the tongue, he pardons every offence,—forgives every grudge,—forgets every difference,—remembers every kindness,—and cancels every wrong. My feelings spontaneously lead me to take pattern by that example, and to harbor no thoughts of the past, save those which will be productive of pleasing reflections hereafter.

Like laborers of the vineyard, who, when their toils for the sea-