

Read and referred to the committee on Elections and Privileges.

On motion of Mr. Geyer,

Ordered, That a committee of three be appointed by the chair to wait on the Hon. John C. Le Grand, and request a copy of his address, delivered before the House previous to his resignation as Speaker, that the same may be entered on the Journal.

Whereupon the Speaker appointed Messrs. Geyer, Hope and Causin said committee.

After some time the said committee reported, that they had performed this service, and that the Hon. John C. Le Grand had desired them to inform the House, that he would place in the hands of the clerk a copy of his address.

SPEAKER'S ADDRESS.

“Gentlemen of the House of Delegates :

“In rising as I do, to announce my intention to withdraw from the high and honorable station to which your partiality called me at the commencement of the session, I beg you to believe in my sincerity when I assure you that I labor under feelings of the most intense and painful character. Not unmindful of the obligations under which I rest for your many acts of kindness, nor forgetful of the honors which I have received at your hands, the arrival of the moment at which my connexion with you as a fellow-member is to terminate, is necessarily an event eminently calculated to inspire emotions in my breast of the deepest and most lasting character.

“It has been justly observed, that the station which I hold is ‘no bed of down, but lined with ten thousand thorns.’ Arduous and responsible as I have found the duties devolved upon me by it, to be, yet allow me in justice to you, to say, they have been largely decreased by the disposition you have always evinced to aid me in their performance.

“To be assured as I have been that I have so administered the rules of the House, and so deported myself as to secure your respect and good opinion, is a fact not only highly gratifying to my pride, but one of the most consoling events of my life. I receive the assurance not as the mere empty compliment of custom, but as an evidence of the appreciation on your part of a fixed determination on mine, in no instance to act other than with impartiality and in accordance with the dictates of an unbiassed judgment. If I know myself I can conscientiously say,—my conduct as your presiding officer, has been dictated by the spirit of justice and impartiality. If I have failed at any time to meet your expectations, owing to errors into which it may have been my misfortune to have fallen, I beg you to attribute the failure to a defect of the head and not of the heart:—and if also, at any time, the enforcement of the rules may have appeared to be annoyingly rigorous, I make no undue demand upon your liberality when I ask you to recollect,—