

Proceedings of the Executive Department of the State of Maryland.  
Enoch Louis Lowe, Governor.

State Department  
January 6<sup>th</sup> 1857

This being the day fixed by the Constitution of the State of Maryland for the Governor elect to qualify, agreeably thereto, and the Laws thereof, the Honorable Enoch Louis Lowe, in company with His Excellency, Philip Francis Thomas, proceeded from the Executive Chamber, at 12 O'clock M. to the Senate Chamber, and after having the Oath of Office administered to him by the Honorable John Johnson, Chancellor of Maryland, as required by the Constitution and Laws of the State, delivered, in the presence of the Members of the State Convention and a large concourse of citizens, the following inaugural address.

Inaugural Address.

Fellow Citizens:

By the free suffrage of Maryland, I have been called to preside over her affairs, as chief Executive Officer. On approaching the duties and responsibilities of such an exalted position, I cannot be insensible to my deficiency. Indeed, no man can well be regarded, in the beginning, as entirely competent to the arduous task of directing the machinery of our State Government.

The most gifted of the many distinguished men, who have preceded me, (and to follow in whose footsteps would be no easy undertaking,) have, no doubt, found the first entrance into this office embarrassed by a host of unanticipated difficulties. With a ponderous debt, pressing down upon the energies of our people, and a most extensive and intricate system of internal improvements, (the most entire supervision of which devolves directly or indirectly upon the Chief Magistrate,) the department of Government thus committed to my charge, is one full of toil, solicitude and patient endurance. I believe that integrity of purpose, firmness, and laborious zeal constitute the only proper standard, by which the administration of the Executive office should be measured; and I entertain the hope that, at the expiration of my term, I shall have no cause to shrink from the application of this test to my official conduct. For the matured opinion of the people I have ever entertained the profoundest respect; and hence, their approbation will always be regarded by me (and to the sanction of my own conscience) as the most desirable recompense for the pains and penalties attached to every high public station. A rightly constituted mind knows no ambition beyond a faithful discharge of duty, and the consequent approval of the good and wise. Errors of judgment will never fail to meet with a lenient criticism, where an intelligent people can discern that the motives of action were irreproachable. Placing such a firm reliance, therefore, in the justice and liberality of my fellow citizens, I feel less embarrassed, than I otherwise should, in entering upon the discharge of the high trust, which they have been pleased to confer upon me.

My predecessors, who were inducted into office in the presence of the General Assembly of Maryland, have usually given to the inaugural address something of the character of the annual message, generalizing the legislative policy, which they regarded as most conducive to the interests of the State; and inviting the wisdom of the representatives of the people to the consideration of its practical development. On contemplation of the amended Constitution, I am inaugurated by, and solely in the presence of the Honorable, the Chancellor of Maryland; which would, perhaps, render inappropriate a similar mode of address. It will be my pleasure, as well as my duty, hereafter, to communicate to the Legislature of the State the views of public policy, which I entertain, and to cooperate with them in all measures calculated to promote the happiness and power of the Commonwealth. Between now, and the next meeting of the General Assembly, many changes in our condition occur; and I therefore deem it prudent