

whole duty, and by a rigid observance of those tried and cherished principles of public policy which lie at the foundation of our government, and have given stability and value to the institutions of our country.

To so exact my part as to contribute to the honor and permanent welfare of our State, shall constitute my highest ambition, and to this object my best efforts shall be cordially and constantly devoted.

At no period in our history have we had greater cause for congratulation in our condition as a State, than at this moment.

Through the direct instrumentality of the sovereign power the organic law has been remodelled, and given to us in the form of a Constitution, in which the strong and leading principles consistent with the spirit of the age and the genius of our civil institutions have been liberally recognized. The toils and struggles of years gave birth to the instrument under which we are now living.

The first demand by the people for a reformed Constitution had my earnest sympathies, and the result of their work has my approval and support.

But while every true friend to a more liberal Constitution has good reason to rejoice in the ultimate triumph which crowned their exertions, and although many of the anti-republican features of our former system have given place to those better suited to the times, much remains to be done. The new Constitution has broadly and unequivocally recognized the 'inalienable right' of the people to amend, alter, or abolish their form of Government; whenever in their judgment, it has failed to accomplish the purposes for which it was intended; and fixed stated periods for ascertaining the public will. It has approximated more nearly to the sound principle of representation according to population, and thereby enlarged the area of human rights; it has given to the people the privilege of