

Record of Official Acts and Proceedings
Executive Department of the State of Maryland.
Augustus W. Bradford Governor.

Executive Department January 9th 1862.

This being the day named in the constitution of the State of Maryland for the Governor elect to qualify agreeably thereto and the law thereof the Honorable Augustus W. Bradford (together with his Excellency Thomas Holliday Hicks) proceeded from the Executive Chamber at 12 M. to the Senate chamber and delivered in the presence of the two branches of the Legislature the following

Inaugural Address.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate

and House of Delegates.

The present is one of those occasions, periodically occurring in our political career that usually excites a lively interest; an interest that may chiefly be ascribed to the fact, that every such spectacle seems to call to mind the value and success of republican institutions, in recognizing, as it were, the power of the people peacefully to select and inaugurate their political rulers by the simple expression of the voice of the majority. The emphasis with which that voice has spoken in our recent election, and the majority so unprecedented in previous political contests, indicate that some question of more than ordinary interest has stirred the popular heart.

It is a cheering reflection to every patriotic Marylander that the cause which has aroused this popular demonstration and united the people of our state with an ardor and unanimity never before witnessed, is the cause now, as ever, uppermost in their affections, of the Federal Union and the National Constitution. To preserve these institutions against the unhallowed efforts of those now engaged in the attempt to subvert them, is the purpose to which the people of Maryland have emphatically pledged themselves in their recent election. Turning a deaf ear to every insidious appeal, calculated to divert them from that purpose, and to the false issues invented to ensnare them, they have made known their unwavering attachment to the cause in which they are enlisted, by a vote such as no other cause ever did or can command.

As long as the federal administration shall continue to devote, as we believe it has hitherto done, the powers at its command, faithfully to the accomplishment of the same national objects, and steadfastly resisting all attempts to misapply these powers, shall continue honestly to exert them with the single and sacred purpose of maintaining the supremacy of the Constitution, so long will Maryland impelled by every instinct of interest and affection unite as ardently as she ever has done.