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PART II.

AUSTIN, December 21, 1853.

House met pursuant to adjournment—roll called—quorum present.

On motion of Mr. Bourland, the reading of the journal of yesterday was dispensed with.

Mr. Travis moved that the House take a recess until 10 minutes before eleven o'clock; lost.

The Joint committee appointed to inform the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor elect, of their election; reported that duty performed.

The Senate was reported at the door; the President was invited to a seat on the right of the Speaker, and Senators to seats prepared for them.

The Governor and Governor and Lieutenant-Governor elect, were announced at the bar, escorted by the committee of Arrangements.

The roll of the House was called, and after appropriate prayer by the Chaplain, the Governor elect, E. M. Pease, and Lieutenant-Governor elect, D. C. Dickson, took the oath of office prescribed by the constitution.

Governor James W. Henderson said:

Gentlemen of the Senate
and House of Representatives:

The time has arrived when my official connexion with you is about to terminate, and the duties which have devolved upon me, are to be assumed by those who have been chosen by the people of this State to discharge them for the next two years.

The present is an interesting occasion; it affords us a practical illustration of one of the chief beauties of our free and republican institutions. When we contrast the operations of our representative government with those of the Old World, we can but admire the wisdom and beauty of that feature in our govern-
ment and people, which permits the citizen who may have been
called, for a time, to discharge the duties of a public station, again
to return to private life, losing nothing by the change in the es-
timation of his countrymen, if he has discharged his duty faith-
fully and honestly to his constituency.

The occasion for which we have here assembled is to me in-
teresting, for it affords me the opportunity to give expression to
the opinion which I entertain, in common with the people of
this State, that in surrendering the responsible trusts to my suc-
cessor, both as executive of the State and presiding officer of the
Senate, to which office I was elevated by the suffrage of my fel-
now-citizens, the duties of which I have discharged until with-
in a few weeks past, they are committed into the hands and keep-
ing of worthy and capable men; men in whose hands the honor
and interest of the State may be safely placed, with a guarantee
implied, by the confidence of their countrymen which has ele-
vated them to the respective offices, the duties of which they are
here about to assume, will be discharged to the satisfaction of
their constituents, and with credit to themselves.

Gentlemen of the Legislature: The short time that I have
been in the discharge of the duties of the executive of the State,
and the circumstances that placed me in that position, and at a
time, too, so near the approach of the incoming administration,
taken in connection with the fact, that my immediate predecessor
had, at the commencement of your present session, laid before
you, and discussed, in a clear and comprehensive manner, the
principal topics of interest to the people of the State, have pre-
vented me from laying before you, for your consideration, such
views as I entertain of the true policy and interest of our State.
Yet, gentlemen, I can but congratulate you upon the evidence
everywhere presented, of the prosperous condition of our people,
and the evident interest that Texas is awakening in the minds of
our sister States, of the importance of her present position.

Then, gentlemen of the Legislature, let me, in the language
of a distinguished Texian, who has long since retired to private
life, urge you to "duly appreciate the privilege of our peculiar
position; lose not the opportunity which God has given you of
doing good, but act for your country, and that only with an eye
single to her glory and greatness; do whatever wisdom and ex-
perience shall suggest for the spread of knowledge, virtue and
useful arts, and for the development of the vast resources which
are slumbering on our mountains, and lying dormant in the ger-
minating power of our soil. In a word, sacrifice all narrow-
minded selfishness upon the hallowed altar of patriotism, and by
an energetic and enlightened discharge of the trusts confided to you, elevate our young State into that proud rank which her unrivalled and unbounded wealth entitle her to take among her sister States in the great confederacy."

Gentlemen, trusting that the result of your deliberations may meet the expectations of your constituents, and promote the great interests of the State, I leave you with a deep sense of the gratitude that I am under to my associates of the Senate, whose generous aid has at all times sustained me in the discharge of my duties in that body. Gentlemen, I leave you with the kindest feelings for each one of you, and no matter what my position may be in after life, I shall look back with pride and pleasure to the time when my association with you was of such an agreeable character, and that I was the recipient of so much kindness and courtesy at your hands.