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OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OF

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

SIXTH LEGISLATURE.

BY AUTHORITY.

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1855.
It being the pleasure of the House, it then proceeded to the election of Speaker.

Messrs. Ochiltree, Green and Crosby were appointed Tellers.

Nominations being declared in order, the Hon. Ashbel Smith in nomination the name of Hamilton P. Bee for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixth Legislature of the State of Texas.

There being no other nominations, the House proceeded to a ballot, which resulted as follows:

- H. P. Bee, 78 votes.
- N. B. Charlton, 1 vote.
- Kittrell, 1 vote.
- Blank, 1 vote.

Mr. Bee having received a majority of all the votes, was duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Messrs. Ashbel Smith and B. E. Tarver were appointed a
committee to wait upon the Speaker elect, and conduct him to
the Chair.

The Speaker, on ascending the Chair, addressed the House to
the following purport:

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

I accept, with great diffidence of my ability to discharge its
duties, the distinguished position to which I have been called
by your suffrages, and return my most grateful acknowledg-
ments for the munificence and cordiality with which it has been
conferred.

I bring to the discharge of its duties but a limited experience,
and can but promise my best efforts to merit your confidence.
The first important measure which will claim our attention, will
be the rules, which we shall make for our government, and
which, when placed in my hands, stamped with the seal of your
approbation, it will be my duty to administer; and I ask in ad-
vance, that so long as I shall discharge that duty impartially,
strictly, and to the best of my ability, that I will be sustained by
the same generous confidence that to-day so honors me.

The occasion is appropriate to congratulate the Representa-
tives of the people upon the happy auspices under which we
meet. With the exception of our frontier, peace and prosperity
everywhere prevails. Assembling as we do within the completed
walls of this Capitol, an emblem in itself, not only of the pro-
gress and prosperity of our State, but of the Union of our people,
may we not indulge in the patriotic hope, that whatever local or
sectional differences may have hitherto characterised the Legis-
lature of our State, that upon this occasion we will lay all such
considerations, as it were, upon the common altar of our country,
and with a firm purpose and united will, move forward to the
discharge of the important duties that await us.

In my humble judgment, the prosperity of Texas for the next
ten years, depends upon the action of this Legislature. It is in
our power to dissipate forever the few dark clouds that yet lin-
ger on the political horizon of our State; that Texas unfettered
and free from all incumbrances, may move onward to the accom-
plishment of that high destiny with her sister States, to which
she is entitled, by her natural position and her own bright and
glorious history.

I offer you, gentlemen, my cordial co-operation in carrying
out this good work.

Again, I thank you for the honor you have conferred upon
me.