

THURSDAY, January 2, 1868.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Leech.

Present at the call of the roll the following Senators :

Messrs. Browne, Biggs, Brewer, Compton, Clarke, Carroll, Denson, Earle, Fields, Grove, Henkle, Hyland, Hammond, Lee, Maddox, Miller, Parker, of Calvert, Spates, Snyder, Smith, Walsh, Welch.

Hon. Wm. Kimmel, Senator elect from the 1st Legislative District of Baltimore city, and the Hon. Thos. P. Parker, Senator elect from Worcester county, not heretofore qualified, took the oath prescribed by the Constitution before the President, *pro tempore*.

On motion by Mr. Snyder,

The Hon. Barnes Compton, of Charles county, was declared unanimously elected President of the Senate.

Mr. Compton was then conducted to the chair by Messrs. Earle and Snyder.

When he delivered the following address :

SENATORS :

To be called at any time to preside in the Senate of Maryland, would be an honor of which any citizen of the State might be permitted to feel proud. But, (you will pardon me for giving expression to the fact), selected as your presiding officer is upon this occasion, not from a majority of the members, but from the entire body, the honor from this circumstance seems to receive additional lustre. I should indeed be sadly deficient in the susceptibilities which go so far to make up a becoming degree of manhood, if I did not feel strongly, and express warmly my unqualified thanks for this manifestation of your respect and confidence. I am constrained to renewed regrets at my own unworthiness. I fear that in me you will not find those rare qualities which, combined in an individual, render him capable of becoming an accomplished and efficient presiding officer. I can only promise impartiality and zeal. Your active assistance and support I shall expect and depend upon, without this, all efforts at authority will be in vain ; not only so, but that degree of order, dignity and decorum, for which the Senate of Maryland has ever been noted, which is essential to the proper dispatch of the business of the State, cannot and will not be maintained. Therefore it is, while pledging the best efforts of my own poor abilities in the discharge of my duty, I earnestly invoke your undivided and zealous co-operation.

The present is an eventful period in the history of this State and Country. The deliberate attempt has been made,