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# The Old Senate Chamber

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Proceedings in the Senate of  
the United States upon va-  
cating their old Chamber  
on January 4, 1859

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# The Old Senate Chamber

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## Proceedings

in the

## Senate of the United States

Upon the Occasion of Its  
Removal from the Old  
Historic Chamber . . . .  
Recently Vacated by the  
Supreme Court of the  
United States . . . . .

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United States  
Government Printing Office  
Washington: 1935

Copies of this publication may be procured from the  
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Washington, D. C., at 5 cents per copy

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 143.

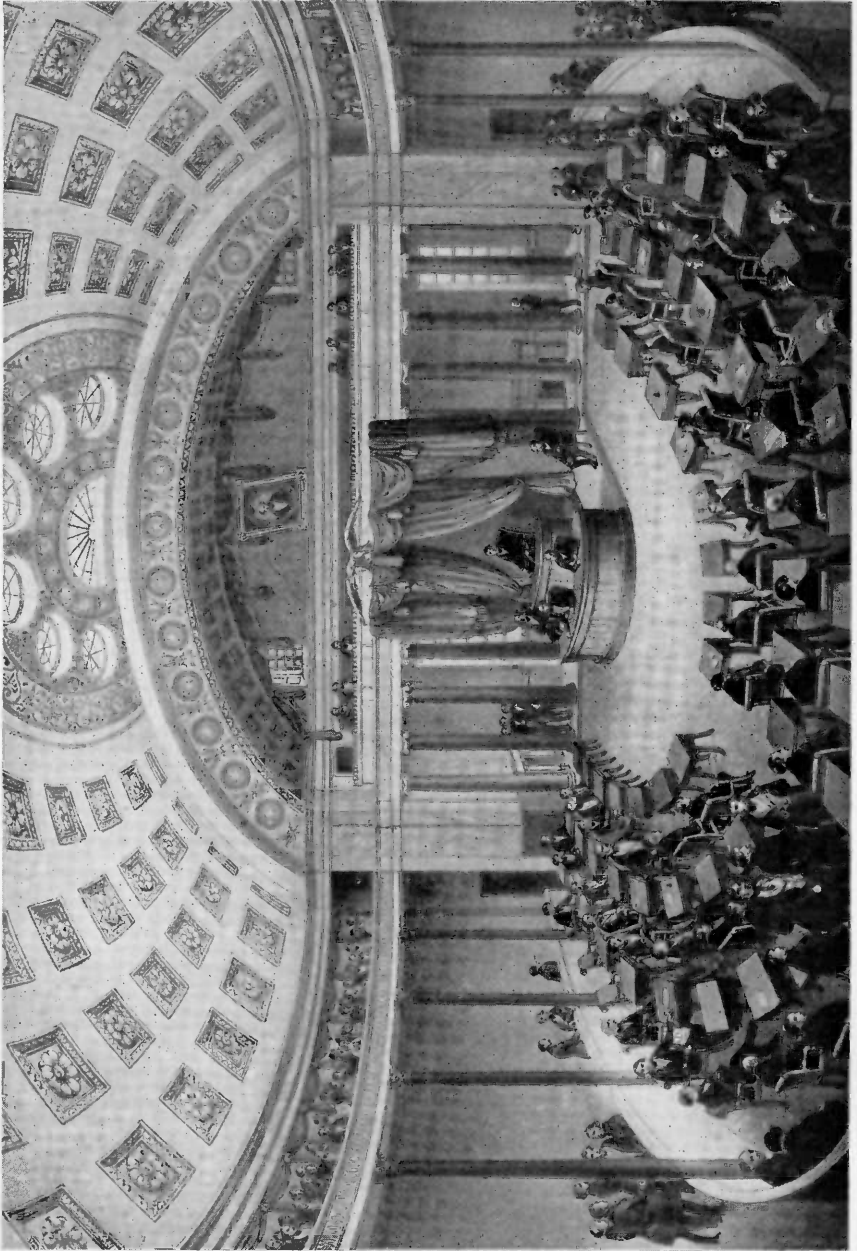
[Reported by Mr. Hayden]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,  
MAY 13 (calendar day, May 29), 1935.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings held in the United States Senate on January 4, 1859, upon the occasion of its removal from the old historic chamber, now occupied by the United States Supreme Court, to the present chamber which it now occupies, be printed, with illustrations, as a Senate document, and that 5,000 additional copies be printed for the use of the Senate Document Room.

Attest:

EDWIN A. HALSEY,  
*Secretary.*



THE OLD SENATE CHAMBER

# Removal to the New Hall

Proceedings in the Senate

*Tuesday, January 4, 1859*

Mr. DAVIS. The special committee appointed to make arrangements for the removal of the Senate from the present to the new Chamber have directed me to make a report, accompanied by a diagram, which I now submit to the Senate.

The VICE PRESIDENT (Hon. John Cabell Breckinridge). The Secretary will read the report.

The Secretary read the report, in which the committee state that they had arranged the seats and desks for Senators, and for the officers and reporters of the Senate, in the mode exhibited in an accompanying diagram. They had also assigned rooms for the use of the officers of the Senate; and they added that an appropriation was required for furnishing them. The galleries on the left of the chair were assigned to ladies and the gentlemen accompanying them; those on the right of the chair to gentlemen alone. The center portion of the north gallery was reserved for such reporters of the press as may be admitted thereto by the authority of the Senate, except the front desk, which was set apart for the reporters of the Senate. The committee proposed the following order of proceedings for removing to the new Chamber: After an address, to be delivered by the Vice President, the Senators, preceded by their President, Secretary, and Sergeant-at-Arms, will move in the usual order of procession to the new Chamber, and there assume the seats respectively assigned to them; when, after prayer by the Chaplain, the business will be continued as prescribed by the rules of the Senate.

Mr. CRITTENDEN. I move you, Mr. President and Senators, that we proceed at once to the consideration of this report, and that it be adopted. That is the purpose for which I rise. Before, however, submitting that motion to the vote of the Senate, I hope that I may be indulged in a few words of parting from this Chamber. This

is to be the last day of our session here; and this place, which has known us so long, is to know us no more forever as a Senate. The parting seems to me, sir, to be somewhat of a solemn one, and full of eventful recollections. I wish, however, only to say a few words.

Many associations, pleasant and proud, bind us and our hearts to this place. We cannot but feel their influence, especially, I, Mr. President, whose lot it has been to serve in this body more years than any other member now present. That we should all be attached to it, that my longer association should attach me to it, is most natural. Mr. President, we cannot quit this Chamber without some feeling of sacred sadness. This Chamber has been the scene of great events. Here questions of American constitutions and laws have been debated; questions of peace and war have been debated and decided; questions of empire have occupied the attention of this assemblage in times past; this was the grand theater upon which these things have been enacted. They give a sort of consecrated character to this Hall.

Sir, great men have been the actors here. The illustrious dead, that have distinguished this body in times past, naturally rise to our view on such an occasion. I speak only of what I have seen, and but partially of that, when I say that here, within these walls, I have seen men whose fame is not surpassed, and whose power and ability and patriotism are not surpassed, by anything of Grecian or of Roman name. I have seen Clay and Webster, and Calhoun and Benton, and Leigh and Wright, and Clayton, (last though not least,) mingling together in this body at one time, and uniting their counsels for the benefit of their country. They seem to our imagination and sensibilities, on such an occasion as this, to have left their impress on these very walls; and this majestic dome seems almost yet to echo with the voice of their eloquence. This Hall seems to be a local habitation for their names. This Hall is full of the pure odor of their justly-earned fame. There are others besides those I have named, of whom I will not speak, because they have not yet closed their career—not yet ended their services to the country; and they will receive their reward hereafter. There are a host of others that I might mention—that deserve to be mentioned—but it would take too long. Their names are in no danger of being forgotten, nor their services unthought of or unhonored.

Sir, we leave behind us, in going from this Hall, these associations, these proud imaginations so well calculated to prompt to a generous emulation of their services to their country; but we will carry along with us, to the new Chamber to which we are to go, the spirit and the memory of all these things; we will carry with us all the inspiration which our illustrious predecessors are calculated to give; and wherever we sit we shall be the Senate of the United States of America—a great, a powerful, a conservative body in the government of this country, and a body that will maintain, as I trust and believe, under all circumstances and in all times to come, the honor, the right, and the glory of this country. Because we leave this Chamber, we shall not leave behind us any sentiment of patriotism, any devotion to the country which the illustrious exemplars that have gone before us have set to us. These, like our household gods, will be carried with us; and we, the representatives of the States of this mighty Union, will be found always equal, I trust, to the exigencies of any time that may come upon our country. No matter under what sky we may sit; no matter what dome may cover us; the great patriotic spirit of the Senate of the United States will be there and I have an abiding confidence that it will never fail in the performance of its duty, sit where it may, even though it were in a desert.

But it is yet, sir, not possible to leave this Hall without casting behind us many longing and lingering looks. It has been the scene of the past; the new Chamber is to be the scene of the future; and that future, I hope, will not be dishonored by any comparison to be made with the past. It, too, will have its illustrations of great public services rendered by great men and great patriots; and this body, the great preservative element of the Government, will discharge all its duties, taking care to preserve the Union of the States which they represent—the source of all their honors, the source of the trust which they sit here to execute, the source as it has been and as it will be of their country's greatness, happiness, and prosperity, in times to come as it has been in the time that is past.

Mr. President, I cannot detain you longer. I move that the vote of the Senate be now taken on the report which has been presented, and that it be adopted.



The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the report of the committee.

The report was adopted *nem. con.*

The VICE PRESIDENT. Senators, I have been charged by the committee to whom you confided the arrangements of this day, with the duty of expressing some of the reflections that naturally occur in taking final leave of a Chamber which has so long been occupied by the Senate. In the progress of our country and the growth of the representation, this room has become too contracted for the representatives of the States now existing and soon to exist; and accordingly you are about to exchange it for a Hall affording accommodations adequate to the present and the future. The occasion suggests many interesting reminiscences; and it may be agreeable, in the first place, to occupy a few minutes with a short account of the various places at which Congress has assembled, of the struggles which preceded the permanent location of the seat of Government, and of the circumstances under which it was finally established on the banks of the Potomac.

The Congress of the Revolution was sometimes a fugitive, holding its sessions, as the chances of war required, at Philadelphia, Baltimore, Lancaster, Annapolis, and Yorktown. During the period between the conclusion of peace and the commencement of the present Government, it met at Princeton, Annapolis, Trenton, and New York.

After the idea of a permanent Union had been executed in part by the adoption of the Articles of Confederation, the question presented itself of fixing a seat of Government, and this immediately called forth intense interest and rivalry.

That the place should be central, having regard to the population and territory of the Confederacy, was the only point common to the contending parties. Propositions of all kinds were offered, debated, and rejected, sometimes with intemperate warmth. At length, on the 7th of October, 1783, the Congress being at Princeton, whither they had been driven from Philadelphia, by the insults of a body of armed men, it was resolved that a building for the use of Congress be erected near the falls of the Delaware. This was soon after modified by requiring suitable buildings to be also erected near the falls

of the Potomac, that the residence of Congress might alternate between those places. But the question was not allowed to rest, and at length, after frequent and warm debates, it was resolved that the residence of Congress should continue at one place; and commissioners were appointed, with full power to lay out a district for a Federal town near the falls of the Delaware; and in the mean time Congress assembled alternately at Trenton and Annapolis; but the representatives of other States were unremitting in exertions for their respective localities.

On the 23d of December, 1784, it was resolved to remove to the city of New York, and to remain there until the building on the Delaware should be completed; and accordingly, on the 11th of January, 1785, the Congress met at New York, where they continued to hold their sessions until the Confederation gave place to the Constitution.

The Commissioners to lay out a town on the Delaware reported their proceedings to Congress; but no further steps were taken to carry the resolution into effect.

When the bonds of union were drawn closer by the organization of the new Government under the Constitution, on the 3d of March, 1789, the subject was revived and discussed with greater warmth than before. It was conceded on all sides that the residence of Congress should continue at one place, and the prospect of stability in the Government invested the question with a deeper interest. Some members proposed New York, as being "superior to any place they knew for the orderly and decent behavior of its inhabitants." To this it was answered that it was not desirable that the political capital should be in a commercial metropolis. Others ridiculed the idea of building palaces in the woods. Mr. Gerry, of Massachusetts, thought it highly unreasonable to fix the seat of Government in such a position as to have nine States of the thirteen to the northward of the place; while the South Carolinians objected to Philadelphia on account of the number of Quakers, who, they said, continually annoyed the southern members with schemes of emancipation.

In the midst of these disputes, the House of Representatives resolved, "that the permanent seat of Government ought to be at some convenient place on the banks of the Susquehanna." On the intro-

duction of a bill to give effect to this resolution, much feeling was exhibited, especially by the southern members. Mr. Madison thought if the proceeding of that day had been foreseen by Virginia, that State might not have become a party to the Constitution. The question was allowed by every member to be a matter of great importance. Mr. Scott said the future tranquillity and well-being of the United States depended as much on this as on any question that ever had, or could, come before Congress; and Mr. Fisher Ames remarked that every principle of pride and honor and even of patriotism were engaged. For a time, any agreement appeared to be impossible; but the good genius of our system finally prevailed, and on the 28th of June, 1790, an act was passed containing the following clause:

That a district of territory on the river Potomac, at some place between the mouths of the eastern branch and the Connogochegue, be, and the same is hereby, accepted, for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States.

The same act provided that Congress should hold its sessions at Philadelphia until the first Monday in November, 1800, when the Government should remove to the district selected on the Potomac. Thus was settled a question which had produced much sectional feeling between the States. But all difficulties were not yet surmounted; for Congress, either from indifference, or the want of money, failed to make adequate appropriations for the erection of public buildings, and the commissioners were often reduced to great straits to maintain the progress of the work. Finding it impossible to borrow money in Europe, or to obtain it from Congress, Washington, in December, 1796, made a personal appeal to the Legislature of Maryland, which was responded to by an advance of \$100,000; but in so deplorable a condition was the credit of the Federal Government that the State required, as a guarantee of payment, the pledge of the private credit of the commissioners.

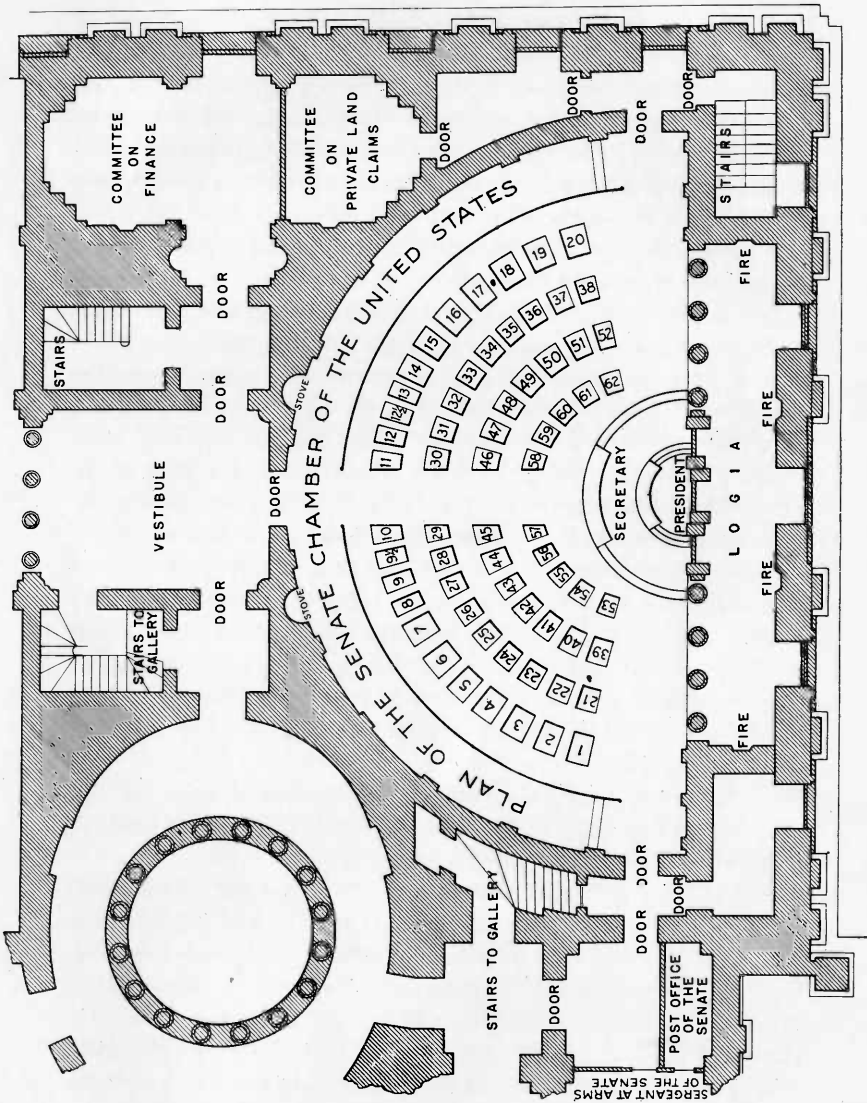
From the beginning Washington had advocated the present seat of Government. Its establishment here was due, in a large measure, to his influence; it was his wisdom and prudence that computed disputes and settled conflicting titles; and it was chiefly through his personal influence that the funds were provided to prepare the buildings for the reception of the President and Congress.

The wings of the Capitol having been sufficiently prepared, the Government removed to this District on the 17th of November, 1800; or as Mr. Wolcott expressed it, left the comforts of Philadelphia "to go to the Indian place with the long name, in the woods on the Potomac." I will not pause to describe the appearance, at that day, of the place where the city was to be. Cotemporary accounts represent it as desolate in the extreme, with its long, unopened avenues and streets, its deep morasses, and its vast area covered with trees instead of houses. It is enough to say that Washington projected the whole plan upon a scale of centuries, and that time enough remains to fill the measure of his great conception.

The Senate continued to occupy the north wing, and the House of Representatives the south wing of the Capitol, until the 24th of August, 1814, when the British army entered the city and burned the public buildings. This occurred during the recess, and the President immediately convened the Congress. Both Houses met in a brick building known as Blodget's Hotel, which occupied a part of the square now covered by the General Post Office. But the accommodations in that house being quite insufficient, a number of public-spirited citizens erected a more commodious building, on Capitol Hill, and tendered it to Congress; the offer was accepted, and both Houses continued to occupy it until the wings of the new Capitol were completed. This building yet stands on the street opposite to the northeastern corner of the Capitol Square, and has since been occasionally occupied by persons employed in different branches of the public service.

On the 6th of December, 1819, the Senate assembled for the first time in this Chamber, which has been the theater of their deliberations for more more than thirty-nine years.

And now the strifes and uncertainties of the past are finished. We see around us on every side the proofs of stability and improvement. This Capitol is worthy of the Republic. Noble public buildings meet the view on every hand. Treasures of science and the arts begin to accumulate. As this flourishing city enlarges, it testifies to the wisdom and forecast that dictated the plan of it. Future generations will not be disturbed with questions concerning the center of popu-



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE LAND CLAIMS

PLAN OF THE SENATE CHAMBER OF THE UNITED STATES

VESTIBULE

STAIRS TO GALLERY

STAIRS

SECRETARY

PRESIDENT

LOGGIA

STAIRS

POST OFFICE OF THE SENATE

SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE SENATE

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DOOR

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STOVE

STOVE

STOVE

# INDEX TO THE DIAGRAM OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS

No.	No. 21	No. 43
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2	Lyman Trumbull.	George W. Jones.
3	Geo. J. Crittenden.	George E. Pugh.
4	Zachariah Chandler.	Stephen R. Mallory.
5	James Harlan.	Phillip Allen.
6	John P. Hale.	David L. Yulee.
7	Wm. H. Seward.	Robert M. T. Hunter.
8	Henry Wilson.	Clement C. Clay.
9	Charles Sumner.	David S. Reid.
9½	(Vacant.)	Sam Houston.
10	Simon Cameron.	Daniel Clark.
11	James M. Mason.	Benj. Fitzpatrick.
12	John R. Thomson.	Josiah J. Evans.
12½	James H. Hammond.	Hannibal Hamlin.
13	James S. Green.	Preston King.
14	Albert G. Brown.	William Wright.
15	Graham N. Fitch.	J. Pinckney Henderson.
16	Alfred Iverson.	Anthony Kennedy.
17	Wm. M. Gwin.	Asa Biggs.
18	William Bigler.	Robert W. Johnson.
19	David C. Broderick.	
20	(Vacant.)	
	Trusten Polk.	
	John B. Thompson.	
	James A. Pearce.	
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	Benj. F. Wade.	
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	Stephen A. Douglas.	
	John Slidell.	
	Jefferson Davis	
	Wm. K. Sebastian.	
	Andrew Johnson.	
	(Vacant.)	
	Charles Durkee.	
	James F. Simmons.	
	James Dixon.	
	Lafayette S. Foster.	

lation, or of territory, since the steamboat, the railroad, and the telegraph have made communication almost instantaneous. The spot is sacred by a thousand memories, which are so many pledges that the city of Washington, founded by him and bearing his revered name, with its beautiful site, bounded by picturesque eminences, and the broad Potomac, and lying within view of his home and his tomb, shall remain forever the political capital of the United States.

It would be interesting to note the gradual changes which have occurred in the practical working of the Government, since the adoption of the Constitution; and it may be appropriate to this occasion to remark one of the most striking of them.

At the origin of the Government, the Senate seemed to be regarded chiefly as an executive council. The President often visited the Chamber and conferred personally with this body; most of its business was transacted with closed doors, and it took comparatively little part in the legislative debates. The rising and vigorous intellects of the country sought the arena of the House of Representatives as the appropriate theater for the display of their powers. Mr. Madison observed, on some occasion, that being a young man, and desiring to increase his reputation, he could not afford to enter the Senate; and it will be remembered, that, so late as 1812, the great debates which preceded the war and aroused the country to the assertion of its rights, took place in the other branch of Congress. To such an extent was the idea of seclusion carried, that, when this Chamber was completed, no seats were prepared for the accommodation of the public; and it was not until many years afterwards that the semi-circular gallery was erected which admits the people to be witnesses of your proceedings. But now, the Senate, besides its peculiar relations to the executive department of the Government, assumes its full share of duty as a coequal branch of the Legislature; indeed, from the limited number of its members, and for other obvious reasons, the most important questions, especially of foreign policy, are apt to pass first under discussion in this body, and to be a member of it is justly regarded as one of the highest honors which can be conferred on an American statesman.

It is scarcely necessary to point out the causes of this change, or to say that it is a concession both to the importance and the individu-

ality of the States, and to the free and open character of the Government.

In connection with this easy but thorough transition, it is worthy of remark that it has been effected without a charge from any quarter that the Senate has transcended its constitutional sphere—a tribute at once to the moderation of the Senate, and another proof to thoughtful men of the comprehensive wisdom with which the framers of the Constitution secured essential principles without inconveniently embarrassing the action of the Government.

The progress of this popular movement, in one aspect of it, has been steady and marked. At the origin of the Government no arrangements in the Senate were made for spectators in this Chamber about one third of the space is allotted to the public; and in the new apartment the galleries cover two thirds of its area. In all free countries the admission of the people to witness legislative proceedings is an essential element of public confidence; and it is not to be anticipated that this wholesome principle will ever be abused by the substitution of partial and interested demonstrations for the expression of a matured and enlightened public opinion. Yet it should never be forgotten that not France, but the turbulent spectators within the Hall, awed and controlled the French Assembly. With this lesson and its consequence before us the time will never come when the deliberations of the Senate shall be swayed by the blandishments or the thunders of the galleries.

It is impossible to disconnect from an occasion like this, a crowd of reflection on our past history, and of speculations on the future. The most meager account of the Senate involves a summary of the progress of our country. From year to year you have seen your representation enlarge; time and again you have proudly welcomed a new sister into the Confederacy; and the occurrences of this day are a material and impressive proof of the growth and prosperity of the United States. Three periods in the history of the Senate mark, in striking contrast, three epochs in the history of the Union.

On the 3d of March, 1789, when the Government was organized under the Constitution, the Senate was composed of the representatives of eleven States, containing three millions of people.



On the 6th of December, 1819, when the Senate met for the first time in this room, it was composed of the representatives of twenty-one States, containing nine millions of people.

To-day it is composed of the representatives of thirty-two States, containing more than twenty-eight millions of people, prosperous, happy, and still devoted to constitutional liberty. Let these great facts speak for themselves to all the world.

The career of the United States cannot be measured by that of any other people of whom history gives account; and the mind is almost appalled at the contemplation of the prodigious force which has marked their progress. Sixty-nine years ago, thirteen States containing three millions of inhabitants, burdened with debt, and exhausted by the long war of independence, established for their common good a free Constitution, on principles new to mankind, and began their experiment with the good wishes of a few doubting friends and the derision of the world. Look at the result to-day; twenty-eight millions of people, in every way happier than an equal number in any other part of the globe! the center of population and political power descending the western slopes of the Allegheny mountains, and the original thirteen States forming but the eastern margin on the map of our vast possessions. See besides, Christianity, civilization, and the arts given to a continent; the despised colonies grown in a Power of the first class, representing and protecting ideas that involve the progress of the human race; a commerce greater than that of any other nation; free interchange between the States; every variety of climate, soil, and production to make a people powerful and happy—in a word, behold present greatness, and, in the future, an empire to which the ancient mistress of the world in the height of her glory could not be compared. Such is our country; ay, and more—far more than my mind could conceive or my tongue could utter. Is there an American who regrets the past? Is there one who will deride his country's laws, prevent her Constitution, or alienate her people? If there be such a man, let his memory descend to posterity laden with the execrations of all mankind.

So happy is the political and social condition of the United States, and so accustomed are we to the secure enjoyment of a freedom elsewhere unknown, that we are apt to undervalue the treasures we

possess, and to lose, in some degree, the sense of obligation to our forefathers. But when the strifes of faction shake the Government, and even threaten it, we may pause with advantage long enough to remember that we are reaping the reward of other men's labors. This liberty we inherit; this admirable Constitution, which has survived peace and war, prosperity and adversity; this double scheme of Government, State and Federal, so peculiar and so little understood by other Powers, yet which protects the earnings of industry, and makes the largest personal freedom compatible with public order; these great results were not acquired without wisdom and toil and blood—the touching and heroic record is before the world. But to all this we were born, and, like heirs upon whom has been cast a great inheritance, have only the high duty to preserve, to extend, and to adorn it. The grand productions of the era in which the foundations of this Government were laid, reveal the deep sense its founders had of their obligations to the whole family of man. Let us never forget that the responsibilities imposed on this generation are by so much the greater than those which rested on our revolutionary ancestors, as the population, extent, and power of our country surpass the dawning promise of its origin.

It would be a pleasing task to pursue many trains of thought, not wholly foreign to this occasion, but the temptation to enter the wide field must be rigorously curbed; yet I may be pardoned, perhaps, for one or two additional reflections.

The Senate is assembled for the last time in this Chamber. Henceforth it will be converted to other uses; yet it must remain forever connected with great events, and sacred to the memories of the departed orators and statesmen who here engaged in high debates, and shaped the policy of their country. Hereafter the American and the stranger, as they wander through the Capitol, will turn with instinctive reverence to view the spot on which so many and great materials have accumulated for history. They will recall the images of the great and the good, whose renown is the common property of the Union; and chiefly, perhaps, they will linger around the seats once occupied by the mighty three, whose names and fame, associated in life, death has not been able to sever; illustrious men, who in their generation sometimes divided, sometimes led, and sometimes resisted

public opinion—for they were of that higher class of statesmen who seek the right and follow their convictions.

There sat Calhoun, the Senator, inflexible, austere, oppressed, but not overwhelmed by his deep sense of the importance of his public functions; seeking the truth, then fearlessly following it—a man whose unsparing intellect compelled all his emotions to harmonize with the deductions of his rigorous logic, and whose noble countenance habitually wore the expression of one engaged in the performance of high public duties.

This was Webster's seat. He, too, was every inch a Senator. Conscious of his own vast powers, he reposed with confidence on himself; and scorning the contrivances of smaller men, he stood among his peers all the greater for the simple dignity of his senatorial demeanor. Type of his northern home, he rises before the imagination, in the grand and granite outline of his form and intellect, like a great New England rock, repelling a New England wave. As a writer, his productions will be cherished by statesmen and scholars while the English tongue is spoken. As a senatorial orator, his great efforts are historically associated with this Chamber, whose very air seems yet to vibrate beneath the strokes of his deep tones and his weighty words.

On the outer circle, set Henry Clay, with his impetuous ardent nature untamed by age, and exhibiting in the Senate the same vehement patriotism and passionate eloquence that of yore electrified the House of Representatives and the country. His extraordinary personal endowments, his courage, all his noble qualities, invested him with an individuality and a charm of character which, in any age, would have made him a favorite of history. He loved his country above all earthly objects. He loved liberty in all countries. Illustrious man!—orator, patriot, philanthropist—whose light, at its meridian, was seen and felt in the remotest parts of the civilized world; and whose declining sun, as it hastened down the west, threw back its level beams, in hues of mellowed splendor, to illuminate and to cheer the land he loved and served so well.

All the States may point with gratified pride to the services in the Senate of their patriotic sons. Crowding the memory, come the names of Adams, Hayne, Wright, Mason, Otis, Macon, Pinckney, and the

rest—I cannot number them—who, in the record of their acts and utterances, appeal to their successors to give the Union a destiny not unworthy of the past. What models were these, to awaken emulation or to plunge in despair! Fortunate will be the American statesmen who in this age, or in succeeding times, shall contribute to invest the new Hall to which we go, with historic memories like those which cluster here.

And, now, Senators, we leave this memorable Chamber, bearing with us, unimpaired, the Constitution we received from our forefathers. Let us cherish it with grateful acknowledgments to the Divine Power who controls the destinies of empires and whose goodness we adore. The structures reared by men yield to the corroding tooth of time. These marble walls must molder into ruin; but the principles of constitutional liberty, guarded by wisdom and virtue, unlike material elements, do not decay. Let us devoutly trust that another Senate, in another age, shall bear to a new and larger Chamber, this Constitution vigorous and inviolate, and that the last generation of posterity shall witness the deliberations of the Representatives of American States still united, prosperous, and free.

In execution of the order of the Senate, the body will now proceed to the new Chamber.

The Senate, preceded by the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Sergeant-at-Arms, proceeded to the new Chamber.

The Senators having been seated, the VICE PRESIDENT called the body to order, and the Rev. P. D. GURLEY, D. D., offered up the following prayer:

Almighty God, our Father and helper, in all the events and changes of life, we would acknowledge Thee that Thou mayest direct our steps. In entering this new council chamber where the representatives of a great, a free, and a mighty nation are to meet and deliberate in years to come, we would look up to Thee through Jesus Christ for Thy presence and Thy blessing. To Thee would we dedicate the place—to Thee our God and the God of our fathers. To the cause of justice, of liberty, and humanity, would we dedicate it; praying that the counsels which may prevail in years to come, may be counsels

of truth, of duty, and of wisdom, which Thou wilt approve, and which Thou wilt cause to redound to Thine own glory, and to the highest welfare of our beloved country. Grant, we beseech Thee, that those who come here from year to year, as the representatives of the different States of this Union, may be true to the Union, and true to all the interests confided to their care. May they never yield to the sway of evil passion, or sacrifice any principle or interest which duty to Thee and to their beloved country may call them to defend; but may they so act in the fear of Thy name, and under the guidance of Thy word, that the influences which issue hence, shall be cheering to the heart of Christian patriotism, and only cheering, and that continually.

We beg of Thee, blessed God, here to be present in the hour of our country's peril, whether that peril be internal or external, domestic or foreign. In the hour of peril, be Thou here to guide our councillors by Thine own counsel, and to incline them, while they prove all things, to hold fast that which is good.

And now, our God, we beseech Thee to spread over us the banner of Thy protection. Aye let it wave over the flag of our country, and over all our precious interests. Aye let it wave from generation to generation over this Hall, and over the happy representatives of a happy, a free, and a united people; and to Thy name, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, shall be the praise and the glory forever. Amen.