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OF THE

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AUSTIN:

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1857.

Upon the suggestion of the Secretary of State, the House proceeded to the election of a Speaker. Mr. Bee nominated Mr. Wm. S. Taylor.

There being no other nomination, the House proceeded to ballot, and upon telling the vote, it appeared that Mr. Taylor had received 69 votes, whereupon he was declared by the Secretary of State duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Messrs. Bee and Rainey were appointed to wait on Mr. Taylor and conduct him to the Chair.

The Speaker elect, after a few appropriate remarks, announced that the House would proceed to the election of officers.

AUSTIN, January 18th, 1857.

House met pursuant to adjournment—roll called, quorum present. Journal of Saturday read and adopted.

The following communication was taken from the Speaker's table and read :

Gents. of the House of Representatives :

AUSTIN, January 18th, 1857.

Circumstances over which I have had no control, have made it my painful duty to resign the position of Speaker of your honorable body. In severing this connection which has been so pleasant to myself, it creates feelings in my bosom that are better imagined than described. In taking my leave of you, gentlemen, permit me to tender you my unfeigned regards for your manifold kindnesses and courtesy individually and collectively, and as a feeble compensation receive assurances of my lasting friendship for each and all of you.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your ob't serv't.

W. S. TAYLOR.

On motion of Mr. Wood the resignation was accepted.

The Chief Clerk took the stand and called the House to order.

Mr. Cleveland offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the House of Representatives in accepting the resignation of the Honorable Speaker Wm. S. Taylor, do hereby tender him our thanks, for his kind, courteous and efficient discharge of the laborious duties of his office, and further do hereby extend to him our heartfelt sympathies for his own affliction and that of his family ; unanimously adopted.

The Chief Clerk then announced nominations for Speaker in order.

Mr. McKinney of T., moved to declare M. F. Locke, (the present incumbent,) Speaker by acclamation.

The Speaker announced that all elections for officers was required to be ballot.

Mr. Shannon put in nomination the name of Mr. Brown of Galveston.

Mr. McKinney of T, nominated Mr. Locke.

Mr. Shannon nominated Mr. Dennis.

Mr. Brown withdrew his name.

Messrs. Wælder, Witt and Kinney were appointed tellers and the House proceeded to ballot.

On telling the vote it appeared that Mr. Locke had received 39 votes, Mr. Dennis 14 votes, Mr. Brown 13 votes, and blank 1 vote.

Mr. Locke having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared by the Chief Clerk duly elected Speaker for the remainder of the session.

Messrs. Kittrell and Johnson were appointed to conduct the Speaker elect to the Chair, who performed that duty by introducing as the Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. M. F. Locke, who addressed the House as follows :

Mr. Locke on being conducted to the Speaker's chair, addressed the House as follows :

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives :

I feel overwhelmed at this renewed testimonial of confidence and approbation of my impotent abilities. To preside over this body composed as it is of gentlemen of capacity and character, my powers of language are inadequate to the task of expressing the feelings of my heart, towards the gentlemen of this House. I have no such vanity as would lead me to believe that I could give general satisfaction in the discharge of the complex duties and responsibilities necessarily incurred by the Chair, in executing and carrying out the established decorum

to which we have subscribed. But the mark of approbation to-day, for the second time expressed, imprints on the tablet of my heart, an obligation as lasting as life, and upon my memory the most vivid and brightest page of my history.

And in conclusion, I can only promise you, that entertaining the profoundest distrust of own capability to discharge the duties of the station to which your generosity and kind feelings have called me, I will bring to the discharge of my duties all the aid that assiduity and attention will afford, and expressing the hope that we may each of us be, as ready to exercise a spirit of conciliation and fairness to others, as to ask the same, I will assume the seat.