Fellow Members

Exalted to the supreme dignity in this body, by your unmerited and truly unexpected suffrages, I am deeply penetrated with heartfelt gratitude for the distinguished consideration with which you have regarded me. Accept my sincere and unfeigned thanks for my elevation to this office; an office which would be confidingly irksome, were it not aware that the same voices which invested me with it, are disposed to be lenient and delicately solicitous to hide the faults they see, in a fellow mortal.

It has been suggested to you from this place, since the first foundation of Society, to consider the utter inability of any individual to give universal satisfaction in the discharge of his official duties. I am compelled from painful apprehensions to repeat the intimation, and urge my respected predecesors to entreat you to impute my faults to understanding not intimation. By a strict regard to the constitution and laws, and a reference to the judgment of the members collectively, I flatter myself that my conduct will not derogate from the dignity of this Society, nor excite the regret of those who have confided in this honourable office.

Permit me now to assume the prerogative of the executive, in this body, to address you on such subjects as are adapted to your present situations with an application of