Fellow Members

Before entering upon the duties of the office to which your kind partiality has elevated me, it devolves upon me in accordance with the requirements of our Constitution to address you on some suitable subject. I am perfectly conscious of my inability to discharge this pleasing though in many respects responsible duty in a manner befitting the high dignity of the station which I now for a time occupy. And will assure that this my imperfect effort is not worthy to fill a place in your archives beside those of the talented and gifted individuals who have from time to time administered the office from this place, words of warning, of upbraid or of encouragement.

Your memory still with pleasure recall the facts and your breasts swell with just pride when you recall to those occasions when New in his clear, eloquent, earnest manner exhorted you to cheer yourselves, and when Will in bold, passionate tones bade you rise and doing or to descend to still more recent times - when my immediate predecessor in a chant and elegant address taught you that "action, action, action"