important thing is consent of action - that those whom we
have ever sought while we shall admit to all the privileges of
membership in this body - and who will henceforth participate
in our honor or shame in our disgrace should behold us
as a Society united - behold us in a spirit of generous
simulation entering fearfully the arena of debate - all fac-
tional or party feeling banished - behold us in our discus-
sions exercising a mild forbearance and not relating
with malignant aspersion.

We have many - very many - causes for
self-satisfaction in that for a member of years past we
have not been rent by contending factions - those who now
and then the dragon's teeth have sprawled from the scene
of action to display their capacities in a wider field.
We are fortunate in that our lines have fallen unto
us in more pleasant places and more peaceful times -
let us then not "look sorrowfully into the past" for we
must not to recall it - but let us "wisely improve the
present for it is ours."

In conclusion Fellow Members allow
me to return my thanks for the honor which you have
done me - and to assure you that the duties of my office
shall be discharged with fidelity and zeal - And I must
act of each and all a hearty congratulation with me in
the administrations of our laws.

[Signature]