Mr. President, and Fellow Member,

We do not come to mingle again with the usual cast of young debaters, that our question is one of so great importance, that the destiny of common and national hang on its decision. Neither is it one, which has been discussed and decided by great statesmen and master politicians in times gone by, and which short empires and governments to their foundation. Nor in to attempt to produce new ideas on such a theme would seem presumption, and if we attempted to follow the footsteps of those great men, who have discussed it before, with so many books as our libraries afford, this discussion would be too apt to degenerate into a mere declamation or oration.

We have some reason therefore to flatter ourselves that our query is something new, and though it may have been handled by able men, yet their productions are so practiced among old roads, that after diligent search we have not been able to avail ourselves of any collateral aids, so whatever our pencey may be it cannot be ascribed to dead men's brains.