Mr. President and Fellow Members.

When I survey the question, so wide is the field, and so nice are some of the distinctions to be drawn, that I am compelled to say, "That never in my breast before, did ignorance so struggle with desire Of knowledge—as in this moment."

But in entering upon this subject I would preface by saying it is far from my intentions to depreciate the value, and diminish the high estimation of men of learning, and exaggerate the importance of men of action. So do I intend to advance theories of my own, which cannot be supported by any course of reasoning however subtle.

I hope however that I may not fall into the same error, as the gentleman who just preceded me; who in his eagerness to pluck the mote from the first-speaker's eye, has overlooked the beam in his own, and has virtually brought down upon his own head the censure intended for.