

[Document C.]

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

JANUARY 11th, 1865.

5,000 copies ordered to be printed in English and 1,000 in German.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
HON. THOMAS SWANN,
GOVERNOR ELECT OF MARYLAND,
DELIVERED IN THE SENATE CHAMBER,
ANNAPOLIS, JANUARY 11TH, 1865.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:

The third section of the second article of the new Constitution, adopted September 6th, 1864, and ratified by the people on the 12th and 13th of October last, provides that "the Governor shall qualify in the manner herein provided, on the second Wednesday in January ensuing his election, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable." It further provides that "the Governor chosen at the first election under this Constitution, shall not enter upon the discharge of the duties of his office until the expiration of the term for which the present incumbent is elected, unless the said office shall become vacant by death, resignation, removal from the State, or other disqualification of said incumbent." In accordance with the former of these requirements of your organic law, I am here to-day to take the oath of office, as the first occupant of the Gubernatorial chair elected under your free Constitution.

-In these halls, around which cluster so many of the proudest memories of the past, we are assembled to inaugurate a new era in the history of Maryland. It is no unmeaning ceremony which brings you here. The institution of slavery, so long the blight of your free system, has ceased to exist within your borders. An enfranchised State—holding position in the centre of more than one thousand miles of our Atlantic coast—bound to the great and populous States of the West and Northwest by gigantic lines of intercommunication—the result, in part, of your own capital and enterprise—claims at this time, more than at any former period, the united wisdom of her rulers, her legislators and her people. To the present able officer at the head of your Government, as well as to his