

But there is one question in the history of this noble commonwealth in which we, of all others who observe this day of high thanks and grateful review, have our own peculiar satisfaction: "Where will be the permanent seat of government?" The governor and his cabinet cannot wander at large over the whole state like some old Teutonic king. There must be a capital; it is the question of the county-seat all over again, only on a much larger scale, the contest all the more severe, in proportion to the greater magnitude of interests. The capital will be a city of its own kind. It must of necessity have certain advantages that will pertain to no other. The larger the state the more important the seat of government. The more the state increases the more the capital city will increase. Its citizens may go to other cities, but other cities must come to it. Other cities may be the center of business and commercial life, but the capital will be the center of state life, of state politics, of state society, and even to some extent of state literature. There the capitol, the great house and home of the state, will be built, there will come the senators and representatives of the people, there the governor and the various heads of departments, there the judges of the supreme court and the ablest members of the bar throughout the state, there will be the great library and the natural center of the various state societies, there railroads will center, and manufactures, and public and private institutions, and there many a patriotic citizen in the decline of life will come and build his home. A single walk through our capitol and an inspection of its 200 rooms, with the name and object over them for which they are designed, is a political education to the citizen of the grandeur of the commonwealth, such as he will get nowhere else.

Dr. Duffield reviewed the struggle growing out of the location of the capitol in Lansing, assumed the struggle was not so fierce or long continued and the log-rolling not so effective as sometimes represented, that the early legislators were honorable men, and that Curtius-like leap on to the table and the famous toast, "To the goose that lost the capital," and the singing of the doxology, were all a myth. It is enough for us to know that out of 70 counties of 16 townships, and as many school sections, there was one Ingham, one Lansing, one school section—No. 16, "one mile from Burchards' mill." The shortest act ever passed by the Michigan legislature reads as follows: "Resolved that the seat of government in this state shall be in the township of Lansing, in the county of Ingham."

The speaker presented many valuable statistics in regard to the legislation, growth and prosperity of Michigan, and dwelt at length on the building of the new capitol from the time the corner stone was first laid to the present. He paid a high compliment to the skill and integrity of its builders and closed with an elaborate reference to the old capitol at Rome and the new capitol of liberty.