

tice of an *ex post facto* interpretation of laws, was laid on the table; and another, by the same, calling for a vote of censure on Dr. Atkinson, for disregarding the rules of order, was replied to by Dr. Atkinson in a characteristic manner. The resolution was ordered to be expunged.

The Publication Committee was instructed to print the Constitution with the Transactions.

Dr. Homer Judd was then inducted as President, and Dr. Taft read an address, after which the Association adjourned to the first Tuesday of August, 1870.

#### DR. TAFT'S ADDRESS

Dr. Taft said that his inclinations would lead him to retire in silence, but that custom seemed to require an address on the occasion of retiring from so honorable a position. He tendered his congratulations on the present condition of the profession, which was in advance of anything before attained, while the future promised continued progress. The labor and efficiency which had insured this advancement had also won for the profession public interest and esteem. The responsibility of enlarged privileges and advantages is measured by ability, whether inherent or attained by slow growth and effort. We are too apt to forget that each one has a work that no other can do. Each has his individual responsibility to himself, to society, to his profession, and to God. He who is faithless to himself will not be faithful to others, for no man loves others better than himself, as a rule. Every man should endeavor to fill the ideal of the Author of his being, cultivating his talents to the highest degree. There are various incentives to this. In every man there is a tribunal that holds him to a strict account. His own comfort and welfare require that he should neither be barren nor unfruitful. His duty to others demands such self-cultivation. We are so inseparably linked together by many and strong ties which we cannot break, that if we fail to be attuned according to the infinite design, discord is the result. No man can with justice to himself afford to base his professional character and reputation upon aught but an immutable foundation. Let it be fixed upon the rock of truth, and not upon the sands of error. We all require for our growth and nourishment the best food we can get. Why then rest satisfied with the husks, and too often with offal? Let us seek and eat the pure bread of life, that we may grow to the stature of perfect men. We