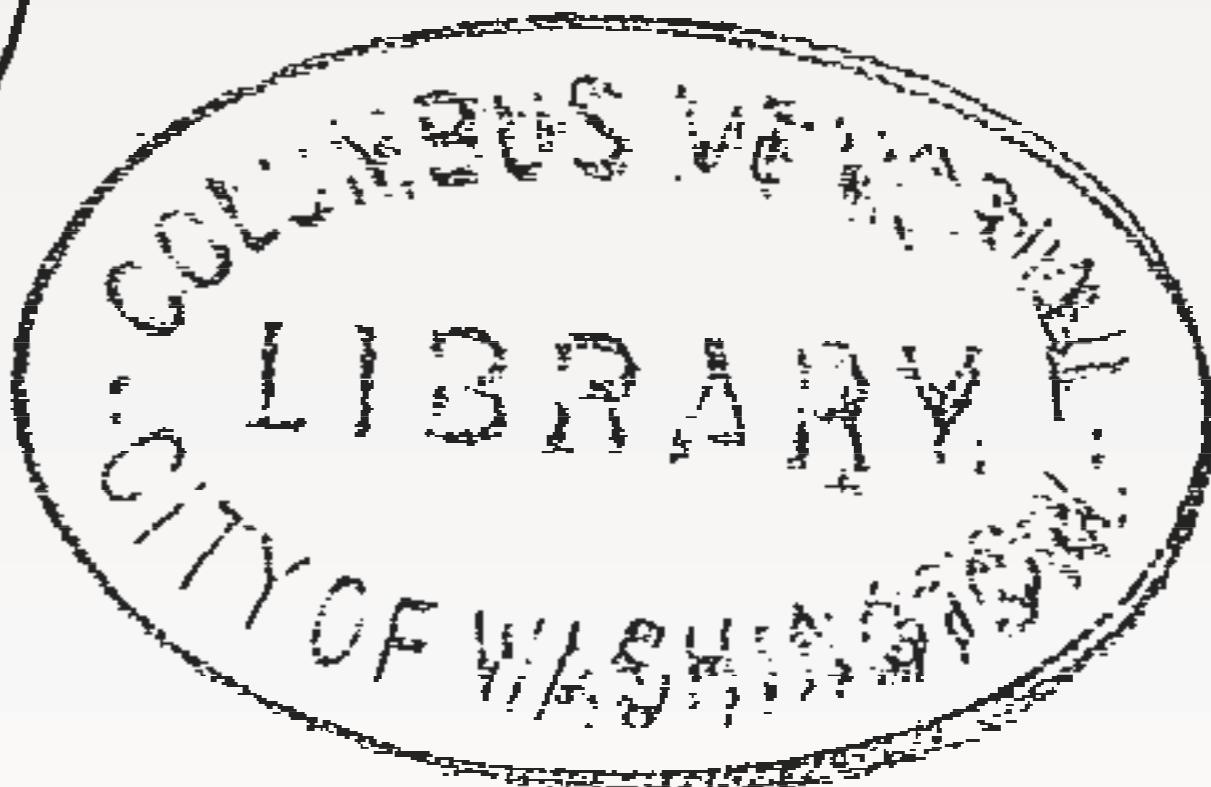


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JOHN BARRETT, DIRECTOR
FRANCISCO J. YÁNES, SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A.

introduced His Eminence, Cardinal GIBBONS, who delivered the following invocation:

We pray Thee, O God of might, wisdom, and justice, through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness and may be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides, by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion, by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy, and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress and shine forth in all their proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge, and may perpetuate to us the blessings of equal liberty.

We recommend likewise to Thy unbounded mercy all our brethren and fellow-citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law, that they may be preserved in union and in that peace which the world can not give, and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal. Grant, O Lord, that this temple, consecrated to international peace, may be an enduring monument of the concord and friendship that will subsist between our own beloved country and the sister Republics of the Western Hemisphere. And grant that the Gospel of the Prince of Peace may so far sway the minds and hearts of rulers and cabinets that henceforth all international disputes may be adjusted, not on the field of battle but in the halls of conciliation, not by standing armies but by boards of arbitrators, not by the sword but by the pen and voice of wisdom which are mightier than the sword.