

we may safely affirm, that among those who knew how to appreciate what is truly great and good, there seldom was one, wherever she was known, more highly and sincerely esteemed while she lived, or more deeply and deservedly lamented when she died. To give any suitable description of her then is a task for which I am not adequate. I knew her well indeed, being privileged with her friendship for many years. But my very knowledge of her satisfies me that I cannot do justice to her memory. I cannot speak of her as her peculiar merits deserve. I cannot speak of her as the feelings of my own heart would desire. This, however, I regret the less, as her life and character must be so familiar to the minds of many of you, and so strongly and distinctly impressed upon them, as to require from me no illustration to make you either know or understand it. There was nothing hidden or disguised or equivocal about it. It was pure, gentle, kind, a good word for all, and an uncharitable thought for none. There was a consistency in her mode of speaking and of acting which could not fail to command admiration. And, indeed, in the endeared respect with which many of you have regarded her, and in the silent but deep-felt sorrow which at this moment fills your bosoms, there are ample proofs that you are no strangers to all that high excellency by which she was so conspicuously distinguished. Into the domestic circle I must not venture, sacred at this moment by the depth and freshness of its sorrows—and tell you how much she loved there and how much she was beloved. But I may speak of her as a friend; and how many can bear witness to me when I say that her friendship was invaluable. It was warm, it was disinterested, it was liberal, it was unostentatious, it was unwavering and constant. And they who enjoyed it enjoyed a treasure, for there was both the willingness and the ability to give them the most substantial tokens of her favor and regard, and never for a moment was her temper soured or her kindness chilled. I may speak of her