

with the return of this anniversary, you are desirous of consecrating it to the purposes of friendship and charity.

Would to God, that I were able to discharge the office, which your partiality has assigned me, in a manner becoming its dignity and importance ! Were my power equal to my will ; were my capacity proportionate to my inclination ; wisdom, strength and beauty should unite in doing ample justice to the merits of our Royal Art. But while I own, that I am but slenderly qualified to answer your expectations on this occasion ; I still flatter myself that the antiquity of our institution, the importance of its laws and the sublimity of its mysteries will claim some degree of attention from every lover of Science. And this respectable audience, knowing the difficulty of speaking on this subject, will candidly accept my sincere desire of doing good, though it be not recommended by the charms of eloquence.

Animated by the hope of that indulgence, which
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