

## A D D R E S S .

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IT was with not a little reluctance as you know, Mr. Chairman, that I consented at your request to take part in the proceedings of this evening. My hesitation, however, arose from no want of sympathy with you in the object of the present meeting; but was owing to reasons, personal to myself, of what may be styled a *medical* kind, and which had, for the last seven years, kept me in a sort of forced retirement from the active duties of the Ministry, and which, notwithstanding my present convalescence, makes me even yet chary of any closer contact than I can help with the scene and associations of my former professional life.

But the circumstances connected with the present gathering of your congregation for the closing ceremony of a formal departure from this old building, call me forth from my now lengthened retirement, and urge the compliance with your request that, ere this Church is closed, perhaps forever, I should lift my voice once more within these walls, which for more than a quarter of a century have been the scene of my public ministerial labours. For your work here to-night is to bid a united farewell to an old friend, and, so to speak, to sound a requiem over your final separation from this scene and centre of congregational operations.

The law of the "Association of Ideas," as the philosophy of mind teaches us, works by *contraries* and *opposites* as well