

LECTURE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me, in the first place, to return you my most sincere and heartfelt acknowledgments, for the high honor conferred upon me on this occasion, an honor, which, I can assure you, I could not have anticipated, and of which I have just reason to be proud. But Ladies and Gentlemen, highly as I appreciate this mark of your kind feeling towards me—warmly and deeply as I feel interested in the noble cause which has called me together this evening—I fear, lest my humble endeavours to advocate the claims of the Widow and the Orphan, should fall far short of your anticipations—lest I should be unequal to the task—and thus cause you to regret that an abler advocate had not been selected, one more gifted, one whose language and powers of oratory could not only please and edify for the moment, but cause you one and all to be, if possible, more and more deeply impressed with the importance of this great work of charity. Permit me then to claim your kind indulgence, and humbly to request that my short comings may be lost sight of—may be wholly eclipsed