

Most Generous Assembly – Incapability, Inconstancy, Inexperience, all, deters me from doing Justice to this faint attempt, yet a thought makes light the detractors, for I see that it requires no extraordinary lucubrations, or any study at all, to say in plain language, that benevolence is the brightest gem that adorns the feminine character, but before I enter too deeply in this matter, I will endeavor to command your attention, on female organized bodies in general. never was man more fully convinced of the scale of human errors, a[s] when learned men endeavored to stamp out female natural incapacities she was pronounced inferior in mental endowments incapable of filling intellectual offices, such were the reasoning of men, and ages have reposed with these erroneous convictions, and we would have been infatuated by our own duplicity, until this very day, had not nature's maxim stronger than the sciences of man, (the spirit of enquiry) introduced a novelty into light called female literature, this was opposed, ridiculed, pronounced officious, [u]nbecoming, and too, a vain attempt. but talent cannot be hoodwinked or browbeaten, but like a compact column in War, tares down all vain battlements, and will present itself on fair and uninterrupted grounds. if the natural desire for female knowledge, if it could have been hushed never would the world, have been blest with the effusions of a Hermans, Sigourney Porter Wheatly Stickney and a numeration of other's, who would not be choaked with that portion of man's reasoning, that there endowments were less than there's; and

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those females who considers there grudgment less, ought to be outcasts of all popular societies: for there influence might excite the same opinion, of self incapability in many a promising damsel, and I sincerely contend, that where a female feels this inferiority, she is but a dead member to the intellectual and cultivated society of mankind. for I consider all non members of good institutions, but we will let the female literary societies rest. with our good wishes hoping they all may accomplish there great anticipations. I have said that benevolence is the brightest Gem that adorns the feminine Character. Yes! I say it boldly, and heaven in thundering language, repeats, and ratifies the decree; that Faith, Hope, Charity, were celestially weighed and the analysis of the three, which is charity; remained the greatest. as good members of the society of mankind we must be active members, who are more active for the good of man than benevolent bodies. look at the good they are pregnant with, Union, Influence, distinction, sisterly love, Piety and relievers of distress, unspeakable econiums are due to every female that is attached to a benevolent body, her name will ever live, and posterity's infant stammerers, will lisp econiums to her name if all the poor of america were Joined to benevolent institutions, never would our eyes behold, those drops of lachrymation, our ears stunned, with those cries of the helpless; of being wise too late. Yea too late! the excruciating pangs of disease and pain commanding the material frame, the senses adding the

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more biting acid to the bitter pangs; set frantick the mind, Nature calling on her own, but stern necessity counteracts her commands.

O! procrastination, thou like a magic lanthren, conducts the wanderer, to the pitfalls of utter despondancy. Who with wisdom would heed thy attraction, Who with experience would heed thy various hues, NONE! for now is the crisis of wisdom, now is our march of intellect, no gorgeous garb, no momentary pleasure, can erase our knowledge from the past, and our judgment for the future. Come then, let all the non members of good female institutions, allow me in the name of the "Rising Daughters of Wesley," invite them to envelope a name, that might fully gratify itself to be honored with such distinguished characters of benevolence, and particularly these officers, I congratulate your proud and distinguished standings, your badges of distinction plainly asserts that ye are ones of competence and trust: you individually I would recommend, never to budge from the firm bases; a lover of mankind, a friend to the needy, and a faithful servant to our common Master and Father of the universe, to whom I now commend you. and may never forgetfulness claim you its victim, for the discording tautology, and Blasts of man, can never remove those developed organs of talent, and Benevolence which ye seem to be so abundantly endowed with. and now to you most generous Publick, permit me in conclusion to bias you to become what necessity demands of you; seek wisdom from the past, rely not on the friends you

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can command on every hand; for these desert  
when need commands; — picture to yourselves, for  
I know experience has taught you, one distressed  
in sickness, shunned by those who were once  
called friends, then your minds will recite:

Alas! poor victim, emblem of distress,  
Now becomes that couch, ill, for one once blest,  
Once like all have health, such friends hard bye;  
When distress demands none now heeds her  
sighs.

so I discribe the female, Who has no thought but  
for the present, but may it never be a mortal that  
is within this enclosier, for the “Daughters of  
Wesley” craves your heed, that ye may never be  
wise too late.

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