

New York 5. March. 1840.

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Dear Sir - Yours under date of Jan: 24

has remained unanswered only on account of my poor health, which has rendered any writing irksome to me, until a late day. I am now, I hope, recovering - & this must be my excuse for what might otherwise appear to be neglect.

I have stated openly to the gentlemen Committee my views & feelings in connection with the invitation. I repeat them here. I observe that literature is now my profession; & that I must find my pen yielding me full compensation for my work, otherwise decline the employment of it. The expence of travel, & the time in preparation of a poem, would be more than I can afford, unless it be under these circumstances. It would afford me pleasure to visit you, and comply with this solicitation - and if the Society - in whose hands I leave the matter, entirely - will fully compensate, in such payment as will suggest itself, I will be with you, should nothing intervene to prevent. - I hope an early answer.

Very respectfully yr friend & servt
Genville Mellen.

Rev^d B. Hale }
Geneva Coll: }

Gemville Mellen -
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