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Title: Letter from John Quincy Adams to the Union Philosophical Society

Date: November 25, 1839

Location: I-Friends-2008-3

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Mess^{rs}. Charles B. Wilkins, Richard V. B. Lincoln, Benjⁿ. M. M'Conkey
Richard B. M'Wister and Henry A. Muhlenberg, Committee of the Union
Philosophical Society, Dickinson College, Carlisle Pennsylvania
Quincy 25. Nov^r 1839.

Gentlemen.

I have received your very obliging letter of the
23^d of last month, inviting me in behalf of the Union Philosophical Society of
Dickinson College, to deliver the annual address, before them in joint meeting
with the Belles Lettres Society of the same institution, on the 8th of July next
the day preceding the annual commencement of the College.

The Elements of Union, Philosophy and Literature, com-
bined in the denominations which you have assumed as characteristic of
your pursuits, are at once so copious, and attractive, that it would afford me
the highest pleasure to discourse to you upon them - a pleasure enhanced as it
would be, by the ability to comply with a request so flattering in itself and
conveyed to me in terms so entitled to my compliance and my gratitude.

I regret that insurmountable difficulties, interposed by my years,
my infirmities and my engagements forbid me to hope that I could fulfil
the promise of attendance at that time, should I make it, and of course interdict
me from undertaking what it will not be in my power to perform.

With the warmest good wishes for the prosperity of both the Societies,
and the happiness of all their members, I remain Gentlemen, your very
obed^t. Serv^t

John Quincy Adams.