Most Generous Assembly – Incapability, Inco-
gitancy, Inexperience, all, deters me from doing
Justice to this faint attempt, yet a thought makes
light the detriments, for I see that it requires no
extraordinary lucrubration, 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 fe-
male 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
natures’ maxim stronger then the sciences of
man, (the spirit of enquiry) introduced a novelty
into light called female literature, this was oppos-
ed, ridiculed, pronounced officious, [u]nbecoming,
and too, a vain an 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 know-
ledge, 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 then there’s; and
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
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 des-
pondancy. 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 gor-
geous garb, no momentary pleasure, can erase
our knowledge from the past, and our judgment
for the future. Come then, let all the non mem-
bers of good female institutions, allow me in the
name of the “Rising Daughters of Wesley,” in-
vite them to envelope a name, that might fully
gratify itself to be honored with such distinguish-
ed characters of benevolence, and particularly
these officers, I congratulate your proud and dis-
tinguished standings, your badges of distinction
plainly asserts that ye are ones of competance and
trust: you individually I would recommend, never
to budge from the firm bases; a lover of man-
kind, a friend to the needy, and a faithful servant
to our common Master and Father of the uni-
verse, 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
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 describe the female, Who has no thought but
for the present, but may it never be a mortal that
is within this encloser, for the “Daughters of
Wesley” craves your heed, that ye may never be
wise too late.