Beaureg, Harrison Co., Miss.,

17th Oct. 1882.

Rd I dear Friend,

Your letter of the 14th of Sept. has been received and one
have been sooner answered but that I have been so frequently ill as to
cause a delay in even the most pressing
 correspondence. When, with such condi-
tions as prudence required me to sus-
gest, I accepted the invitation to deliver
an address upon the characterizing Esdy
of Genl. R. E. Lee, it was because the
occasion was one which my policy
would not permit me to decline.

For sometime past I have tried
occasion of the most regret to
address an occasion to me
very attractive. To offer my thanks
to Genl. Lee when asked to do so, and
the particular thing which I felt com
feels to accept. The time fixed, you is unfavorable because of the heat of the season, but I, I suppose to be with you. It has never been my habit to write out an address beforehand. To more than prepare very brief notes to remind me of the mental preparation I had previously made in the confidence with which I always write to you. I will confine that a brief prepared beforehand, and believe the inferior to what the inspiration of such an occasion as you propose to produce.

Fully conscious of the precariety of the retention of strength, even if life should he spared, I will indulge to your wish that of the Lecture, as soon as I can, I shall be glad to prepare in the form of Dr. P. the address I have been engaged to deliver. In this con
...motion I will candidly say that in my opinion there are many others who could perform the duty more easily than myself, none however who could do it more exactly. It may be proper to add, that I have been informed that your estimate of the address delivered by myself will in the eyes of others be more than its inherent value.

My family join in kindness to your family and yourself and I am with lifelong affection.

Faithfully yours,

Jefferson Davis

Rud. S. Williams, William Nelson Pendleton, Lexington, Va