

**DISCOURSE OF THE LIFE AND  
CHARACTER OF GEORGE  
PEABODY: DELIVERED IN THE HALL  
OF THE PEABODY INSTITUTE,  
BALTIMORE, FEBRUARY 18, 1870**

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Discourse of the life and character of George Peabody: delivered in the Hall of the Peabody Institute, Baltimore, February 18, 1870 by Severn Teackle Wallis

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**SEVERN TEACKLE WALLIS**

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On the 15th of February, 1870, among the proceedings of the House of Delegates of Maryland, was the following:

Mr. Hammond submitted the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,  
February 16, 1870.

*Gentlemen of the Senate:*

We propose, with the concurrence of your Honorable Body, the appointment of a Committee, consisting of three on the part of this House, and two on the part of the Senate, to invite the Hon. S. Teackle Wallis to repeat his Eulogy on the Life and Character of George Peabody, in the Hall of the House of Delegates, before the Governor, Court of Appeals, and General Assembly of Maryland, at such time as he shall be pleased to designate. We have appointed, on the part of the House, Messrs. Hammond, Kilbourn and Streett.

By order,

MILTON Y. KIDD,  
*Chief Clerk.*

Which was read, assented to, and sent to the Senate.

In the Senate, on the same day, Mr. Earle submitted the following message, which was read, assented to, and sent to the House of Delegates:

BY THE SENATE,  
February 16, 1870.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:*

We have received your message proposing the appointment of a Committee, consisting of three on the part of the House, and two on the part of the Senate, to invite the Hon. S. Teackle Wallis to repeat his Eulogy

on the Life and Character of George Peabody, in the Hall of the House of Delegates, before the Governor, Court of Appeals, and General Assembly of Maryland, at such time as he shall be pleased to designate, and heartily concur therein. We have appointed, on the part of the Senate, Messrs. Earle and Hyland.

By order,

AUGUSTUS GASSAWAY,  
*Secretary.*

In response to this invitation, communicated to Mr. Wallis by the Joint -Committee, the following discourse, originally delivered in the City of Baltimore on the 18th of February, 1870, was repeated by him on February 25th, in the Hall of the House of Delegates, at Annapolis, before the Senate and House in joint Session, in the presence of His Excellency the Governor of the State, the Honorable Judges of the Court of Appeals, the Officers of Her Britannic Majesty's Ship Monarch, (then lying in Annapolis Roads,) and a number of ladies and gentlemen specially invited.

On the 26th of February, Mr. Touchstone submitted, in the House of Delegates, the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted, and which received, in due course, the unanimous concurrence of the Senate, viz:

#### JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, the discourse upon the Life and Character of the late George Peabody, which was yesterday pronounced by S. Teackle Wallis, Esq., in the presence of the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland, is, by its just discrimination, its instructive and philosophical analysis of character, and its lofty eloquence, entitled to rank amongst the most distinguished orations of modern times, and ought, therefore, to be perpetuated and

handed down to posterity, with the other tributes paid by Maryland to the memory of its immortal subject. Therefore,

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland,* That the thanks of the two Houses are hereby offered to Mr. Wallis, for his prompt acceptance of their invitation, and that he be requested to furnish a copy of his discourse for publication.

*Resolved,* That 2,000 copies of the said discourse be printed for the use of the General Assembly.

The following correspondence thereupon ensued:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
SENATE,  
ANNAPOLIS, *March 3d, 1870.*

*Dear Sir:* We beg to enclose the joint resolutions of the General Assembly of Maryland, asking a copy of your classic and eloquent Eulogy on the Life and Character of George Peabody, for publication. Having been appointed a Committee to execute the wishes of the Legislature, we express the hope that it may be agreeable to your views to comply with this request.

We have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obt' svs.,

ORMOND HAMMOND,  
E. G. KILBOURN,  
J. M. STREETT,

*Of the House.*

JAMES T. EARLE,  
C. H. HYLAND,  
*Of the Senate.*

HON. S. TEACKLE WALLIS.

BALTIMORE, *March 4th, 1870.*

*Gentlemen:* I have before me your flattering communication of yesterday's date, enclosing me a copy of the resolutions which the General Assembly of Maryland has been pleased to adopt, in reference to my recent discourse upon the Life and Character of the late Mr. Peabody.

The terms in which the General Assembly has seen fit to characterize the discourse so far transcend my own estimate of its possible merits, that I should have much hesitation, under other circumstances, in submit-

ting it to the deliberate criticism of the public. But the manuscript is already in the hands of the Committee of the Peabody Institute, for publication, and I shall therefore take great pleasure in transmitting you the corrected proofs as soon as they are ready.

Let me beg you to express to the General Assembly, in the warmest way, my very grateful sense, not only of the high honor done me by its official proceedings, but of the great personal consideration, courtesy and kindness, which have left me under so many obligations to the Officers, Committees and Members of both Houses.

I have the honor to be, with great regard, truly yours,

S. T. WALLIS.

HON. JAMES T. EARLE,

" C. H. HYLAND,

*Committee of the Senate.*

HON. ORMOND HAMMOND,

" E. G. KILBOURN,

" J. M. STREETT,

*Committee of the House of Delegates.*





*Gentlemen of the Senate,  
and of the House of Delegates of Maryland:*

The discourse which you have done me the distinguished honor to request me to repeat this evening, was prepared, as you all know, to be delivered at the Peabody Institute, in Baltimore, on the anniversary of the birth-day of its Founder. It is therefore full of allusions to the place and the occasion, which are far from being so appropriate here. I could not, however, detach them from the text, without to some extent impairing the connection, nor indeed without partially re-writing what you have invited me only to repeat. I beg you will be so good as to make the necessary allowances and, as far as may be, to imagine that the original associations are around you.

## DISCOURSE.

ON the 12th of February, thirteen years ago, the Founder of this Institute committed to the hands of his selected agents the noble gift, which, under his accumulating bounty, has since swollen to more than four times its original amount. Upon the same day, year after year, the Trustees whom he so honored have been wont to render him an account of their stewardship, and renew to him the expression of their reverent affection and gratitude. Some months after our last annual address to him, we shared, with our fellow-citizens, the pleasure of seeing him again among us in person, full, not only of increasing sympathy with the purposes of this Foundation, but of abounding munificence to serve them. Although the hand of disease was then heavy upon him, there was, we thought, reason for the hope that he might be spared for many years, to see the growth of the good seed which he had