

Stannyside Oct 15th 1851

Dear Sir



I cannot but feel highly sensible of the complement paid me by the lecture committee of the Rochester Athenaeum in inviting me to deliver a lecture before the institution. I regret to say, however, that a nervous repugnance to appearing in this manner before any public body, which amounts almost to a disability, obliges me to decline all invitations of the kind.

I beg you will communicate this ~~my~~

excuse to the Committee and accept
at the same time my thanks for the very
kind and flattering expressions with which
you have accompanied the invitation

I am, Dear Sir

very respectfully

Your obliged Servant

Washington Irving

Chester P Dewey Esq
Chairman of the
Lecture Committee &c

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