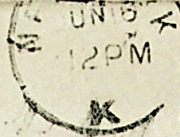


Bent -

Speech at funeral

Rev. Wm. H. Bidder,
Clifton Springs,
New York.





New York June 16
1135 Park Ave

Dear Will:

I enclose check
for the \$10. #. Annie sends
answer to your letter
tomorrow. Good night.

Yours
Burt

1135 Park Ave
New York June 16th 1896.

Dear Will:

I find I cannot
remember just what I said
I enclose the nearest approach
I can reconstruct. Use your own
judgment in using, altering, or
omitting all or any portion.
I shall answer your letter and
send your check by a communi-
cation to Bristol, as there is
a possibility of this not reaching
you.

Yours with love
Burt

To Rev Wm H Belden
Clifton Springs N.Y. W. H. May Jr.

I have spoken many times and in many places, but this is the first time that I have heard my voice raised aloud within these walls. As I have sat ~~here~~ wondering, whether it were right to hear it now I have grown confused in the endeavor to decide upon its propriety. But, any one who bears the relation which I ~~do~~ ^{hold} to the dead man, must possess a sluggish pulse and a cold blood, who could know the events that have occurred within this town during the past four days, and not be stirred to the very bottom of his heart.

The connection between my father and myself during many years has been one of the most intimate and unrestrained comradeship, and it seems, thus knowing his deepest and inmost wishes, almost as if I were the bearer of a message from the dead. For a long time past the strongest feeling of his life has been a warm love for the people and the town of Dover. It was scarcely possible that any joy could have been

greater for him, than that fortune
 which permitted him to return to spend
 his last days among the friends, and
 in the spot which he loved so well.
 This was all that I intended to say,
 but there is one other sentence which
 it seems to me now well to add.

On the last ride but one which he and
 Sever took together, we passed through
 Brompton, where his brother had lived
 and died. He told me about the cere-
 monies of his funeral, and from what
 he said and from the tones of his
 voice I know that all the things that
 have been done here, are what he would
 have desired to have had done, and
 that there has been no single thing omit-
 ted.