

so many appropriate natural situations ; and, perhaps, somewhat is to be attributed to the taste of the Americans. This prompts them to choose a spot far away from the busy haunts of men, far from the hum of human voices ; and guides art in decorating and embellishing it. Some of these cities of the dead, are within hearing of old ocean's mysterious and solemn music. Mt. Auburn and Greenwood, are thus situated ; and are perhaps the most beautiful. In visiting one of these art-embellished cemeteries, or even, the quiet country grave-yard, decorated only by the hand of nature ; a calm repose steals over the spirit ; we feel that death is not such a bitter, and painful thing ; that the rest of the grave has no terrors.

It has been said that we can judge of the character of a nation, from the mode of interment, and the inscriptions on its monuments. The devotional character of the Germans, in former times, led them to call this last home " God's acre," where the

" Seed sown by Him, shall ripen for the harvest."

Infidel Paris inscribed over the gate of Pere la Chaise—" Death is an *eternal* sleep." The rude Scottish tribes, in their rocky country, heaped piles of stones, as monuments ; while in smoother England, mounds of earth were raised for the same purpose. The inhabitants of the remote north, unable to open the frozen ground, cover their dead with branches of trees ; and many of the wandering tribes of South America, carry the body of their relative, on his favorite horse, hundreds of miles, to the family cemetery. The Greeks believed that the spirits of the unburied could not enter the abodes of the blessed, so if one died at sea, or where his body could not be found, they built for him a cenotaph.

Our word " cemetery " was introduced by the early christians, who regarded the grave as a sleeping place, and interred bodies without burning them. Their burial places were generally caves of vast extent, which in times of persecution, served as hiding places. In visiting various places of sepulture, we see a great diversity in the style of the monuments and their inscriptions. Some only tell the name, age, and death of the sleeper, while others are carried to the other extreme ; long and flattering epitaphs are inscribed ; which in many instances, we