

"My dear friends : you are all doubtless impressed with the same feeling as myself, that we are met together in this Church to-day, under unusually painful and solemn circumstances. There are sad hearts amongst us here this day, hearts that are overwhelmed with grief by reason of a most affecting family bereavement. Throughout the whole community too there is a universal feeling of sadness for the loss of one who occupied a prominent position in this place ; who was generally beloved for his many good qualities, and universally admired for his uncommon intelligence. The sad occurrence which has at length terminated fatally, and his comparatively early death, have made a deep and painful impression upon all throughout this district. Would to God that impression may prove lasting and productive of good to many, leading them to seek shelter in that Rock of Ages where, we rejoice to know, our departed brother had long found a sure refuge and an everlasting shelter. In his sad death there is not one of us, I am sure, but feels that he has lost a dear and valued friend ; and we have all this day to deplore the loss of one who will be long greatly missed in our churches, and throughout the whole community. Many good qualities he must have had to endear himself as he did to all who knew him, as is evident from the deep gloom that prevailed all around on the occurrence of his sad accident, from the anxious enquiries made, and the expressions of sorrow evinced by all during his fatal illness, and from the large numbers who have come here this day to pay their last respects to his memory. I feel that I am about the least competent in all the place to speak of our departed friend, having known him for so short a time. But during that short time I experienced enough of his kindness and warm-heartedness to make me love him almost as a brother. If then, we who are out-

side of his family connexion thus mourn his loss, what must be the feelings of those afflicted ones who have been bereft of a loving and tender husband and parent and brother ? God comfort and support them in this dark hour !"

At the close of the service, all present passed slowly round and took a last look at the remains of the deceased ; and many a silent tear dropped at the thought of that active brain and that once fluent tongue being now for ever stilled in death. The burial procession which was of immense length, was then formed, and proceeded with the remains of the deceased to West Branch church-yard where they were deposited in the family burying ground.

### PRECIOUS STONES.

When goods increase, they are increased that eat them : and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes ?"—ECCLESIASTES v. 11.

A rich nobleman was once showing a friend great collection of precious stones, whose value was almost beyond counting. There were diamonds, and pearls, and rubbies, and gems from almost every country on the globe, which had been gathered by their possessor by the greatest labour and expense. "And yet," he remarked, "they yield me no income."

His friend replied that he had two stones, which cost him but five pounds each, yet they yielded him a very considerable annual income. And he led him down to the mill and pointed to the two toiling grey mill-stones. They were laboriously crushing the grain into snowy flour, for the use of hundreds who depended on this work for their daily bread. Those two dull homely stones did more good in the world, and raised larger income, than all the nobleman's jewels.

So it is with idle treasure everywhere : it is nobody any good. While poor souls are dying of thirst, the money is hoarded and hid away which might take the water of life to them.—*Biblical Treasury*