

The dead person was brought to the shore of that lake, and to the foot of a tribunal consisting of several judges, who inquired into his life and conversation. When he had not faithfully observed the law, the body was left unburied, and, very like, was thrown into a sort of lay-stall or ditch, called Tartarus. Diodorus informs us, that there was near a town at a small distance from Memphis, a leaking vessel, into which they incessantly poured Nile water, which could signify nothing but endless tortures and remorse.

When no accuser appeared, or he who deposed against the deceased was convicted of falsehood, then they ceased to lament the dead person, and his obsequy was made. They, for instance, commended his excellent education, his respect for religion, his equity, moderation, chastity and other virtues. His birth, which was supposed to be the same with all men, was never allowed any merit in him.

There was on the shore of the lake a severe and incorruptible water-man, who by order of the judges, and never upon any other terms, received the deceased in his boat. The very kings of Egypt were treated with the same rigour, and were not admitted into the bark without leave of the judges, who sometimes deprived even them of burial. The water-man carried the body on the other side of the lake, into a plain embellished with meadows, brooks, groves and all the rural ornaments. This place was called Elizout; or the Elizian fields, that is *full satisfaction, and habitation of repose, or of joy*. There was at the entrance of that abode the figure of a dog, with three pair of jaws, which they called Cerberus. The whole ceremony ended by thrice sprinkling sand over the opening of the vault wherein they had put the corpse and by bidding him thrice adieu.

All these words and practices almost everywhere copied, were so many instructions to the people. They gave them to understand by all these ceremonies, as by so many speeches or very significant symbols, that death was followed by an account which we were to give our life before an inflexible tribunal; but that, what was indeed dreadful to the wicked was only a passage in a happier state for the good. Wherefore death was called deliverance. The boat of transportation was called tranquility, because it carried over none but the just and on the contrary the water-man who inflexibly refused those whom the judges had not acquitted, was called Wrath or the Vengeance.

They put at the entrance of the cemetery and over the door of the deceased's tomb the symbol of the value and tender affection they had for their departed relation. The dog, being of all animals the most addicted to man, is the natural emblem of friendship and attachment. They gave the figure of the dog, three heads or throats, to express the three cries they had made over their friend's grave, according to the custom which granted that honor to none but good men. They called the symbol Cerberus, that is, the cries of the grave,

[TO BE CONTINUED.]