

ing a place in your Miscellany, and for which they are very much at your service, should you think them equally meriting attention. They I believe have no claim to originality; for although there appears no reference to the authors from whence they are taken, the dissimilarity made in which they follow each other, and the detached form of their insertion lead to the belief that they are copies from other writers, and only serve to show that it was a subject which deeply engrossed his attention; while the judiciousness of the selection is no less evincive of his good taste.

Speaking of Epitaphs an eminent writer observes "that the principal intention of Epitaphs is to perpetuate examples of virtue; that the tomb of a good man may supply the want of his presence, and veneration for his memory, produce the same effect as the observation of his life; that they ought always to be written with regard to truth; and that the best subject for them is private virtue—virtue exerted in such circumstances as may admit of many imitators."

The custom of paying a venerative respect, for the dead not only claims attention from the antiquity of the practice, but also from its being observed among all nations both antient and modern, civilized and barbarous. Plato marks his opinion of this custom by observing, "that those who take care of the monuments of their ancestors, and pay funeral duties to their friends, are just to the dead." Almost all nations of which we read follow the same observations, particularly the Chinese, the Egyptians and nearer home the Welsh pursue the practice of decorating the graves of their friends and relatives with flowers. The same custom prevails in many parts of Ireland where upon a certain day the poorer classes assemble at the church yards and dress the graves of all indiscriminately.

England with all her boasted refinement is perhaps less attentive to these aimable remembrances of the dead than any other nation.—There we not only observe a neglect of that decent attention to preserve the last remembrances of mortality, the tombs of their ancestors; but there is less general regard paid to the graves and sepulchral monuments of those who go to their long homes from among us at the present day than in nations boasting less refinement. This is particularly observable in the selection of Epitaphs. Although we may occasionally meet with exceptions; the great majority of them are calculated to raise ideas in the mind very widely different from what the sight of the receptacle for departed worth ought to produce. How rarely do we find modern monumental inscriptions equal in pathos to those we find on the Tombs of the antients. The eye that is fond of perusing these remembrances of the dead, is now too frequently disgusted with the absurdity, folly, and irreverence to be traced in every line.

The following beautiful excepted to this imputation is said to be from the pen of the late Lord Palmerston; and cold and hard must that heart be who could read it without feeling that corresponding sympathy which ought to prevail in such a place as it is met with; and that deep anguish which dictated the strain.