

## GRAY'S "ELEGY IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD."

THE genius of English poetry has given the world some very beautiful elegies. Milton's "Lycidas," the first great elegy in English poetry, is commemorative of the death of the poet's young friend Thomas King; Tennyson's "In Memoriam" embalms in immortal verse the memory of one of the most perfect young men that have ever lived in the tide of times — Arthur Hallam; and Swinburne's "Ave atque Vale" and Matthew Arnold's "Thyrsis" are noble tributes in elegiac verse to gifted souls whom death snatched untimely from our planet. Nor should Shelley's sweet and sad lament over the death of John Keats — his beloved Adonais — be denied a place amongst the greatest of English elegies.

Gray was a contemplative and reflective poet, and the spirit of his muse sought a kindred environment. The "Elegy" is the very embodiment and incarnation of evening regret. There is no doubt

**Origin,  
Setting, and  
Import of  
Gray's  
"Elegy."**