

repeat. All that they were and all that they did is still, with more or less power, according to the susceptibility of different minds, directing the current of our thoughts and biasing the tenor of our ways. Impressions effected by contact with the moral and the spiritual are much more durable than those which are produced by the physical. They are wrought into our nature and have much to do in the formation of our character, while the removal by death of those from whom they have been received, serves to deepen and confirm them. The forms and the features of departed friends may soon fade from our recollections as they do from our eyes, but the elements of their character—their dispositions, habits, and principles—cleave to our very spirits. And the great day of disclosures alone will reveal how much we are indebted to this very circumstance, for the attainments we have acquired and the good we are enabled to do. Long after the blanks which they leave shall have ceased to be continually and painfully palpable, when we no more miss them on the streets, or in the place of business, or the house of God, our character will continue to exhibit more or less fully the reflected lineaments of their lives—the result of an affectionate and trusty friendship. This is a truth, the force of