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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



A SERMON ON THE DEATH OF THE LATE KING.

“And Hezekiah slept with his Fathers, and they buried him in the chiefest of the Sepulchres of the sons of David, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honour at his death.—2d Chronicles, xxxii. 33.



IT was the custom in ancient Egypt to examine with great solemnity the character of their deceased Sovereigns, and to deny them an honorable burial if they were found unworthy. There is reason to believe that a similar custom prevailed among the Jews; for we frequently read in the history of their Kings, that the wicked were excluded from the sepulchre of King David, nor were any attended to their graves with public marks of reverence and affection, unless particularly celebrated for the uprightness of their conduct. In allusion to this practice, the sacred historian mentions that the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Judah, deeply sensible of the greatness of their loss, did Hezekiah honor at his death, and buried him in the chiefest of the sepulchres of the sons of David.

This excellent Prince, on his accession to the throne, far from imitating the wicked example of his father, whose idolatry had reduced his kingdom and subjects to the most deplorable situation, hastened to remove the cause of their calamities by restoring the pure worship of God. He caus-