

heavenly comfort to the departing spirit, and we were resigned.

He was not old, but he had lived a good life. Checkered as his days had been by cares and griefs, his hopeful spirit had borne up with all, and his life of self-denial and disinterested kindness had not been unfruitful of much good to his fellow beings. He had not entered much into the gaieties of life, and knew but little of its boasted joys; his pleasures were *his own*, and his enjoyments, hid, as they often were, in the recesses of his own warm heart, nevertheless painted their impress upon his benevolent countenance. Others had blessed him "by day and by night," and prayed for his weal; he had lived to be honored and loved; he died to be regretted and remembered.

It is evening; the tints of the setting sun deck the heavens, and his glorious beams light my way. I stand by the cold sod that lies green above *his* dear remains, and my thoughts seek to hold communion with the spirit world. I feel happy in the consciousness that God watches over the precious dust here fast mingling with its native element, and blesses the soul He has taken to Himself. Oh! that I may be inspired with strength to live as he lived! to do as he did! This wish shall merge in purpose, and hereafter in solitude, or in the deep stillness of midnight, I shall be able to think of his death-bed, and rest in happiness.

ISIDOR.

Montreal, September, 1854.

JAPANESE CULTURE.—The Japanese are far from being as much behind the times as we are apt to imagine. There is probably no country, not Christian, in the world, so educated, cultivated and refined. Their mechanics are in some things more ingenious and skilful than our own. Their farmers, if they fall behind ours in enterprise, beat them in thrift and economy, and in the quantity of produce they raise under the circumstances. They had printed books long before we had. They watch the progress of European science and art, and avail themselves eagerly of its discoveries. Their coasting trade is large and busy. They take and read the Dutch newspapers, and thus keep themselves posted up in the progress of western events. They knew of the coming of Commodore Perry's squadron, and were prepared for its arrival.