

more general. Could there be less superstition mixed up with those sentiments, greater good would result to mankind in various ways. For instance, there is a very general feeling of respect for the dead, but this respect is carried just so far as is considered advantageous. It hardly survives a generation. We confess to a certain amount of sentiment as regards the remains of those we knew in life, loved and respected, and when we see their last resting place torn up and desecrated, we cannot but feel a certain amount of painful regret, that their bodies had not been submitted to the devouring element and their ashes scattered to the winds of heaven. There is a large amount of deception practiced in the present day in the treatment of the bodies of the dead. But that deception, we suppose, has not arisen in this 19th century. The Church leads its votaries to believe in the essential necessity of what is termed Christian burial. We will not speak of the pomp and circumstance, the ringing of bells, etc., etc., which is considered genteel, but is in verity a tax on the living. It is a business, and a profitable one. What essential good is to be derived by this treatment of our dead? No earthly good to the survivors except, perhaps, in being looked upon by their fellow-mortals as well-to-do in this world because they paid for a fine funeral. We have heard a story of a Scotch Highland Chief whose funeral beggared his family. We know of a case in our own city where the head of a family was struck down suddenly, and where the survivors had to borrow some twenty-five or thirty dollars to bury their relative—half a cord of wood at eight dollars a cord would have reduced his remains to ashes; and if a Sieman's furnace had been at hand, a bushel or two of gas coke would have been sufficient. Viewed, therefore, from an economic point, and from a sanitary point, Cremation has everything in its favor.

Then, again, with regard to burial of the dead in consecrated ground, the thing is a fraud. The ground is consecrated to preserve the superstitious belief of