

"ELEGY IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD" 113

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Awaits alike th' inevitable hour.
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

The place of the "Elegy" must unquestionably be among the classics of English poetry. It contains but one hundred and eighteen lines, every line of which is quotable and full of that polish and splendor which only real poetic artistry can impart. To no other poem in the English language has the genius of mankind paid such homage in translation as to the "Elegy." Of these translations there have been: one in Hebrew, seven in Greek, twelve in Latin, thirteen in Italian, fifteen in French, six in German, and one in Portuguese.

**The Place of
the "Elegy"
in English
Poetry.**

The fame of Thomas Gray is assuredly secured in the "Elegy" against the teeth of time.

QUESTIONS.

1. Name the great elegies in English poetry.
2. What is the origin and import of Gray's "Elegy"?
3. To what is the greatness of Gray's "Elegy" attributed?