

dist of this nature had ever been necessary in Halifax. Indeed the reverse is now to be lamented. The burial of the dead is become rather too expensive ; and I call on you, and on every national Society in the province, to discountenance and correct the extravagance. Retrench, if you cannot abolish, the idle parade and ostentatious expence, so frivolous and puerile at all times, but so peculiarly unseasonable at a funeral. It is of no avail to the dead, and materially injurious to the living. A decent, an affectionate respect, may be shewn to the memory and remains of the nearest and dearest relative without it. It forms no part of real mourning, and is indisputably calculated rather to flatter the vanity of the survivors than to do honour to the deceased.

In the spirit of rational and virtuous reform, might it not be proper and consistent, nay more, my countrymen, is it not absolutely incumbent on you as a national Society, to adhere scrupulously and inflexibly, in this article, to the simple ceremonial of your native land? That weakness of character which receives a new direction from every impulse of fashion is unworthy of a national Society. Be not then swayed by a slavish imitation—nor employ on the most solemn occasion that expensive pageantry, which, however venerable it may appear in the country where it has been consecrated by immemorial usage, is out of character here, as well as a dead loss to your fund of charity. Have the courage to make the reform proposed as a national association, and as individuals have the consistency to adhere to it inviolably in your families, however easy your circumstances may be. In private life there is no one who does not see, and feel, and deplore this tyrannical custom ; who does not heartily wish it abolished ; and who would not be sincerely glad to find a precedent to justify the abolition. But few, in comparison, possess that fortitude of mind which is necessary towards submitting their reasons for being singular to public observation and private scandal ; and least of all on a subject so delicate as that of respect to the dead, where the smallest saving is ever imputable to a sordid motive. On this account it is so much the more necessary to be undertaken by a public association. The reform is worthy of you ; may you merit the thanks of posterity for effecting it!

3dly. A third laudable purpose to which your institution may be rendered subservient, is, to grant, under your seal and the signature of your President, certificates and recommendations to the deserving of your number, whose removal to other lands, in quest of employment and subsistence, various causes may compel.

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