

enslaved the Powers of Europe—when he even threatened to unfurl the Banners of Infidelity and despotism on the British soil, and to destroy our happy and inimitable Constitution—then again the exertions and vigilance, the firmness and prudence of our faithful Monarch interposed, and stopped his wicked purpose. In the most trying and distressing circumstances; when deserted and forsaken on all sides, and standing alone, the solitary Champion of Religion and Liberty, he yet never yielded to despair; but with the surest confidence and firmest reliance, trusted to the help of his God, and the affections of his People: nor was his trust in vain; “for those that honour God, he will honour, while those who despise him shall be lightly esteemed.” The torrent which threatened to overwhelm the United Kingdom, was, by his prudent measures rolled back with double violence on the insulting foe, and by its mighty force hurled him from his throne: thus England rose to the highest pinnacle of fame, and Europe was declared free. But, before this happy period arrived, the mysterious hand of the Almighty, quenched in the Royal person the light of reason, and left him the object of his People’s commiseration and pity. The preparations of War, and the toils of State were now remembered no more.--To the endearments of conjugal affection, and the kind attentions of filial love, the Royal sufferer was alike insensible--all--all were forgotten. In this mournful state he remained, until nature was exhausted by a load of years, and his happy spirit returned to the God that gave it.--He is now “gathered to his people.” and we are left to bewail his virtue and his piety. Yes my Brethren, if, during his reign we have been blessed and happy--if we have been preserved from civil broils, and bloody persecutions--if the grasp of oppression, and the violence of the spoiler have never reached us--if our Country has not been polluted by the foot of an enemy--if our Temples have been unprofaned, and our dwellings unmolested--if our holy faith has been held sacred and protected—if our Civil and Religious liberty has been faithfully defended—if we have enjoyed happiness at home, and commanded respect abroad, surely we may be indulged in that tender and sacred sorrow, of which those * sable ornaments are, I trust, but feeble emblems. Indeed every loyal bosom must feel in the afflicting stroke, that he is deprived of a friend, a father, and a King.

* *Church Mourning.*