

it at all seasons except the winter, when they are in danger of being broken in pieces by the ice. At some distance from the city, I observed a dock-yard, in which there were more than twelve ships building: among others there was a beautiful frigate fitting up, and intended to be sent by the government to the Mediterranean, where the United States maintain a fleet to preserve their commerce from the piracy of the Barbary powers.

CHAP. III.

FUNERAL RITES.—DESCRIPTION OF PHILADELPHIA.—
PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—BANKS.—LIBRARY.—THEATRE.
—HOSPITAL.—POOR-HOUSES.

THE day after my arrival at Philadelphia, I went to view the interior of the city. I had scarcely crossed the street, when I saw a body carrying to the grave. More than three hundred persons, decently dressed, followed it in silence. The coffin was made of mahogany, without any exterior decorations. The procession stopped at a large burial-ground belonging to the Quakers, surrounded with walls twelve feet in height, and planted with rows of the weeping willow and the cypress. The whole ceremony consisted in depositing the body in a grave five feet deep; after which, each returned in silence, without any perceptible lamentation or regret. This species of philosophy accords with the religious principles of the Quakers, of whom I shall speak hereafter. For the present, I shall content myself in giving some account of the respect paid by the different religious sects in the United States to their dead.

Each sect possesses a piece of ground, destined for the interment of its followers. These grounds are surrounded with walls or pales, to prevent the entrance of any animal. On the death of a member, the relations assemble, and invite to the funeral all those with whom the deceased has had any acquaintance. Those who follow the coffin are generally dressed in black, and show a respectful sorrow, according as they have been interested with the defunct or his family. When the body has arrived at the place of interment, the minister makes a short discourse, in which he enumerates the qualities and virtues of the deceased. He reminds them of the shortness of human life, and exhorts them to live well; after which, he throws some mould into the grave. Every person present follows his example, the relations first, then the friends, and the grave diggers complete this mournful ceremony. When the grave is filled, they place over it a marble slab, on which is engraven in large letters the name of the deceased, the day of his birth, and also of his

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