

RESPECT FOR THE BURYING PLACE OF THE DEAD.

A SERMON

Preached in St. Paul's Church in 1848, with the view of arousing attention to the propriety of establishing a public Cemetery for the city.

And the field of Ephron, which *was* in Machpelah, which *was* before Mamre, the field, and the cave which *was* therein, and all the trees that *were* in the field, that *were* in all the borders round about were made sure. Unto Abraham for a possession in the presence of the children of Heth, before all that went in at the gate of his city.—Gen. xxiii. 17, 18.

All these *are* the twelve tribes of Israel: and this *is it* that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them. And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that *is* in the field of Ephron the Hittite; In the cave that *is* in the field of Machpelah, which *is* before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a burying-place. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah.—Gen. xlix. 28—31.

Read Matt. xxvii. 50—66, and, Matt. xxviii. 1—6.

There are not a few in every unfeeling and utilitarian community, who might be disposed to treat with levity, the tender sentiment which actuated the patriarch in his anxiety to secure an indisputable title to the burying place in the cave of Machpelah. The language held by such is, what matter, where, or in what form, the decom-