

"ELEGY IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD" 111

indicated in Gray's time the going out of the classic taste, or fashion, which had first taken root in the period of the *Renaissance*.

After the twenty-fifth stanza came the following stanza which was omitted in subsequent editions:

"Him have we seen the greenwood side along,  
While o'er the heath we hied, our labour done,  
Oft as the woodlark pip'd her farewell song,  
With wistful eyes pursue the setting sun."

Concerning this stanza, Mason remarks: "I rather wonder that he rejected this stanza, as it not only has the same sort of Doric delicacy which charms us peculiarly in this part of the poem, but also completes the account of his whole day; whereas, this evening scene being omitted, we have only his morning walk and his noontide repose."

Lord Mahon, when telling of the capture of Quebec, in 1759, in his History of England, relates how General Wolfe paid a beautiful tribute to the "Elegy." It was on the night of September 13th, 1759 — the night preceding the battle on the Plains of Abraham; Wolfe was descending the St. Lawrence with a part of his troops. The historian says: "Swiftly but silently did the boats fall down with the tide, unobserved by the enemy's sentinels at their posts along the shores. Of the soldiers on board how eagerly must every heart have throbbed at the

General Wolfe  
and the  
"Elegy."