

Rachel then turned her face, and looked upon the singers, who continued :

“In the name of thy love, God of Israel, deliver her soul : she aspires to return to thee ; break the bonds that bind her to dust, and suffer her to appear before thy glory.”

The effect upon the dying woman seemed soothing, for her countenance grew calmer and milder ; so they sang on :

“The Lord reigneth, the Lord has reigned, the Lord will reign everywhere, and for evermore !”

Sarah held her hand, for now Rachel was really dying.

“God of our fathers, receive in thy mercy, the soul that goeth to thee ; unite it to those of the holy patriarchs, amid the eternal joys of the heavenly Paradise ! Amen !”

And when the last notes sounded, her soul echoed the “amen !” in a higher court, before the Supreme Judge. On earth the voices said, “Blessed be the Judge of Truth !”

Thus the great star passed from our horizon, leaving the darkness blacker then before. She had risen with her magnificent genius just in time to rescue French tragedy from neglect ; for Talma and Duchesnois had passed away, and romanticism triumphed where classic drama once reigned. It was at this crisis that the young Israelite swept the stage, and for almost a score of years two continents echoed with her fame.

More than ten year have passed since her death ; and whether the state of the age is educated by the spirit of the age, or whether lust for gold engenders a love of pinchbeck, future ages must resolve. Only this we realize, that for the past quarter of a century there has been a perceptible decline of all genius, save the genius of invention.

—*From the Catholic World.*

