

THE
GRAVESTONE;

Being an ACCOUNT

(*Supposed to be Written on a Gravestone,*)

Of a Wife who buried both her Children on one Day, and
who, from that Time, became a very devout Christian.

WITH A SUITABLE

ADDRESS to those who may be attending a Funeral.



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THE
GRAVESTONE,

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HERE rests in peace a christian wife,
Safe from the cares and ills of life;
Taught by kind Heaven's afflicting rod,
She well had learnt her way to God.
Once a gay girl, she trod the green,
The foremost in the festive scene;
'Twas then she follow'd all her will,
And wedded William of the hill:

No heart had he for prayer and praise,
 No thought of God's most holy ways;
 Of worldly gains he lov'd to speak,
 In worldly cares he spent his week;
 E'en Sunday pass'd unheeded by,
 And both forgot that they must die.

While thus by Satan quite beguil'd,
 The God of Mercy smote her child;
 Bereft of one sweet infant dear,
 She shed the mother's mournful tear;
 A second next she tried to save,
 Then bore the second to the grave;
 Both on one day the parent led
 To silent mansions of the dead.
 There, while she wept her children's fate,
 She learnt to feel her mortal state;
 Stood pondering all her errors past,
 As if that day had been her last;
 And as she held the mournful bier,
 Dropt for herself a secret tear.

Once she believ'd her sins were few,
 But this one moment clear'd her view;
 Then first she felt a Saviour's need;
 A sinner in thought, word, and deed!
 Of her own worth she ceas'd to dream,
 For Christ's Redemption was her theme.
 Henceforth her ways were order'd right,
 She "walk'd by faith, and not by sight;"
 She read God's word, believ'd it true,
 And strove to practice what she knew.

Her husband saw the mighty change,
 And thought at first her humor strange;
 Deem'd his own worldly ways the best—
 But soon his error stood confest.
 Ceas'd is the noise, the jarring strife,
 For now how humble is the wife!
 He proudly feels each cross event,
 While she, poor sinner, is content;

No more she has her stubborn will,
Returns him daily good for ill ;
And though her love is still the same,
She loves him with a purer flame.
Oft would she pray the God of Grace
His lofty spirit to abase ;
Upward his grovelling thoughts to raise,
And teach him humble prayer and praise,
Heaven heard her voice — the youth so gay,
The thoughtless sinner, learnt to pray ;
Sad sickness too, with pain and smart,
Was sent to soften all his heart.

She follow'd next her husband's bier,
She wip'd his last repenting tear ;
She heard him mourn his former pride ;
She heard him thank her when he died.
Here, then, in hope of endless life,
Rest both the husband and the wife :
Here too, the babes, whom God hath given,
And such, we trust, shall enter heaven.

ADDRESS

TO PERSONS ATTENDING A FUNERAL.

YE mourners, who in silent gloom
Bear your dear kindred to the tomb,
Grudge not when Christians go to rest,
They sleep in Jesus and are blest.
Call then to mind their faith, their love,
Their meetness for the realms above;
And if to heaven a saint is fled,
O mourn the living, not the dead:
Weep o'er the thousands that remain
Deep sunk in sin, or rack'd with pain;
Mourn your own crimes and wicked ways,
And learn to number all your days:
Gain wisdom from this mournful stone,
And make this Christian's case your own.

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