

Memoir of the late Joseph Paice Esq / [James Gibson].

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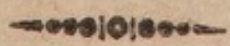
OF THE LATE

JOSEPH PAICE ESQ.

BY

JAMES GIBSON.

ADDRESSED
TO HIS DAUGHTER
AND ONLY SURVIVING CHILD.



PRINTED BY EDWARD LANGLEY, DORKING.

MEMOIR

OF THE LIFE

JOSEPH PAICE ESQ.

BY

JAMES GIBSON.



MEMOIR,

Æc.

TO you my dear child, I address this memoir, after much and mature reflection. I had not the honor to bear any relationship to the subject of it, but there are affinities distinct from those of blood. I experienced from him the tenderness and the fidelity of a father, myself being fatherless: with whom then can I deposit this acknowledgment of my debt, and this expression of my gratitude, with so much propriety as with my child; who having suffered the severest loss an infant female can sustain, has also to acknowledge numerous instances of tenderness and fidelity; supplying as far as can be supplied, a bereavement, of which her tender years rendered her unconscious, but me if possible more sensible.

In contemplating the life and the circumstances immediately preceding the death of my venerable and respected friend, my mind has

been agitated by a variety of conflicting feelings : the desire to give to a character so exemplary, such a degree of publicity as might be instructive to others, has been opposed to the remembrance of that extreme delicacy, which either forbade him to form a just estimate of his own actions, or which occasioned him to retire and even to shrink from those acknowledgments which were due to them. That he was perpetually doing good, or endeavoring to do good, publicly or privately, cannot be denied by any who knew him, and it will with equal readiness be admitted, that he “ *blushed to find it fame.* ”

Happy indeed, and highly honored should I consider myself, should I succeed in forming a correct judgment of what may be communicated with usefulness, concerning this most amiable man, without offending against what might have been the wish of one, whom to engrave on my heart in every character of tenderness and gratitude, will ever be my duty and I hope my delight. Happier still, and still more highly honored should I be, if in the faint but faithful delineation which I propose, I should succeed in communicating one ray of his genius, which was brilliant ; one beam of his benevolence, which diverged in every direction ; one spark of his philanthropy, which shone on all ;

or one feature of his religious character, which proceeding immediately from the *father of lights*, increased in splendor as it increased in importance, and pervaded the ruling thoughts and words and actions of his life.

The venerable friend of whose life I have endeavored to collect and am about to communicate the outline, with very few and very imperfect touches from myself, was born in London in October 1728. His paternal grandfather Joseph Paice, after whom he was named, was representative in Parliament for Lyme in Dorsetshire, and voted for the succession in the House of Hanover; "a circumstance" says my friend in a letter to myself, "of which his descendants may virtuously be proud; particularly if as the fact is said to have been, that vote was carried by a majority of one only." This gentleman left a son, Nathaniel Paice, the father of the subject of this memoir, who appears to have died about the year 1768. Mr. Paice always expressed himself of his father in terms of the greatest respect and affection; "a parent remarkably domesticated, with a placid, chearful, benevolent, well-informed mind;" surely all the heritable qualities of the father, were transmitted unimpaired to the son. "That I failed," adds he, "to gratify the wishes of *such* a father, to witness

“ my happiness in that most endearing of all
 “ relations, which his own experience attested,
 “ invites from me an explanation difficult to
 “ undertake, without the appearance of mis-
 “ becoming *personality*.” He then assigns
 various reasons all equally honorable to his un-
 derstanding and to his heart, and thus concludes ;
 “ These considerations added imperious com-
 “ mand to the softer accents of persuasion, both
 “ equally the voice of duty, and therefore alike
 “ entitled to submissive cheerful obedience.”
 His mother was the daughter of Thomas Ed-
 wards Esq. a Barrister ; she died when he was
 very young. Mr. Paice expressed himself as
 owing peculiar respect in more advanced years,
 to the kindness of his mother’s brother, Thomas
 Edwards Esq. of Lincoln’s-Inn,* who introdu-

* This gentleman possessed much taste and genius ; he regretted
 that Mr. Gray in his *Elegy*, had not supposed a female to be
 buried in the church-yard : and suggested the following Stanzas
 to follow the fourteenth :

Here sleeps some fair, whose unaffected charms,
 Bloomed with attractions, to herself unknown,
 Whose beauty, might have blessed a Monarch’s arms,
 Whose virtues, cast a lustre on the throne.

Those humble beauties warmed a constant heart,
 And cheered the labours of some homely spouse ;
 Those virtues, formed to every dutious part
 The healthful offspring, which adorned her house.

ced him to the notice of characters eminent in worthiness, and who with his father's associates, all persons of advanced age, formed his manners and life. "Had some infusion of society more
 "nearly equal to me in age, and especially of
 "the amiable sex been my lot, it might have
 "contributed to my after happiness; nor can I
 "dissemble I have earnestly wished it had been so."

At the period to which Mr. Paice adverts, he was about forty years old, of retired habits; of manners formed upon the model of characters eminent in worthiness, but of advanced age, without "the infusion of that society," which is essential to the polish of most characters, and indispensable to the perfection of all; and which his just and discriminating taste made him "earnestly wish had been his lot;" but with that submissive "cheerful obedience to the voice of
 "duty," which was his characteristic through life, he sacrificed the tenderest objects of his personal wishes, and sought his reward in the consciousness of his integrity.

It may be a matter of curiosity, I acknowledge, rather than of utility, to enquire for a moment

whether our friends personal happiness, or the sum of happiness to his connections in particular, or to society at large, would have been increased by his entering into that state, the happiness of which had been "attested by his father's experience." There could be no doubt of his securing the affection he sought, in proportion as the dispenser of it was amiable and discriminating, nor could there be any doubt of the most unqualified return on his part; it would indeed have been, "thought meeting thought, and will preventing will."

Still I very much doubt, to a mind susceptible as his was of the tenderest compassion, and ever active in contemplating the most delicate and the most effectual means of expressing it, whether the necessity of controlling such feelings, might not have interfered with his personal happiness, by contracting the sphere of his benevolence, and thus as it were arresting "the genial current of his soul." If the sphere of his benevolence had been contracted, it is more than probable, that the sum of happiness to his fellow creatures at large would have been diminished: but his

own reflections on this as on most subjects were the wisest and the most becoming,—“That state
 “ and those duties which providence assigned me,
 “ I consider as having been most favorable to
 “ my own happiness and to the happiness of those
 “ about me.”

We have now traced our invaluable friend to the period, when by the death of his father and a concurrence of circumstances, he entered upon the public and private duties of life, under the influence of principles as pure as ever regulated the human mind; producing and supporting a conduct as irreproachable as ever adorned the human character.

In respect of the execution of private trusts; the distribution of private charities; the affectionate interest which he took in the concerns and feelings of others, of which pecuniary considerations formed no part; I appeal to parents, to children, and to children's children, in a long and grateful succession, for their testimony to the valuable and costly sacrifices he made, rendered still more estimable by the manner in which they were offered; I am honored in enrolling myself in this numerous and grateful

band. *“When the ear heard him then it blessed him ; and when the eye saw him it gave witness to him ; because he delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon him, and he caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy.”*

The above beautiful illustration of this part of his character, must be accepted instead of the minutiae of circumstances, which might in some instances be uninteresting, in others indelicate ; though I can safely add, that the whole would display the nicest sensibility ; the tenderest compassion ; the most inflexible love of truth and justice ; and the unreserved exposure and sacrifice of his personal comforts and convenience.

I am now embracing a long interval of our worthy friend’s life, a period of many years, during which he succeeded to the respectable public situations of governor of St. Thomas’s, and of Guy’s hospitals ; of lay trustee of Mr. Coward’s charities ; and director of the South Sea Company ; of all which except St. Thomas’s, I believe he lived to be the oldest governor, director, or trustee. These connections necessarily introduced him to the society of the ref-

pective members; and of the venerable and respectable superiors of these important directions and trusts, I can safely ask, who among them displayed the combined qualities of fidelity, attention, and intelligence, in a greater degree than Mr. Paice? *

It may perhaps be of very inconsiderable importance, what were the minor traits of one so estimable and so exemplary, in all the most valuable ingredients of the human character; but wishing so far as I am able, to trace the portrait at whole length, I cannot omit adverting to his conversation and manners in the social intercourse of life. In respect of the first, it was certainly of a superior kind. The elegance and cultivation of his mind; the retentive power of his memory; the peculiar felicity and richness of his expressions, sanctioned (if I may so express myself,) by a most impressive mode of delivery, or relieved by an unusual playfulness of

*The governors of Guy's Hospital had expressed their desire to have a portrait of Mr. Paice taken by an eminent artist, and this being communicated to him, was received as might be expected. The then reduced state of Mr. Paice's health, and his subsequent death, prevented the fulfilment of their wishes in the precise terms of it; but, one of the governors having the original portrait by Abbot, has presented it since Mr. Paice's death, with his full acquiescence while living, to that highly respectable corporation.

genius and liveliness of temper, conspired to render his colloquial intercourse of the highest class. I had the honor to enjoy that intercourse *unreservedly*, for more than twenty years. I do not mean to adopt the language of vanity, but of gratitude, in saying I have been permitted to associate with many persons justly celebrated for their superior talents or virtues, or both ; but I have seldom associated with any in whom was combined the happiest evidences of either, and never of both, more decidedly than in Mr. Paice.

In respect to his manner, (rather than his manners, for they were kindness and condescension in the extreme,) it was formed upon what is termed the *old school* ; and if we reflect that himself having been born more than eighty years ago, his early associates having been his father and his uncle, who introduced him to "their associates ;" and that this was his chief society till forty years old, we shall wonder less at the degree of formality that did exist, than, that it was not still more characteristic of former times ; or, that it so soon glided into the manners of the present. I say so soon glided into the manners of the present, for all who knew him will concur

in opinion, that when ceremonies were over, nothing could be more easy; nothing more attentive; nothing more unembarrassed than his conduct and conversation; but, when ceremonies were to be renewed, formality returned. Yet in this I can confidently say, that there was nothing intended to be conveyed that was not felt. He felt respectfully and kindly towards all, till he thought he was justified in other sentiments, and he never prostituted his opinion (though he might not always express it,) by a conduct towards any person, inconsistent or at variance with his sentiments of him. Mr. Paice's residence during the whole of his life, was in or near to London. He had many friends near the metropolis, and many at a distance from it, with whom till age produced infirmities, he occasionally passed some time. These visits were however latterly very much circumscribed, and I think confined altogether to the family of the late Sir Francis Baring. The *late* Sir Francis Baring! Interesting association! These respectable characters (to use the words of Sir Francis Baring on his last visit to Mr. Paice,) had enjoyed a friendship of seventy years. This interview took place five days previous to Mr. Paice's

death, and but twelve previous to his own ! Thus endeared and as it were interwoven in life, they were scarcely separated in death. I could advert with delight to one of the finest illustrations of friendship and delicacy combined, in the conduct of Sir Francis Baring towards Mr. Paice; but I should offend against the character of the action, which survives, and will long survive both the principal and the object.

Mr. Paice boarded for several years with a respectable widow lady on Bread-street hill, at whose death the house being his own, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Gibson succeeded to it, and with them and their family he resided; removing with them first to the Parragon, and then to Rodney Buildings, (both in the Parish of Newington, Surrey,) where he closed his useful, memorable, and exemplary life.

Having thus traced the outline of this worthy and invaluable friend, through the more active periods of life, and which indeed brought him far beyond the accustomed limits of activity; for he was active, intelligent and competent to his duties till near eighty years of age, I proceed I trust with becoming feelings, and with becoming

motives, to lead you my dear child, to the near and still nearer approaches, and finally to the occurrence of that event, which I could not at last but wish for, which I cannot however but deeply lament.

Mr. Paice finally retired from business about the year 1795, but to the last he considered it one of the highest honors of his life, to have been descended from a respectable merchant of the city of London; a character which he hoped he had not disgraced. His uncle, also named Joseph, was chosen a director of the Bank of England about the year 1730, and was also a director of the million Bank, of which latter his father also was a director; and to which direction himself succeeded, and I think continued in it, till the Bank itself ceased.

He was also a very old and a very active member of the New England Corporation, of which Sir William Pepperell, Baronet, is the president. Being myself a member of that corporation, I know the great and just respect in which Mr. Paice was held by every member of the company; by none more esteemed and more

respected than by the president, with whom he had been on terms of the most affectionate intimacy for many years. At an early period of Mr. Paice's life, he was very desirous to visit New England, under the most powerful introductions, for the purpose of establishing some mode of civilizing the Indians, and actually corresponded with the then Archbishop of Canterbury on the subject. He was induced however to give up his intention by the persuasions of an aged aunt, who was solicitous for his personal safety. That consideration would not have operated, but a more characteristic one did. In the event of his father's death, this relative would have become altogether dependent upon him for protection; and, although he was ardent in the pursuit of his wish, he was subdued by a sense of his duty. If I were not restrained (as I have already hinted,) by the recollection of what is due to the extreme delicacy which actuated him when living, I could enumerate many instances of this adherence to what he conceived to be right; abiding by it in all its consequences. One however I cannot forbear to mention, because it is completely in unison with the general temper of his mind, and the general character of

his conduct. He occasionally served upon juries, and often regretted the necessity of unanimity to a verdict.* On one occasion he differed from his brother jurors on a question of property, and being equally convinced in his conscience, that the justice of the case rested with one party; as he was unable to convince his brethren that it did not rest with the other, he submitted to the verdict passing contrary to his solemn belief. Having thus exonerated himself from the suspicion of pertinacity towards his brother jurors, he relieved himself also from what he felt as injustice to the suffering party—*he sent him the amount of what he suffered by the verdict.* In consequence of this, he wrote to the Chief Justice, Lord Mansfield, who honored him with a correspondence on the subject; the result of which was, that he was excused from serving on juries.

Since Mr. Paice's retirement from business, and for some years previous, he lived altogether in the family of his nearest paternal relation,

* It is indeed much to be wished that the question of unanimity should be revised by the noble and learned depositaries of the law.

Mr. Frederic Gibson. This gentleman being very nearly related to me, I cannot without the suspicion of partiality, make any adequate acknowledgments of what I know to be due to his invariable affection and respect for Mr. Paice, testified and proved by his uniform attention to him; nor is it necessary. I have before me a letter from Mr. Paice of a late date, in which he says, "The endearing connexions and affociates which *now* surround me, and constitute the blessings of my old age, have other than paper or canvas record to make them memorable; these are engraven on my heart, *known and read of all men.*" With these sentiments of the friends who surrounded him, and who administered by every mean in their power to his comfort, it may naturally be supposed, that his leisure hours were cheerful and full of enjoyment. He delighted in conversation, and when that was suspended he retired and enjoyed his books or contemplations with equal pleasure; confirming the maxim that "a love of leisure is inseparable from a mind conscious of its own resources."

I think I may safely say in reference to his political or religious opinions, that his chief de-

fire was to approve himself a lover of his country, and a humble and unaffected worshipper of God ; but as it is not to be supposed that a person of his understanding and habits had not some fixed and abiding sentiments on these subjects, I shall employ a few moments in the consideration of them.

I have no doubt that Mr. Paice was a zealous and ardent lover of liberty—rational, regulated and separated from licentiousness—a conscientious whig of the old school. Latterly however he avoided all political discussion, but he tenderly and deeply felt every occurrence, that he considered connected with the honor of his country. I annex a proof of this in the following extract from a letter of his I have by me, written at the time the volunteer system was first adopted ;—“ I should consider no bed too hard, “ nor any accommodations too humble that “ might be assigned me, in exchange for what “ I could relinquish in behalf of the voluntary “ defenders of my country ; but I should con- “ sider any bed too soft, and the meanest ac- “ commodations too splendid after its degrada- “ tion. Should that event be in the designs of “ providence, I have but one prayer for myself,

“ the visitation of some kind angel of destruction.”

In respect of his religious *opinions*, I profess myself quite unable to affix any characteristic title to them. I know well what was his *practice*; “ *to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before God* ;” and let those who think if any can think, that such practice is the *exclusive* result of any particular opinions, apply their favorite creed to this most becoming and I think most amiable character. Mr. Paice was certainly a dissenter on principle—of the presbyterian denomination, and had been many years a member of and an ornament to the congregation at Carter lane, now, and long under the pastoral care of the Reverend Thomas Tayler. He occasionally attended the service of the established church, and on stated days at particular churches, which latter circumstance was connected with some occurrences in his life, the remembrance of which he wished to cherish in all its force or tenderness, and which he considered was best secured by the association of places with past events.

Mr. Paice has been considered by some dis-

senters as having been too much of a conformist for his profession. I know there are among the dissenters, those who think it little less than a sin to attend divine worship at the established church; and that there are among the members of the establishment, those who think it equally culpable to enter a place of worship among the dissenters. I presume not to judge either, nor shall I be guilty of the equally gross presumption of *defending* my venerable friend from the effect of an opinion so contracted. In the least important concerns of life, he did not act without previous consideration; it is certain therefore that in a concern of so much importance as *consistency of religious conduct*, he would not depart from his usual habits; and having thus brought Mr. Paice's conduct to the trial of *his own heart*, I must be excused in saying, that no human being can with propriety appeal against the verdict.

Though our dear friend enjoyed more freedom from pain, and a greater degree of health than is usual with persons in advanced life, he was of course sensible of the advance if not of the inroads of age, and for several years had been contracting the sphere of his action; beginning

with the sacrifice of those intercourses of friendship, which though severe, he thought incumbent on him, in order to leave him time for his duties. I have before me a paper of Mr. Paice's writing, when he was nearly seventy years of age, (drawn out with a view to regulate his plans for future life,) in which are enumerated *trusts then existing, and in which he was concerned to the amount of nearly half a million of money,* many of them connected with duties, not mere authorities to receive and immediately to pay monies; and yet so uniformly and steadily did he pursue his object of diminishing his own duties, in order to diminish those of his executors, that my cousin and myself who are in that relation, ^{shall} ~~will~~ probably have less to do than is usual in such offices. His great object of late years was to prepare for his death. I do not mean in the *most* important sense of that phrase, for that had always been his object; I mean so to arrange his temporal concerns, that his death should produce the least possible trouble to his survivors in any connexion. This was essential to his comfort, and under the expectation of being soon removed, it was his chief study to see all his friends and connexions in peace with each other, as he was in peace with all. I extract the

following lines from a letter he wrote to me about a year before his death, considering it the faithful expression of his tenderest feeling to the latest period of his life. "As I hope ere long to enter the regions of peace, my duty and ambition prompt me to endeavor to restore it, (as far as my limited sphere admits,) in the state I am leaving. Some circumstances graciously whisper me, *do speedily all you can and sit quiet.*" That he attended to these "gracious whispers," that he did all he could, and that he did it as speedily as he could, I think is abundantly proved by the employment of his later years; that having done so, he in the same spirit "quietly" resigned himself to the will of God in death, can be fully testified by those and by those only, who witnessed the latest periods of his life.

About the beginning of the present year, circumstances clearly indicated that his physical strength and vigor were abating, his health was visibly impaired. The last time he was from home was at Guy's Hospital, either in January or February, and as that was one of his dearest connections, it was not without pleasure that he contemplated it to have been the scene of his last public duty. In March he suffered a violent

attack of fever, so violent that his medical friends were in daily expectation of his death; this however he survived, and to our surprize and joy to use his own expression, he “fluttered again in the “spring;” it was however but for a very short period; he relapsed again about May, and though the degrees of his disorder might be said to fluctuate, he never recovered from that relapse.

If I conceived that any good could result from my following my venerable friend, into all the privacies and particulars of a scene at once so mournful and so triumphant as the dying hours of a good man, surrounded by those he tenderly loved, and who also tenderly loved him, I would not from the consideration of personal feelings hesitate a moment; it may however be sufficient to every useful purpose, for me to express more generally, that tenderness and fortitude, and a humble and chearful resignation to the will of God, were the joy and support of his last moments. It was impossible that he should be ignorant of the distress of his surrounding friends, or insensible to it, yet to judge from the conduct of all who were present, “it would be thought “it was they who momentarily expected that

"fate, from which he alone appeared to
 "be exempt." It was about four weeks pre-
 vious to his death, that I passed almost the
 whole day with him ; he was sitting at the win-
 dow enjoying the passing scene, and particularly
 adverted to the happiness produced to so many
 of his fellow creatures by the fineness of the wea-
 ther. His strength was exceedingly reduced,
 and his spirits unusually tender ; but he was
 cheerful and to a very high degree interesting.
 He told me he had nothing left unsaid or un-
 done that he then wished to say or to do :
 he represented in the most impressive lan-
 guage the sense he entertained of the kind-
 nefs of his friends in general, particularly of
 those in Mr. Gibson's immediate family, and
 in a manner and in terms peculiar to himself ex-
 pressed his devout thankfulness to God, that he
 was thus blessed in the rapid decline of life ; I
 took the liberty to intimate that all the attentions
 those friends could exercise towards him, would
 be considered valuable or important in their es-
 timation, only as they administered to his com-
 fort, or conveyed their acknowledgments of
 much superior kindness on his part towards them ;
 and requested that I might be included in every
 sentiment of gratitude, and in every consciouf-

ness of inadequate return. The scene became affecting, and after recovering from some emotions of tenderness, he with great readiness and not without vivacity, directed my attention to a very different subject. He continued in this state of tranquillity and cheerfulness about two days longer, when he was seized so violently, so frequently, and with so little intermission, that it appeared impossible to those about him that he could survive the attacks: he did however struggle through the conflict, though he came out of it but the wreck of what he had been; and although his physical strength was never restored, we enjoyed many unequivocal and delightful evidences of the restoration of his intellectual powers; of the perfect tranquillity of his mind; and of his consciousness and satisfaction at being constantly attended by those who having often been refreshed and supported by his paternal care, were in their turn gratified by administering all the comfort and consolations that were within their reach. But he had within himself, a higher and holier consolation than any we could administer; and when he became more and still more reduced in strength, his countenance and gesture conveyed irrefragable testimony of the employment and the object of his thoughts:

though “creature streams ran low, and mortal “comforts died,” yet perpetual springs of life, and the most elevated pleasures were supplied from that source which mercifully proves itself exhaustless, when all others are exhausted.

I had no *communication* with my dear friend, later, than three days previous to his death ; as that was of a nature to convince me he had left nothing of tenderness unsaid, and as I hoped I had left nothing of gratitude and affection unheard, I determined not to risk the disturbing of his last moments ; he however spoke to Mr. Gibson a few hours before his death, and in terms that left no doubt of his knowing to whom he was speaking, and the precise situation in which he was himself. I believe he spoke afterwards to some of the family, but about noon of Tuesday the fourth of September, he died as he had lived, in pure benevolence to man, in exalted piety and reverence to God. He was buried on the 11th of September in the church yard of St. Olave, Fish street, agreeably to his own desire near to the son of Mr. Gibson ; thus as it were connecting the most hopeful blossom, with the most matured fruit. On the 16th, the Reverend Mr. Tayler delivered to a numerous

congregation, a discourse on “the enlightening and invigorating influence of shining “examples,” in every respect worthy of the subject and the occasion, and which at the desire of the congregation and the executors he has been so kind as to publish.

I have in the foregoing pages endeavored to trace the character of this excellent man, supplying the outline with a few anecdotes of undoubted authenticity, and some extracts from papers in my own possession. These will form the materials by which any who may honor this with their perusal, will be able to decide if they knew Mr. Paice, whether or not I have insulted his memory by offering the incense of adulation; I can confidently appeal to my own heart, and humbly to the searcher of all hearts, that with no such intention, (for there exists no such necessity) did I undertake this chequered production—chequered I mean as to the mixed sensations that its composition has excited, but uniform as to its object and its inadequacy. Believing as I firmly do that I have not conveyed one sentiment of his worthiness, in which I shall not be supported by all who knew him, may I not consider his removal as creating a chasm, not merely

in the number but in the virtues of our species ? My objects in what I have written, have been to exhibit however unworthily, the example of this good man to you my dear child, and to all who may read it ; and to shew that there still exists veneration for superior worth, which I conceive to be fully proved, by the widely extended respect, regard, and confidence in which Mr. Paice was held, embracing a space commensurate with his virtues.

I have also a high personal gratification, in thus declaring my own obligations to him and to his memory, for the numerous instances of affection and confidence I have experienced at his hands ; and I trust I shall ever consider it among the valuable acquirements of my life, to have been thought worthy by such a man, to be in any degree the companion or consolation of his joys or sorrows : to be admitted to the affecting intimacies of his declining and dying hours ; and, in the latest, lowest, but most touching accents, to feel as it were the breathings of his most endeared acknowledgments ; and I am sure that *others to whom I particularly refer*, being at least equally entitled to, will be at least equally

gratified in the reflection, that they have been the objects of his tenderest regard, who was the object of regard and respect from all who knew him. I am thankful my dear child, that the life of my venerable friend has been spared to a period in yours, that has enabled you to appreciate his character, and that had raised you to some distinction in his affection.

May you, as well as myself and all who professed to respect and love him, restrain the unbecoming indulgence of excessive grief at his removal, by the consideration that his life was full of years, and his death full of hope.

The most useful remembrance of the virtues and graces of his character, will be found in a careful imitation of them, and though we may not attain his excellence, the attempt will be honorable to his memory, acceptable in the sight of God, and therefore essentially favorable to the promotion of our highest interests.

Your affectionate father,

JAMES GIBSON.

September 30th, 1810.

F I N I S.