

been worn in ancient times by other faces, beams of pleasant humor and of right good will, as if their primal light were shining yet as bright as ever in the heavens. The same holds true with respect to qualities of whatever kind, which so often come down to us as an inherited possession, intrenching themselves in the midst of our individuality, and influencing us as they may. In the family now met, it is believed that no inheritance has been stronger or more decided than the love of kindred.

Questions of the deepest moment must inevitably present themselves, when we see a very numerous assembly of those sprung from the same blood, few of which are, in some of their bearings, capable of solution to the man of little faith; but besides those of a physiological kind, the scene referred to was suggestive of other thoughts, alike to the moralist and to the Christian. Although the ostensible object of the gathering was as has been stated, yet a simple act of homage to the dead would be of little value, if not for its ameliorating influences upon the living. Many of those brought together saw each other for the first time, and were first made conscious of those ties, which ought never again to be relaxed or completely sundered. A mere knowledge of relationship among those who have lived always separate, can have no more effect on the feelings or the heart, than the perception of any common fact or circumstance. Making allowance for those repelling forces which must keep some people perpetually apart, a sympathy of real force, by our very natures, can hardly exist without some actual contact.