

# AN EULOGY

ON THE

*CHARACTER OF LUCIUS BELLINGER, ESQ.*

BELIEVED

IN THE BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE, IN THIS CITY, ON THE  
EVENING OF THE 22ND DECEMBER, 1806:

BY APPOINTMENT

OF THE

**PHILOMATHEAN SOCIETY;**

AND PUBLISHED AT THEIR REQUEST.

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*" Noster varescit tenuis in lutum  
" Vitis, per siccum velut unda arenae.  
" Aut velut census per opera ludens  
" Noster iusto."*

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BY CHARLES FRASER.

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1807.

whelm my mind, I fain would stop here, and leave you to dwell in expressive silence upon the painful theme.

While the pealing organ scarce ceases to vibrate in our ears, and we seem to hear the last solemn words, which consigned his body to its native dust, why need I address you in the language of condolence? Why offer you the accents of consolation? Do your own feelings require such foreign aid? I only regret that in pursuing a custom of this Society, you have appointed one to perform this melancholy task, who is too true a mourner justly to commend, and who feels that though rich in reverence he is poor in praise.

Shall I address you on this occasion as a Philomathean, and condole with you for the irreparable loss our Society has sustained, or shall I speak as a friend who was acquainted with the secret movements of his heart, and knew all its qualities? Indeed, his zeal for the interests of this Institution was so blended with his other affections, that it were difficult to speak of them separately. You will long remember the ingenious efforts of his mind in its appointed exercises. To whatever subject it was applied, it always discovered the fruits of research, a clear and comprehensive understanding, and a strength and matureness of judgment far beyond his years. Conscious of his intellectual accomplishments, yet desirous of enlarging them, he imparted knowledge with diffidence, while he listened to others with eager attention. He was ever

willing when applied to communicate what he knew, but with that gentleness and unassuming readiness, which made it impressive and acceptable. His progressive knowledge, and his improvement in those departments of science, which we associated to pursue, prove that he did not attend our meetings for mere social pleasure, or to indulge in colloquial intercourse, but to promote the great design he ever kept in view, and to strengthen the claims which he hoped one day to realize in the merited praises of his countrymen. To this reward no breast can aspire that is not actuated by the flame of generous emulation. He, who never felt its glowing impulse, is content to view the meed at a distance, and conceives in the coldness of his heart, that it is placed beyond his feeble reach. But I myself have frequently heard our lamented friend declare, that "he believed there was no excellence which well directed perseverance could not attain; no reward that was not destined to crown the efforts of industry." These expressions were not merely echoed from others, to give credit to vanity, but proceeded from the sincerest conviction of their truth. To prove that he felt it, often when oblivious sleep had lulled the busy world; with no other attendant than the midnight lamp, did he search the deep lore of the historian, or dwell upon the hallowed pages of Montesquieu, Sidney, or Bacon.

As in the intercourse of life a man's character may be discovered from the disposition