

the spirit of our departed Friend, whose remains are here before us, and presently to be laid in the dark and silent tomb ? then we may be satisfied in the exchange he has made ; certainly, we have no reason to mourn for him. But when we recollect what he was to us of this place, to his family, and the public, we have great cause to mourn for ourselves and them, as sustaining an immense loss.



Col. John Chester descended from an ancient and respectable family, which came from England and settled in this town, in the early infancy of it.\* His father many of you remember, and know in what high estimation he was held in this society, and town, and the then Colony. This his eldest son was born the 29th of January, 1749. He was educated at Yale College, and received its honours in 1766. He began his career of public service in 1772, as a representative of this his native town, in

\*Leonard Chester, Esq. the first of the family that came to this country, was born in the town of Blaley, in Leicestershire, in England, in 1610, and came to Watertown, in Massachusetts, in 1633, and soon after removed to Wethersfield, where he died in 1648.

His son John was born in 1635, and died in 1698.

His son John was born in 1656 and died in 1711.

His son John, the former Col. Chester, was born June 30, 1703, and died September 11, 1771. He was a member of the council, and one of the Judges of the County Court. In 1748 he married Miss Sarah Noyes, daughter of the Rev. James Noyes of New-Haven—at which time he was the only male descendant living of the family who bore the name of Chester. By her he had four sons and two daughters who survived him.

His son John, the late Col. was born January 29, 1749, and died November 4, 1809. In 1773, he married Miss Elizabeth Huntington, daughter of the late Hon. Jabez Huntington of Norwich. By her he had six daughters and three sons who survive him to lament his death.

the legislature of the Colony. In the spring of 1775 he joined the revolutionary army near Boston, at the head of a distinguished company of volunteers, and signalized himself by his heroic conduct in the battle of Bunker's Hill. Promoted to the command of a regiment, he had an opportunity for a more conspicuous display of his military talents, and was respected as an officer of distinguished merit. Inviolably attached to the cause of his country, with reluctance he retired from the army, at the imperious call of his family concerns, in 1777, greatly regretted, particularly by the Commander in Chief, who expressed a solicitous desire to retain him in the service.

From this time he was usually an active and influential member, and for several successive sessions Speaker of the House of Representatives in this state, previous to the year 1788, when he was chosen into the Council. Here he was continued till 1791, when he was appointed, by President Washington, to the office of Supervisor of the district of Connecticut, the arduous duties of which he discharged with great punctuality and fidelity.

In 1803, he was rechosen into the Council of this state. He was one of the Judges of the County Court for the County of Hartford, and also a Judge of Probate. In these several stations he continued to serve the public with ability and integrity, until arrested by paralytic disorder, he declined all public business.

Possessed of a mind, discerning and active, pru-

dent and decisive, he was formed for great usefulness. Though distinguished for independence and firmness of spirit, yet he was ever modest and unassuming. His dignity and amiableness of manners, his sincerity and candour, benevolence and hospitality, commanded general esteem and respect, and particularly endeared him to those who were most intimately acquainted and connected with him. But his christian piety added greatly to the lustre of his other virtues, and was the chief glory of his character.

Not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for which he was taught from his childhood to entertain a high respect, he early made a public profession of the religion of Jesus, and continued through life to adorn it, by a constant and exemplary regard to its institutions, and a conversation becoming it.

Signally qualified by an early cultivation of a fine taste for sacred music, he did much to encourage and promote a decent performance of one of the most important, animating and delightful parts of social worship. So much was his heart engaged in this, that he continued to the last day he was able to come to the house of God, though in a feeble state of health, to take his seat with the choir, in the gallery, and aid them in the melody of the sanctuary.

For many years, he was the sweet singer of our Israel. But, alas, "his voice is lost in death!" Our devotion will no more be excited and enlivened by the melody of his voice and the harmo-

ny of his notes. He is gone, we trust, to join the choir of the blessed above, in their more sublime and elevated strains of everlasting praise to God and the Lamb.

This consideration may well reconcile his bereaved family to his departure. Their loss indeed, is inexpressibly great. He walked before them in a perfect way, and was every thing to them that could reasonably be expected, or wished, from a wise and affectionate, an indulgent, pious and faithful husband and father. While they bless God for continuing him so long, and making him so rich a blessing to them, in health, they will be ready to reflect with pious gratitude, on the singular example of faith and patience which he exhibited in his last sickness.

For more than thirteen months, he laboured under great bodily weakness, induced by a repetition of paralytic attacks. During this period, wearisome days and nights were appointed to him, but thro' them all he was never heard to utter a murmur. Often did he speak, in terms of admiration and gratitude, of the goodness of God in permitting so little pain to accompany the debility which he was called to endure. Even in the times of his greatest distress, which arose from difficulty of respiration, he would endeavour to console himself and his tenderly affected friends, by a grateful recollection of his exemption from acute pain.

It was matter of deep regret to him, that he was unable for so long a time, to go to the house of God