1844

SIDE ONE

Obituary.

The character of Elizabeth Wistar was formed as its basis, upon a deep and unremitting sense of duty. Disabled by ill health, and occupied with the cares of a family, and friendship, she had little call to mingle in the more public labours usually referred to that motive: but it never, on that account, ceased to be the guide and the principal efficient impulse to her action.

The most solemn reverence for religion, punctual attention to its observances, care steadily to inculcate it in her household, though never forgotten, as far as compatible with her bodily weakness, these were perhaps not even the most frequent exhibitions of its agency. They were still more incessantly to be found in the uniform watchfulness, benevolence and justice daily evinced in her conduct. The companion and solace in the early part of her career, of a man of high and just reputation, on the conferring of whose name upon institutions among our foremost, had been considered fame, she was then the centre of a brilliant and distinguished circle, the delight of the learned and the celebrated, the presiding spirit of the associations most sought for by literary and scientific ambition.

At this period, gentleness, generosity, and delightful and attractive manners were the attributes which most distinguished her; it was reserved for the evening of life to try the same heart with affliction. Repeated and heavy calamities were not able to crush the gentle spirit which relied upon divine assistance; the suffering was acute and of long continuance; the bodily health gave way, but the pure soul was unharmed. The same kind interest in the welfare and happiness of her friends; the same active and effectual exertions in their favor; the same