

Walter Jones, Jr.

(-7 Apr 1829)

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On the 4th instant, in the 19th year of his age, after a long and painful illness, Walter Jones, Jr., eldest son of Gen. Walter Jones.

This interesting young man had but a few months since joined the University of Virginia for the purpose of completing his collegiate studies -- full of hope and promise. But, after administering to some of his companions, who have fallen victims to the malignant fever that raged there, he returned in February last to his home, to remain until he could in safety renew his studies at College. Alas! a wise and inscrutable Providence otherwise ordered, and will in mercy pardon the grief's that rebel not, while they overwhelm sad prostrate the soul, under His dread decree.

In a few days after this most amiable and promising youth had reached his parents and friends the fatal disease appeared, but for a short time of an equivocal type; till at length all the virulent, complicated, and anomalous symptoms of the epidemic, in its most aggravated form, were developed, and finally baffled the approved skill and indefatigable attentions of our most eminent physicians.

An early and attached friend and associate, with all due deference to the censure generally death to the common places of obituary eulogy, cannot forbear, on this mournful occasion, to allow some indulgence to the feelings of affection and respect, which have grown up in the habits of sympathy and long connections, and are sanctioned by the justest estimate of a lamented friend and companion; and it may be encouraging to ingenuous and aspiring youth to know that, when our Heavenly Father calls to the high enjoyments and pursuits of immortal life souls endured with faculties to prosper and shine in the paths of mortal life, before their talents and virtues have emerged from the shades of Academic retreat and preparation to essay their earthly career of glory or of usefulness, they will not descend to the tomb without some memorial of their worth and honor, even here.

Young Jones possessed a genius, to whose future achievements of knowledge no limits can now be assigned, but what the law of our nature has prescribed to the human intellect, modified, as it must be, by the sphere and the intensity of its exertion. But his generosity and candor of soul, his warmth and simplicity of heart, his ardor and sincerity of affection, his reverential piety, and his high-toned truth and honor, can be adequately known to them alone in whose hearts, alas! his loss has left so wide a void.

The tenor of his conduct and sentiments, during his late and only serious illness, has raised, to a degree of enthusiasm, the tender and cherished recollections of the excellent qualities he had displayed in the exuberance of youth and health.

The sacred recesses of domestic sorrow are not to be intruded on: but we are permitted to allude to a most interesting conversation which he held with his father, in one of the few intermissions of his cruel disease, and in which, with a tenderness of feeling, a delicacy and elevation of sentiment, a firmness of purpose, and an enlightened scope of observation and forethought, above his years, and worthy of one qualified to become a hero or a sage of this world, and a blessed spirit of the next, he adverted to the too probable termination of his disorder; and, among other subjects, discussed the propriety and moral effect of the customary mourning habiliments worn by surviving relatives, and intimated his wish to have them dispensed with by his family.