

(Communicated)

Clarksboro, Feb. 6, 1869.

Mr. Barber.—Whether from your frequent solicitations for local news and correspondence, or for other reasons, it appears you have succeeded in drawing out some of the dormant ideas of our quiet village. As the proposed cemetery seems to be a prominent subject of the communications, it may be that your entreaties have availed nothing and that all other reasons are insignificant, in view of the horror of all horrors — that of being buried alive.

Clarksboro is not dead, to need interment, but only sleeping; yet, in the view of your correspondent, so sound a sleep, as to require more energy in pathological science than he possesses to form a diagnosis.

The Swedesboro Railroad on the west and the Eglington cemetery on the east suburb of our town, will have a tendency ere long to disturb the slumbers of others of the Van Winkles beside your correspondent.

It has been truly observed that all new ideas are treated with hostility by the generation to which they are addressed.

Such has been the case toward the enterprises referred to.

The railroad, however, has overcome the croakings and prejudices of its opponents to a full extent, except perhaps a few who had their equilibrium so much thrown out of balance by a question involving the price for the right of way.

The cemetery project is of more recent origin and perhaps not so familiarly understood. Yet those who have embarked in it, fearing no opposition, have reason to congratulate themselves, to know that instead of all being opposed, there has been but one, living in the vicinity who has publicly expressed an opinion in opposition.

I do not propose to enter into any controversy on the subject, but have ventured these few desultory remarks to open the way to the real object of this communication—the Eglington Cemetery. The property selected for its location is a part of a tract of land formerly belonging to John Eglington, dec'd, who in A.D. 1776, appropriated a section to be held sacred for a burial place for himself and his heirs forever.

Some time in the close of the last century the property came to the possession of Edmund

Weatherby. His son Edmund succeeded him and held the property until his death. The commissioners in the settlement of the estate advertised, and the heirs having relinquished any desire to retain the property in the family, it was sold to a company, who had previously designed to purchase and dedicate a due proportion of the above property to the purpose of a cemetery. The remains of one of the number of the original projectors, whom we had and could have relied upon and whose only expressed regret was that he could not have lived to have seen it fully established, now have a temporary resting place under the sod in the old yard.

Such is the uncertainty of life! Others must follow. May all have their work that nearly finished and be, as well resigned, with peace here and happiness in eternity.

The corporation, for as such they are now recognized in law, having obtained a charter, under the name of the "Eglington Cemetery." The name selected is designed to perpetuate the memory of the munificent donor, who planted the germ for this further appropriation for the purpose of interments, whereby it may be perpetually preserved.

It would not be inappropos, in this connection, to judge of circumstances, to draw an honest conclusion, to say that the mere idea of speculation prompted the movement, when we consider the interest held by each and every one of the corporators named in the act, that the remains of their dear, departed ones may be sacredly preserved, is ungrateful, and when we consider the limited amount of land originally appropriated, the increase of families for three generations and that seldom a new interment could be made without necessarily exhuming the remains of those deposited years ago, made a positive demand that something should be done to save from desecration and destruction the present old yard.

The opportunity presented, of protecting and extending the same, with the advantages of the nucleus already formed, was eagerly seized. It is the purpose to appropriate about 20 acres of land, as it may be required, for the best locality and the best naturally adapted in the county. Here, amid nature's work, embel-

lished by art, is offered the right of sepulture in perpetuity.

All that taste and science may suggest, consistently with the solemn purpose of the place, will be added to the superior advantages already possessed. Here, in a dry and sandy loam, the decaying of the dead may securely moulder into its kindred dust. Here, protected by the affectionate care of survivors, and the guaranty of the law, may the grave not be forgotten, but marked by partial friendship, repay visitation by salutary lessons to the human heart.

Feb. 24, 1869.

G.

Communicated

Clarksboro, Feb. 9, 1869

Mr. Editor—a writer in your paper, under date of Dec. 21st, in noticing the fact of discovering the remains of human beings in the "Old Fox Ground" lately, embraces the opportunity to denounce the lately incorporated "Eglington Cemetery Company," of this village, as an attempt to bury the place, and proposes calling in the undertaker at once. I know that we have enjoyed here a more than Rip Van Winkle sleep, but think that the coming of a railroad, and the organization of a cemetery company, affords evidence of an awakening, and that hereafter we shall go forward in the work of improvement, just as our neighbors of Paulsboro', and Mantua have done.

It may not be known to all of your readers, that a grave yard exists now upon this very ground, and will be embraced within the limits of the Eglington Cemetery, called the "Eglington Burying Ground." This grave yard contains the remains of many of the foremost men of Greenwich Township.

Jeffery Clark, from whom the name of Clarksboro' came; Thomas Clark, his brother; some of the old stock of Packers, and Duffields, and Locks, Matthew Gill, Edmund Weatherby, John V. Clark, Andrew Ridgway; these men, with their wives, and some of their children, rest in this old burying ground.

One great reason for the organization of this cemetery company is the protection and per-

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petuation of this old ground, to keep the graves of these foremost men of Old Greenwich from being desecrated by the plow, as has often been the case with old burying grounds, and would, probably soon be the case with this, but for the timely thought of the projector of this enterprise, as was the case with that on "The Old Fox Ground," and another just above the hotel at Berkley, "Mount Royal," a triangle piece of ground, on which stood a large buttonwood, taken down lately, filled with graves and soapstone monuments, of which now not a vestige remains.

I think the effort of these men to protect the graves of the foremost men of their time deserves praise, and is very far from being a preposterous undertaking.

It is true there are four grave yards within a space of two miles, but they are pretty well filled up, and all, except this "Eglington Ground," belong to societies, and are intended for their own members principally, as the Episcopal Church Yard at Berkley, the Methodist at Clarksboro', and Friends at Upper Greenwich.

No better ground for burial,

perhaps, can be found in that neighborhood. It is high and dry. The intention is to extend the old ground to the Cohawken road, and of such width as may be required, making it perfectly accessible, and with such arrangements of walks, shades and ornaments, as well make it an adornment to the village. The lots are to be sold at a reasonable rate, and any family, or any society, will have the right to purchase as large or as many lots as desired.

No fear need be entertained of its interfering with the growth of the place, for the railroad station is on the opposite of west side of the road on which the village stands, and this cemetery is on the east, and experience, in all cases, shows that villages grow towards, not away from railroad stations.

Feb. 24, 1869. A. D.

Cemetery at Clarksboro

Application will be made at the next session of the Legislature for an act of incorporation for a cemetery company at Clarksboro.

This is a thing much needed at that place. We understand a beautiful piece of ground of about 22 acres is proposed, part of the Edward Weatherby property, and embracing the old Eglington Burying Ground.

Dec. 2, 1868.

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