

dents, followed him to that "bourne whence no traveller returns." Both had evinced a lively interest in the prosperity of our Society, and we all felt, and still feel, that in their death, we were bereft of true-hearted co-workers in the particular field of labor and research for which this association was especially formed.

And now, in such quick succession, we are called upon to mourn the departure of another devoted friend of our Society—Robert M. Sully, one of its honorary members, and one of its most generous benefactors. The peculiar relation which he bore to this Society, calls for some appropriate notice of his professional career, and of his worth as a man. But such a rehearsal carries with it a melancholy reflection, for it will naturally serve to enhance the sense we all feel of the uncommon loss our Society has sustained by his sudden and untimely death.

Mr. Sully was born at Petersburg, Virginia, July 17th, 1803. His father, who was a native of England, was by profession an actor, and was for many years attached to the Charleston theatre. Between his ninth and tenth years, and not long after his father's death, young Sully evinced an extreme fondness for drawing, which was increased, if not originally excited, by the sight of some excellent drawings made by his father, who, when a youth, had received some instruction from Naysmith, a celebrated landscape painter of Edinburgh. This early partiality for drawing steadily grew upon him, and when about sixteen or seventeen, he fully determined on becoming a painter, despite the many difficulties and privations attending the profession, which were carefully pointed out to him by his friends. In his eighteenth year, he visited Philadelphia for the purpose of placing himself under the instructions of his distinguished uncle, Thomas Sully. His zeal, which had hitherto been wasted in ill-directed efforts, was now, for the first time, applied to a proper course of study. As he was enthusiastic, and labored with great assiduity, he made rapid advancement in the art. He ever remembered, with sincere gratitude, his uncle's kindness and instructions.