Obituary for Charles Alexander Featherston

Charles Alexander Featherston

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Died—On the 4th of July, 1860, in Washington County, Va., at the residence of his great grand father, Col. Wm. Byars, where his parents were on a visit, Charles Alexander, only child of Hon. W. S. and Elizabeth M. Featherston, aged fourteen months and nine days.

The broken spirit and the sorrowing heart cannot be relieved of the great burden beneath which they are bowed, by aught of human sympathy, power or philosophy. It is to a higher source that we must look for that healing balm, which is to relieve the lacerated bosom, console us in the dark hour of trial, and sustain us amid all the scenes of affliction and pain through which we are destined to pass in this vale of tears.

God, in his providence, even when the barbed arrow is permitted to pierce the soul deepest, whispers in our ears the joyful tidings, that our loved ones, who are taken from us, have not preceded us a brief time to a land of pure delight, a home of unending bliss, where we may be permitted to re-join them, when the unmingled joy of the reunion shall wipe from our remembrance all the pain of parting. These apparently cruel dispensations are oftimes sent in greatest mercy. For, as the Alpine Shepherd gently folds in his arms the tender lambs, in order to entice and lead away the parent flock to the greener and more luxurious pastures, whither he carries them, high up the mountain's side, so, the Saviour gathers to his fond embrace the little idols of our hearts, and bears them home to the green fields of the promised land, in order that we may have our affections drawn away from earth to that blissful abode, where our treasure is.

Weep not then, for little Charlie, nor mourn him lost, for though the gentle prattle of that sweet cherub shall no more gladden that now almost desolate fireside, nor shall the soft melody of his voice ever be heard calling the loved name of father or mother, with eyes sparkling with love and beaming with the boundless confidence of purity and innocence, still, you shall ere long see your darling boy again, where separations occur nevermore.

H.