The Life and Character of John Howard

Philosopher, Poet, Librarian, Statesman, all these
facts in burning characters on the pages of the historian; but
the benevolent in whom are beautifully blended religion, charity,
philanthropy and patriotism sink into their graves and their
noble attributes are lost in oblivion. Is this right? Is this wise?
Shall the high wrought fictions of an insipid genius have their
place? And shall we not emulate in the marvellous feats of strength and valor be duly
celebrated, the guardians of freedom and of national peace and
prosperity be held up as examples to all aspiring spirits; and
the actions of the rarest and most valuable of them all suffered
to pass away like pleasant dreams. That ephipho in the mind excite
the fancy for awhile and then subsides into forgetfulness? Is it true
in the every-day intercourse of man with his fellow, deeds of kindness
and charity may he performed; the sick comforted; the poor aided;
and the unfortunate befriended yet few deserve the title of the truly
benevolent; and when these bright stars rise, whatever land may
be so fortunate as to behold the splendor of their first appearance,
and enjoy the softening influence of their genial rays, it is the
duty of us all to chant an anthem of welcome at their coming.
and erect a monument in our hearts at their setting.

John Howard was born in a land and in an age that
demanded the kind intercession of some bold and humane heart.
It is true that his country was not still groaning in the darkness
of barbarism or struggling in the iron chains of superstition.