

# William Ramsay

Xiuqi Huang

*Dartmouth College*

Out of all the dark, ornate sepulchers  
And marble plaques and brass plaques,  
One grave alone amused my friend and me:  
No loving words, no praise of the Lord,  
No Bible quotes, no memento mori  
Of skulls, hourglass, shovels and tolling bells:  
“Banker” it says, efficient and neat  
While he lived (I imagine), still memorably so  
In death. Or perhaps he really had no one,  
And died in a lonely mansion, and someone  
Placed this simple square stone to attest to  
His long-ceased existence. Let us hope  
That it had been the former case with  
William Ramsay, the hero of this poem,  
The banker who died in 1809.