

ING 042

Eyles Irwin

“Sketch of an Epitaph
on
The Marquis of Romana”

1811

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Eyles Irwin, "Sketch of an Epitaph on The Marquis of Romana" (1811)

WHEN private merit's to the grave consign'd,
The Muse laments the lot of human kind;
But when the hero meets the mortal blow,
Surrounding nations own a people's woe!

Firm warrior! loyal, curcumspect, and brave!
Pure statesman! form'd a sinking land to save:
Departed spirit! still the guardian prove
Of Freedom's flame --bright pledge of Britain's love!

O! may thy great example, not in vain,
Awake the latent energies of SPAIN;
May no reverses to the CORTES tell,
Her glory perish'd, when ROMANO fell,

And can she perish? See the patriot's bier
Enrich'd with WELLESLEY'S eulogy sincere:
O'er his lov'd form her sons for vengeance cry,
And swear, to free their country, or to die!