

LIFE AND CORRESPONDENCE
OF THE
REV. WILLIAM SMITH, D.D.,

*First Provost of the College and Academy of Philadelphia.
First President of Washington College, Maryland. President of the St. Andrew's Society of Philadelphia. President of the Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of Clergymen in the Communion of the Church of England in America
Secretary of the American Philosophical Society, etc., etc.*

WITH COPIOUS EXTRACTS FROM HIS WRITINGS.



BY HIS GREAT GRANDSON,
HORACE WEMYSS SMITH.

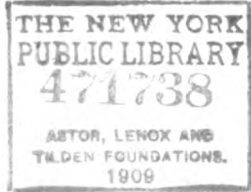
*Member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
Editor of the "Miscellaneous Works of Richard Penn Smith," of "The York-Town Orderly Book,"
"Andreana," etc., etc.*

VOL. I.

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A. L. T.



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he cannot license him in the parts of Pennsylvania. He was ordained and licensed to a mission in the Society's service, from which he has withdrawn himself in a manner that does him no credit; since that, he has engaged himself to a parish in Virginia, and has received such marks of their favour that he ought to think himself under obligations to serve them. It is incumbent on him, therefore, to return thither, in order to obtain a proper Settlement from the governor and commissary of that province, in the parish where he may be appointed to serve; and not to give any disturbance in the congregation where ministers are already settled and established.

Therefore, gentlemen, the bishop desires, and expects it from you that you give Mr. Macclanechan no encouragement to remain in Pennsylvania; but on the contrary that you assist him in removing back again to the place where his duty calls him, and where he ought to be. His lordship orders me to assure you of his hearty good will and affection for you. With his sincere prayers for the welfare and prosperity of your church and country, I am, gentlemen, with the greatest respect and esteem, your most obedient and faithful humble servant,

SAMUEL NICOLS,
Secretary to the Bishop of London.

The vestry directed that Mr. Macclanechan should be furnished with a copy of this letter, and that it should be read in church on the next Sunday morning, the 22d of June.

We come now, in order of date, to the

*Letter of Eighteen Presbyterian Ministers to the Archbishop of
Canterbury.*

PHILADELPHIA, May 24th, 1760.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE:

Encouraged by the amiable and excellent character we have had of your Grace as a sincere & catholick Friend to truth & practical Religion, we, ministers of the Presbyterian Denomination in the Province of Pennsylvania, New Jersey & New York, providentially convened in Philadelphia, *Unsolicited by the Gentleman concerned*, beg leave in the most respectful manner to address your Grace in the only way which our distance will admit as Witnesses & Petitioners for what we cannot but account the common cause of Truth & Religion and one of its successful & popular Advocates in these parts, namely, the Rev^d W^m Macclanechan. This Gentleman has for some time past officiated in Philadelphia as Assistant to the Rev^d D^r. Jenney, and has given such publick specimens of his zeal for the Doctrines of Christianity as contained in the articles of the Church of England, and so remarkable a blessing has attended his ministry in some striking instances of unques-

tionable Reformation from Vice and Infidelity, that, from what we personally know or have heard of him, we cannot but look upon him as worthy of our warm and hearty recommendation; and we beg leave to assure your Grace that, tho' we will not be accountable for any man's prudentials in every step of his conduct, even in carrying on the best design, nor presume to determine future contingencies, yet it is our humble opinion that his continuing to officiate in Philadelphia will greatly tend to advance our common Christianity; and therefore we most earnestly pray your Grace would use your utmost influence to have him *inducted* and settled in said city.

We are encouraged & even constrained thus far to intermeddle in this affair by our disinterested regard to those fundamental Doctrines of the Christian Religion & Protestant Reformation, in which we are so happy as to agree with that Church over which your Grace presides, & to the cause of Virtue & practical Piety; a Regard so warm & extensive that no differences in lesser matters, nor any selfish attachments to a party can extinguish; and by the candid invitation of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge in Foreign Parts, that the Inhabitants of these Plantations would transmit to them such accounts of their Missionaries as might enable them to form a just estimate of their character & conduct. And did your Grace but fully know the circumstances of this affair, you would be sensible that perhaps no application was ever made to your Grace with more unquestionable and self-evident disinterestedness & impartiality. Praying for your Grace's happiness and extensive usefulness, we are, may it please your Grace,

Your Grace's most respectful
and most Humble Servants,

JOHN ROGERS,	JAMES FINLEY,
ABRAHAM KETELAS,	JOHN ROAN,
ABNER BRUSH,	JOHN MOFFAT,
ALEXANDER McWHORTER,	ROBERT SMITH,
ROBERT KENNEDY,	GILBERT TENNENT,
WILLIAM TENNENT,	CHARLES TENNENT,
SAMUEL DAVIES,	JOHN BLAIR,
MOSES TUTTLE,	CHARLES MCKNIGHT,
BENJAMIN CHESTNUT,	WILLIAM RAMSEY.

The Synod, as we have stated, disowned the act of these eighteen brethren pressing for the "induction" and settlement of Mr. Macclanechan. Presbyterians did not know what "induction" meant.

With this letter, another, now following—from the Rev. Mr. Macclanechan himself—was sent to the Archbishop.