

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF
GRADUATES
OF
HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
IN CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

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VOLUME I.
1642-1658:

WITH AN APPENDIX,
CONTAINING AN ABSTRACT OF THE STEWARD'S ACCOUNTS, AND NOTICES OF
NON-GRADUATES, FROM 1649-50 TO 1659.



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TOBIAS BARNARD.

TOBIAS BARNARD, B. A., is mentioned in Johnson's *Wonder-working Providence*. Nothing has been learned respecting him, except that he went to England, probably soon after he graduated. Though persons named Barnard were in Watertown, Boston, and Weymouth at an early day, I have not found any evidence that they were his relatives.

AUTHORITIES.—J. Farmer, *Genealogical Register*, 26; and *Memorials of the Graduates of Harvard University*, 22; *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society*, iv. 58. E. Johnson, *History of New England*, 165. T. Prince, *Annals of New England*, i. 151. J. Savage, *Genealogical Dictionary*, i. 121.

NATHANIEL BREWSTER.

Born about 1620, died 1690, aged about 70.

REV. NATHANIEL BREWSTER, B. A., if a son of Jonathan and grandson of the distinguished Elder William Brewster, and born at Plymouth in Plymouth Colony, was the first native who received a collegiate education in America. But it is more reasonable to suppose that he was the son of Francis Brewster, of New Haven, who came "from London, probably with his wife Lucy & family, in all counting nine heads," and who was lost with Gregson, Lamberton, and "divers other godly persons," on a voyage from New Haven to England, in January, 1646; his widow afterward marrying Thomas Pell.

Not far from the time when Brewster took his degree the laws enforcing uniformity in England were repealed,

and others passed, which made the situation of the Episcopal clergy so uncomfortable that many left their parishes, and the vacancies were filled by Presbyterians and Independents. Several persons who had fled to New England to escape oppression, and others who had been educated here, among whom were Brewster and some of his classmates, returned to enter the ministry. Hutchinson notices him as a "settled minister in Norfolk, and of good report."

The Calendar of State Papers mentions an "Order of the Council of State," dated 8 August, 1654, "Directing that the sum of 36*l.* per annum, formerly allowed and settled by way of augmentation, for the better maintenance of Nathaniel Brewster, late minister of Netisheard and Irsted, in Norfolk, be paid to John Leverington, from the time of Brewster's leaving it [*to go to New England, where he graduated at Harvard College.*]" The words in brackets, which appear to have been added by the editor, may convey the impression that Brewster returned to New England to obtain a college education, whereas he graduated twelve years before. Possibly he visited New England, but it is more probable that he was employed in Great Britain in services which required him to be absent from his people, or he may have left them for another situation.

In a letter dated "Alby in Norfolk, June 18, 1655," Brewster writes to Thurloe, who was Secretary of State under Cromwell, for information respecting a recommendation in his behalf "to the deputy of Ireland, which his highnesse [Cromwell] intended; . . . for the suddenesse of my voyage and the importance of his highness letter in the present case hath enforced me to usurpe soe much upon your love. I expect to be in London this weeke, and (as I finde things) to hasten after my lord Henry [Cromwell] before he set sayle, soe as the

readynesse of my advance money and of that recommendation will be an extraordinary furtherance, if I can be resolved about them, by calling at your honor's house." In another letter to Thurloe, dated "Dublin, July 18, 1655," he writes: "Since I saw your honour, I had a wearisome journey to West Chester, where I overtooke my lord Henry the evening before his departure to Holyhead, and came with his honour safely and comfortably to Dublin."

Brewster carried to Fleetwood, then Lord Deputy of Ireland, a letter from Oliver Cromwell, dated 22 June, 1655, in which Cromwell writes: "Use this Bearer, Mr. Brewster kindly. Let him be near you: indeed he is a very able holy man; trust me you will find him so."

From "Alby in Norfolk, Jan. 28, 1655 [1655-6]," Brewster writes to Thurloe: "About North Walsham the Black-Fryars-way seems to gaine upon some (ministers and others) so farre, as grieves many sollid Christians," though, he says, "I cannot but beare witnesse to the godlynesse of those that carry it on." The tone of the letter is opposed to the movement.

The writer of an anonymous letter, dated 16 July, 1656, speaks of being on the preceding day at "North Walsham, where the messengers of several churches in the publike meeting-place gave their sence and some arguments against dipping, and for baptizing the children of believers. Mr. Brewstre and Mr. Powly being both dipped, stood up to plead the contrary." If the Brewstre here mentioned be the Harvard graduate, which is scarcely credible, it seems that he became an Anabaptist.

From "Dublyn, Oct. 22, 1656," he writes to Thurloe of "being lately returned with my lord from a long progresse, where I had occasion to take some notice of the townes in Ireland," and informs him that "the prin-

cipal sea ports and inland townes of this country are sadly decayed and unpeopled, being likely to continue so till better encouragement be offered to planters, especially merchants; the want of which renders many beautifull stronge townes to be but sad spectacles. . . . Our dissenting (but I hope) godly friends in this countrey doe seeme to carry such a jealousy and distance with the present magistracy and ministry (I meane in matters spirituall) as I am now at last somewhat weary of hoping for an accommodation, which I have hoped and endeavoured with so much compliyanse as offended my best friends, for twelve months space, but doe finde by experience in six weeks travailing, that they are every where unanimous and fixt in separateing from us, even to the ordinance of hearing the word, a thing that greatly afflicts my lord and many hundreds fearing God, that wish them well.”

From the university at Dublin, probably when there, he received the degree of Bachelor of Theology or Divinity.

He was in Ireland, as appears from his letters, more than a year, though not continuously, as between his letters dated at Dublin, 18 July, 1655, and 22 October, 1656, is one dated at Alby, 28 January, 1656, and, if he be the Brewstre alluded to in the anonymous letter, he was in England in July, 1656.

July 26, 1658, being in straitened circumstances, he writes to Henry Scobell, “Clerke to his Highnesse Privy Councill at ~~Whitehall~~”: “After my humble Service and Thankfulnesse for all your Christian Respect & Favours, I am occasioned, by an extraordinary Exigent, to move you, a litle beyond my Bounds, that (as this Bearer Mr. *Clerke*, my Agent & faithfull Friend, shall explaine my Affaires to you) you may vouchsafe to lighten my present Cares so farre as (with Securitie

from my Lord *Charles Fleetwood* or Lieutenant General [*Edmund*] *Ludlow*) you shall finde safe & convenient. Wherein you would greatly refresh my Bowells, & (with your Pardon of this strange Boldnesse) more oblige me to be
Your very humble faithfull Servant."

From an application by his church, it appears that "The parsonages of Alby and Twaite [in the County of Norfolk] being under sequestration" had been united and settled upon him, "by order of the Committee for plundered Ministers." He preached in both these places every Lord's day; but because of disbursements for "reparation of the parsonage houses, being lefte exceeding ruinous by the late incumbents, at their ejection; . . . the said Mr. Brewster, a great family, and much employed in the country by preaching freely, where there is need, is reduced to very greate streights, and not like to continue in his function, without assistance from the State"; not being able to "raise above fifty pounds *per annum* clearly, out of both the said parsonages."

About September, 1663, after the restoration of Charles the Second and the passage of the Act of Uniformity, Hull says that Brewster, "a very able and pious minister," came to Boston "in Master Prout's ship, from London. Mrs. Norton [widow of the Reverend John Norton] entertained him and his family in her house; and after a while, when our church had tasted his gifts, they desired his frequent labor among us. Who, together with Mr. James Allen, — that came hither about August, 1662, — carried on the public ministry in our church"; Brewster beginning in October, 1663, and continuing as a fellow-laborer for several months. In 1665 he went to Brookhaven on Long Island, where his sons John, Timothy, and Daniel resided, and in the autumn he was

settled there as the first minister. At a town meeting, 24 October, 1665, it was voted to purchase for his accommodation the house and home-lot of Matthew Prior. He died 18 December, 1690, age and infirmity having for some time disabled him from performing constant ministerial duty.

Brewster was married to Roger Ludlow's daughter Sarah, who is said to have been distinguished for her literary acquirements and domestic virtues.

George Phillips, H. U. 1686, the second permanent pastor of Brookhaven, was ordained in 1702.

John Adams, 17 November, 1777, makes the following record in his Diary: "Dined at Brewster's, in Orange county, State of New York. Brewster's grandfather, as he tells me, was a clergyman, and one of the first adventurers to Plymouth; he died, at ninety-five years of age, a minister on Long Island; left a son who lived to be above eighty, and died leaving my landlord, a son who is now, I believe, between sixty and seventy. The manners of this family are exactly like those of the New England people; a decent grace before and after meat; fine pork and beef, and cabbage and turnip."

AUTHORITIES. — J. Adams, Works, ii. 441. T. Blomefield, Norfolk, vi. 422. T. Carlyle, Oliver Cromwell's Letters and Speeches, ed. Lond., ii. 366, 367. J. Farmer, Genealogical Register, 41; also Memorials of the Graduates of Harvard University, 22; Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society, iv. 58; American Quarterly Register, viii. 133. J. B. Felt, Ecclesiastical History of New England, i. 497. J. Hull, Diary in the Archæologia Americana, iii. 210. T. Hutchinson, History of Massachusetts Bay, i. 112, 510. J. Nickolls, Original Letters and Papers of State, Addressed to Cromwell, found among the Political Collections of John Milton, 158. F. Peck, Desiderata Curiosa, ii. (xiii.) 22. N. S. Prime, History of Long Island, 223. W. N. Sainsbury, Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, 1574-1660, 418. J. Savage, Genealogical Dictionary, i. 244, 245. B. F. Thompson, Long Island, i. 421. J. Thurloe, State Papers, iii. 559, 660; iv. 472; v. 219, 508. S. Wood, Long Island, 47.