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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Vol. VI.

1853.

No. IV.

TRENTON, *January 20th*, 1853.

THIS being the day for the annual meeting of the Society, the members convened in Temperance Hall, in this city, at 12 o'clock at noon. As the President and Vice Presidents were absent, the Rev. NICHOLAS MURRAY, D. D., Chairman of the Executive Committee, was called upon to preside. Mr. HAYES, the Recording Secretary, not being present, Mr. JOHN RODGERS was appointed Secretary *pro tem.*, and read the minutes of the last meeting.

Mr. WHITEHEAD, the Corresponding Secretary, laid upon the table the correspondence of the Society since September, drawing attention particularly to letters from Rev. RICHARD WEBSTER, of Mauch Chunk, Pa.; Rev. M. W. JACOBUS, of Alleghany; and ROYAL R. HINMAN, Esq., of Hartford, Conn., acknowledging their election as members; from BENJAMIN FRENCH, Esq., of New York, asking for donations for the New Orleans Library; from MANNING T. FORCE, Esq., Secretary of the Ohio Historical and Philosophical Society, suggesting an application to Congress for books; from CHAS. C. RAFFN, Secretary of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen, referring to the current errors respecting the visits of the Northmen to the coasts of America, and transmitting a correct statement, based upon Danish authorities; from the Smithsonian Institution, American Philosophical Society, Pennsylvania Historical Society, Connecticut Historical Society, and different gentlemen, in relation to the operations of the Society. The communication from the Society

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gifts ye God of Heaven had bestowed on yt man, to render him useful to the world—but he is gone. O, what might he have been! what might he have done, had he lived? But methinks I hear the admonition—*be still and know yt I am God.*

His sermon on the death of his late Majesty, I purpose to send you with this—the first impression, tho' 1,000, are gone—a second is in ye press; it was ye last work of a publick nature yt he ever did. The people of Philad. have collected £95 pr.ann. for 5 years, to support his 3 sons at College; and Philad'a and New York have raised between £400 and £500 for his widow and two daughters—for he left very little estate.

Our eyes are on Mr. Finley, a very accurate scholar and a very great and good man. Blessed be the Lord, that such an one is to be found. The internal state of the College is so good, and ye management of ye tutors so generally approved, yt there will be no *pro tempore* President, and ye time appointed for choice is ye 28th of May next.

NATHANIEL HAZARD TO DR. BELLAMY.

N. YORK, June 5, 1761.

* * Mr. Samuel Finley is chose President of Jersey College, which is very agreeable to me and many others. * *

THE REV. JAMES CALDWELL TO THE SAME.

ELIZ. TOWN, March 16, 1767.

* * You will be informed I expect by Mr. McWhorter, and more particularly by the bearer, Mr. Edwards, what steps we are taking to obtain Mr. Hopkins* as a Professor at College. You are no doubt sensible how much more likely he would be to serve his generation there than in any particular Church. Mr. Edwards† is to

* The Rev. Dr. Hopkins.

† The Rev. Dr. Jona. Edwards, afterwards President of Union College.

try him. I hope you will go with Mr. Edwards, to assist. The chief difficulty we expect is to gain Mr. Rodgers, who is for Mr. John Blair. But besides yt we won't consent to that, they can't support him. We would not propose Mr. Hopkins's less than 200 proc. As soon as Mr. Edwards returns, if we have any encouragement from Mr. Hopkins, we shall push the matter with spirit. We want the fountain clear, that the streams may be so too.

THE REV. DR. WM. GORDON, OF LONDON, (*an Independent Minister, formerly settled at Ipswich, Eng.*) TO THE SAME.

STEPNEY CAUSEY, Oct. 14, 1767.

* * I lamented the loss sustained by New Jersey College in the death of Dr. Finley ; heard that Dr. Witherspoon has declined, thro' his lady's unwillingness to comply, the invitation given him by the trustees, but from some circumstances hope he has been persuaded to think differently, and that he m still go, unless some letters sent in great haste should not arrive at the New Jerseys time enough.

THE REV. JEDEDIAH CHAPMAN TO THE SAME.

NEW-ARK MOUNTAINS, Aug't ye 25, 1770.

* * * It is a time of carelessness among us about the great things of religion ; but blessed be God, there is I trust a genuine awakening at our College. Three weeks ago I had a pressing invitation from the students to make them a visit, which I complied with the week before last. I spent near a week there with great pleasure and satisfaction. My time was wholly taken up in College, chiefly in private conversation. I preached three sermons—met several times in praying societies. There is a number I trust that have attained the saving knowledge of the truth, and *the truth* prevails greatly, but not without opposition. There are a number of ingenious fellows that are determined to study divinity under your inspection next winter. Great is the power of truth, and it does and will prevail. * *