

# PUBLICATIONS

OF

## The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

VOLUME XIX

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### TRANSACTIONS

1916-1917

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## THE COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS

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ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER, 1916

**T**HE ANNUAL MEETING of the Society was held at the University Club, No. 270 Beacon Street, Boston, on Tuesday, 21 November, 1916, at half-past six o'clock in the evening, Vice-President ANDREW MCFARLAND DAVIS in the chair.

The Records of the last Stated Meeting were approved without being read.

The CORRESPONDING SECRETARY reported that a letter had been received from Mr. RICHARD CLIPSTON STURGIS accepting Resident Membership.

Mr. NATHANIEL THAYER KIDDER of Milton was elected a Resident Member.

The Annual Report of the Council was presented and read by the Rev. CHARLES EDWARDS PARK.

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

Four of our stated meetings have been held in the house of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which with unwearied hospitality continues to play the part of kindly host, and to which we

John Usher, in which mention is made of a New England Primer known in London, 1685, or two years earlier than the printing of the copy attributed to Harris. Mr. Ford traced through the Stationers' Registers (III. 199) the record of the entry of a copy in 1683, and gave a brief account of the troubles in England of Benjamin Harris, who printed the New England Primer in Boston between 1687 and 1690.

Mr. FORD also communicated the following documents: (1) A letter from the Rev. Samuel Davies to Mr. McCulloch, dated Hanover, Virginia, 11 August, 1758; (2) a list of the captive Indian children who, in 1676, were distributed among Massachusetts households; and (3) an account of expenses of a journey from Boston to New Jersey, undated, but perhaps undertaken about the year 1688.

## I

SAMUEL DAVIES<sup>1</sup> TO — McCULLOCK

My ever-dear Friend,

As I keep no Copies of my Letters, I cannot exactly recollect when I wrote to you last: but I think it was since I received a Letter from you. However, Friendship tells me, it is Time to write again; tho' my Hurry, as usual, will hardly let me write any thing worth reading.

Your old Friend Mr. Richardson, having officiated as a Candidate, for some time, was ordained, with M<sup>r</sup> Patillo,<sup>2</sup> another promising Minister, at our last P<sup>'</sup>by, about a month ago. And I can afford you the Pleasure of hearing, that his popular Talents vastly surpass my Expectations; & there is Reason already to hope, that his Labours have been of some considerable Service. He itinerates among the vacant Congregations in various Parts of the Country: & we have Work enough for our young Ministers, as Applications are now made to the P<sup>'</sup>by from many Parts of Virginia, where the very Name of a Presbyterian was wont to excite Disgust & Contempt.

For an Acc<sup>t</sup> of the Chirokee-Mission, I must refer you to M<sup>r</sup> Gillies; only adding, that yesterday I was shocked w<sup>th</sup> a flying Rumour, that they

<sup>1</sup> On Samuel Davies, see Meade, *Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia*, i. 429 ff; Sprague, *Annals of the American Pulpit*, iii. 140-146.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. Henry Patillo (1726-1801): see Sprague, *Annals of the American Pulpit*, iii. 196-199.

had massacred my worthy Friend M<sup>r</sup> Martin. I can by no means believe it true: but the least Suspicion of it is very alarming to me.

You will lament with me the Death of the great & good M<sup>r</sup> Edwards,<sup>1</sup> a few Days after his Installation as President of the College. It is, I am afraid, a severe Frown upon that Institution: but God has the Residue of the Spirit; & this is our only Hope.

Last Week M<sup>r</sup> Wright & I waited upon our new Governor,<sup>2</sup> as a Deputation from the Presbytery of Hanover: & his Honour gave us a very friendly Reception, & promised to protect us in the full Enjoyment of the Immunities of the Act of Toleration. He makes an agreeable Figure in Conversation: but what his Qualifications for Government are, future Time must discover. I rejoice to hear that our former Governour<sup>3</sup> is safe arrived in his native Country once more. May the Evening of his Life be calm & bright!

Last Lord's Day I Dispensed the Sacrament of the Supper in Hanover, assisted by M<sup>r</sup> Wright. It was a Season of Dejection & Tears to me, & I was more disposed to weep under the Cross, than speak to recommend it. But how sweet are such Tears! how medicinal the Wounds of a broken Heart! My dear People appeared generally in the same Frame with myself; so that I hope there was "*a great Mourning*" among us.

The Number of Negroe-Communicants is still increasing; & multitudes of the poor Creatures are learning to read with considerable Success. Your intended Present of Spelling-Books will be peculiarly acceptable & useful to them; as it is that sort of Books they now stand most in need of. The Generosity of my British Friends in this Respect, has been utterly astonishing: "it is the Lord's doing, & marvellous in my Eyes:" & by means of it, I really hope, sundry of the most unpolished & wretched Parts of human Nature will be made Partakers of Life & Immortality.

We are in daily Expectation of hearing that Louisburg, the Gibraltar of America, has surrendered;<sup>4</sup> as by the last Accounts, our Forces were landed, & had taken the Light-House Battery. But a Victory half-won, has often been lost by some unexpected Turn of Providence; therefore it becomes us to be diffident, & not presume too much upon the Event.

Virginia has done better this year than usual, having chearfully aug-

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<sup>1</sup> Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) had been installed as President of Princeton College, February 16, 1758, in succession to his son-in-law, Aaron Burr.

<sup>2</sup> Francis Fauquier, lieutenant-governor from 1758 to his death in 1768.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Dinwiddie.

<sup>4</sup> Louisburg was taken July 26, 1758.

mented its Forces to 2000, & given £10 enlisting Money to each Man. These are to join about 3000 Pennsylvania-Forces & some Regulars, under Brigadier General Forbes,<sup>1</sup> in order to make another Attempt upon Fort-du Quesne, the Nest of those Savages that ravage our Frontiers. But their Motions are so slow, (for what Reasons I cannot tell,) & the Summer is now so far advanced, that I begin to fear nothing will be done, or even attempted. We have just heard, that Gen<sup>l</sup> Abercrombie has been worsted at or near Ticonderoga, & obliged to retreat: But the Particulars of that melancholy Action, we have not yet received. It makés me fear, that Crown-Point will prove impregnable to us: for this Summer we have made our utmost Effort ag<sup>t</sup> it. Thus, I expect, it will be, till we learn to fight, & pray too, to better Purpose.

I am sorry to tell you, that my Lord Loudon<sup>2</sup> has left a very bad Character behind him, especially as to his morals, & his imperious Insolence in authority. Alas! how baleful are the Effects of Luxury, Vice & Infidelity upon the British Nation! once a Nation of Heroes, terrible to the World. Faith made Heroes, "subdued Kingdoms, turned to Flight the Armies of the Aliens," &c in ancient Times: & I am persuaded, Faith is the best Source of true Courage still. But where shall Faith be found upon Earth, among our military Men?

Since the Union of the Synods of New-York & Philadelphia, (for the Plan of which I must refer you to our good Friend M<sup>r</sup> Gillies,) our little P<sup>'</sup>by is increased to 12 Members: but they are scattered through Virginia & Carolina, at the Distance of some Hundreds of Miles, so that we are not likely to have a full Presbytery. How happy a Change in Virginia, which was so long a melancholy & laborious Solitude to me!

The Seceders have got into Pennsylvania, & thrown the Churches there into great Confusion. I hope they are good Men: tho' their Bigotry & contentious Peculiarities render them very troublesome Members of Society. Alas! what unskillful hands have the Management of Religion upon our guilty Earth; Religion, the divinest Thing, excepting its Author, that ever came from Heaven! Were it not that the God of Order presides, it would soon be reduced into a chaos, or buried in the Rubbish of human Passions & Weaknesses.

I still affectionately remember your valuable consort, & lovely son. May the God of Heaven bless them both! My aged Parents, my tenderer & better Part, & my 5 young Immortals, are well; Blessed be God! I am in a Hurry, as you may percieve by my writing; & can only assure

<sup>1</sup> John Forbes (1710-1759).

<sup>2</sup> John Campbell, Earl of Loudoun (1705-1782), whose delay and general ineptitude led to his recall. Amherst was sent in his place.

you once more, that I am, my ever-dear Friend, yours in the sincerest  
Love & willing Service

SAM<sup>l</sup> DAVIES.

Hanover, Aug<sup>t</sup> 11, 1758.

P. S. I herewith send you Pr<sup>t</sup> Stith's Sermon,<sup>1</sup> which you may compare with the answer in M<sup>r</sup> Gillies's Hands.

M<sup>r</sup> McCulloch.<sup>2</sup>

## II

### LIST OF CAPTIVE INDIAN CHILDREN, 1676

August 10 1676. A memorandum of Indian Children put forth into service to the English Bceing of those indians that came in & submitted with John Sachem of Packachooge, with the names of the persons with whome they were placed & the names and age of the children & the names of their relations & the places they Did belong to, By Mr Daniel Gookin Sen<sup>r</sup>, Thomas Prentis Capt' & M<sup>r</sup> Edward Oakes, who were a comittee appointed by the Counsel to mannage y<sup>t</sup> affayr. The termes & conditions vpon w<sup>ch</sup> they are to serue is to be ordered by the Gen<sup>l</sup> Court who are to provide y<sup>t</sup> the children bee religiously educated & taught to read the English tounge

{ 2 Boy To Samuel Simonds Esq. a boy named John his father  
{ A maid named Alwitankus late of quantisit his father & mother p<sup>r</sup>ent both consenting the boys age about 12 years

To him a girle named Hester her father & mother dead late of Nashaway her age ten years her onkel named John woosumpigin of Naticke

1 Boy To Thomas Danforth esq a boy aged about 13 yeares his name John

1 Boy To Leift Jonathan Danforth of [Billericay?] a boy aged twelve yeares, son to papamech alius David late of Warwick or Cowesit.

2 Boyes To Mathew Bridge of Cambridge two Boyes the one named Jabez aged about ten yeares the other named Joseph aged six yeares their father named woompthe late of Packachooge ☞ one or both these boyes is away with his father 8 ber 17th 1676

<sup>1</sup> The Nature and Extent of Christ's Redemption, printed at Williamsburg, 1753.

<sup>2</sup> From the Chamberlain Manuscripts (A. 5. 56) in the Boston Public Library.