

A
HISTORY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church in America,

FROM ITS ORIGIN UNTIL THE YEAR 1760.

WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF ITS EARLY MINISTERS.

BY THE
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WITH
A Memoir of the Author,
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AND
An Historical Introduction,
BY THE REV. WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, D.D.

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PHILADELPHIA:
JOSEPH M. WILSON,
No. 27 SOUTH TENTH STREET, BELOW CHESTNUT ST.
1857.

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The result of his visit to Boston is not known. He died in the summer of 1708, leaving a widow and two daughters. Elizabeth survived him less than a year; and his widow soon followed her to the grave. Anne married Mr. Holden, of Accomac, and died in 1787, childless, leaving a large property.*

Makemie left one hundred and twenty English books to his family; his law-books to Andrew Hamilton, Esq.,† and the rest of his library to Andrews and his successors in Philadelphia. He left four lots, with the buildings, to the Presbyterian congregation of Rehoboth, on Pocomoke, and to their successors; but "to none else but to such as are of the same persuasion in matters of religion."

His portrait was destroyed in the burning of Dr. Balch's house; but his course of life portrays a man of learning, energy, talent, and public spirit. Dr. Miller, on the authority of Dr. Rodgers and of Dr. Read, of Wilmington, speaks of him as a man of eminent piety and strong intellectual powers, adding to force of talents a fascinating address, conspicuous for his natural endowments and his dignity and faithfulness as a minister of the gospel. His Catechism has escaped the researches of American collectors.

He had two brothers in county Donegal (Ireland) alive at his decease. Andrews baptized Elizabeth, a child of Francis Makemie, February 2, 1730. It was he, probably, who appeared as a commissioner from Warrington before Philadelphia Presbytery in May, 1739.

In the Bishop of London's palace, at Lambeth, are letters from the Episcopal clergy in Maryland, stating that many fell away from them, by reason of the Dissenters in Makemie's day.

SAMUEL DAVIS.

HE was next to Makemie in point of years, and, like him, engaged in trade. He was residing in Delaware in July, 1692,

* "She gave by her will £100, to be disposed of yearly, for the support of a minister by the Session of Pitt's Creek, Maryland; and £50, for the poor of that neighbourhood."—*Spence*.

† Was this Andrew Hamilton the father of James Hamilton, Governor of Pennsylvania? Andrew was a distinguished lawyer of Philadelphia, whose argument in behalf of Zenger the printer, prosecuted by Governor Cosby, of New York, was published in England as a most valuable assertion of the rights of persons charged with libel. He died at his seat at Bush Hill, Philadelphia, August 4, 1741, at an advanced age.

when George Keith visited him. At the formation of the presbytery he was prevented by business from performing the duties of a pastor; and, on the failure of the people of Lewes to obtain Mr. Colden from Scotland, he continued to supply them as much as the condition and posture of his affairs allowed. In 1715, he joined with them in their request to presbytery to have a minister settled over them. On Hampton's resignation of his charge, he removed to Snow Hill, and preached there probably till his death, in the summer of 1725.

He was present in presbytery only in 1709, when he was chosen moderator. On the formation of the synod, he was appointed a member of Snow Hill Presbytery. Through the death of Henry, of Rehoboth, and the declining health of Hampton, it was not organized. He and Hampton were not afterwards joined to any presbytery, because through sickness, business, and age, they could not attend at so great distance as the ordinary places at which Newcastle Presbytery met.

Spence, though residing at Snow Hill, seems never to have heard of him or his successor, Hugh Stevenson.

JOHN WILSON.

ONE of the correspondents of Increase Mather, in the seventeenth century, mentions the arrival of a Mr. Wilson in Connecticut, and expresses a desire that so acceptable a minister might settle in the colony. Whether this person was the one who for many years was the minister of Newcastle is unknown.

Among the "Colonial Documents"* at Harrisburg is one signed by John Murray, in 1686, stating that William Huston, by his last will, gave three hundred acres on Christiana Creek, four or five miles from Newcastle, to John Wilson and his successor. He asks the interposition of the Government, the land being withheld by Anthony Howston.

As early as 1702, he preached in the court-house† at Newcastle, and, not being contented, removed. He returned in 1703; which dissatisfied some, and made them anxious for the services of a Churchman.

He had no pastoral relation to that congregation; and they were very anxious to secure McNish, and gave him a call. The meeting-house at White Clay Creek was considered as a chapel-

* Colonial Documents, edited by Samuel Hazard, Esq.

† Talbot, in Protestant Episcopal Historical Society's Collections.