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ABRAHAM KETELTAS was born in New York, December 26, 1732, the eldest child of Abraham Keteltas (a well-known merchant of that city, the descendant of an emigrant from Holland in the 17th century) and Jane (Jacobs) Keteltas. During his youth he is said to have resided for a considerable time in the Huguenot settlement at New Rochelle, near New York City, and thus acquired a good familiarity with the French language.

He studied theology, and was licensed to preach by the Fairfield (Connecticut) East Association of Ministers, August 23, 1756. Meantime he had married, on October 31, 1755 (the license being dated October 22), Sarah, the third daughter of the Hon. William Smith (Yale 1719), of New York City, a member of the Governor's Council.

Early in 1757 he began to preach as a candidate for settlement in the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown, now Elizabeth, New Jersey, and after a satisfactory probation he received a call to the pastorate. He was ordained and installed there on September 14, 1757, with a salary of £130.

Before long some difficulty arose, which led to his withdrawal from his office in July, 1760, though his formal dismissal did not take place until September. The language of admonition used by the Presbytery of New York in declaring the pastoral relation dissolved, caused Mr. Keteltas to appeal to the Synod for relief, and the Presbytery in consequence took further action, intended to do away with the appearance of censure; but the breach was not healed, and he withdrew from the Presbyterian body, between May, 1764, and May, 1765.

Before the close of the year 1760 he had settled in Jamaica, Long Island, where he resided until his death. During these years he held no regular pastoral charge, though preaching abundantly, as occasion offered. His familiarity with their languages made him an especially welcome preacher in the Dutch and French Reformed

congregations in and near New York City. In particular, for about two years after his removal to Jamaica he supplied the Reformed Dutch Church in that town; and again for most of the time from September, 1766, to April, 1776, he officiated every third Sunday as the regular supply of the French Protestant Church of New York.

He took a deep interest in public affairs, and in March, 1768, was an unsuccessful candidate for the Provincial Assembly. As the contest with England became imminent he was outspoken in his advocacy of vigorous measures, and in December, 1774, was appointed by his fellow-townsmen Chairman of a Committee of Correspondence and Observation. In June, 1776, he was elected as one of the delegates from Queens County to the Provincial Congress of New York,—the body which in April, 1777, adopted the first State Constitution; he attended a few of the early sessions, but was prevented, in part by professional engagements, from continuous service. The part which he had taken in promotion of the American cause obliged him, after the victory of the British at the battle of Long Island (August 27, 1776), to remove with his family to Connecticut. He supplied the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church in Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1777 and 1778, and that of the Congregational Church in New Fairfield, Fairfield County, Connecticut, in 1782.

His later years were spent in peace in Jamaica, where he died on September 30, 1798, in his 66th year.

His wife bore him seven daughters and four sons, and was subsequently afflicted with long-continued and distressing mental derangement. She died in Jamaica on October 12, 1815, in her 83d year. Their eldest child, a daughter, died in infancy, and some verses written by her father on the occasion have been printed (in Alden's *American Epitaphs*, volume iv, pages 183–85). The other children survived him. One daughter became the third wife of the Rev. Peter Van Vlieden. Another daughter was the mother of James H. Hackett, a well-known actor.

He published four sermons :

1. The Religious Soldier : or, the Military Character of King David, Display'd and Enforced in a Sermon [from 2 Sam. xvii, 8], preached March 8, 1759, to the Regular Officers and Soldiers in Elizabeth-Town. N. Y., 1759. 8°, pp. iv, 18. [M. H. S.]

The sermon is dedicated, in terms of high praise, to General Amherst.

2. The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, in becoming poor for men, displayed and enforced in a Charity Sermon [from 2 Cor. viii, 9] preached in the French Protestant Church, in New-York, Dec. 27, 1773. N.-Y., 1774. 8°, pp. 36. [N. Y. H. S.]

3. God arising and Pleading his People's Cause ; or, the American War in Favor of Liberty, against the Measures and Arms of Great Britain, shewn to be the Cause of God : in a Sermon [from Ps. lxxiv, 22] preached Oct. 5th, 1777 at an evening Lecture, in the Presbyterian Church in Newbury-Port. Newbury-Port, 1777. 8°, pp. 32. [A. C. A. (imperfect). B. Ath. Brit. Mus. M. H. S.]

The sermon abounds in apt historical illustrations, and gives traces both of Hebrew scholarship and of literary taste.

4. Reflections on Extortion, shewing the Nature, Malignity, and Fatal Tendency of that Sin, to Individuals and Communities, displayed and enforced in a Sermon [from Ez. xxii, 12] preached at Newbury-Port, on Lord's Day February 15th, 1778. Newbury-Port, 1778. 16°, pp. 38.

[A. A. S. A. C. A. B. Ath. Brit. Mus. C. H. S. Harv.]

This discourse is very earnest in its sympathy with the American cause.

A poetical Elegy on Whitefield is preserved in manuscript in the Library of the New-York Historical Society.

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