

Doct. Stephen Collins
from his friend J. P. Moore
LETTERS

ON

THE EARLY HISTORY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA,

ADDRESSED TO

THE LATE REV. ROBERT M. LAIRD.

BY IRVING SPENCE, ESQ.

OF SNOWHILL, MARYLAND.

WITH A

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR,

AND A SELECTION FROM

HIS RELIGIOUS WRITINGS.

PHILADELPHIA:

HENRY PERKINS, 134 CHESTNUT STREET.

PERKINS AND MARVIN, BOSTON.

1838.

Entered according to the act of Congress, in the year 1837,
by HENRY PERKINS, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court
of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

L. ASHMEAD AND CO., PRINTERS.

B.

State of Virginia, Accomack County, sc.

(1.) I do hereby certify, that the name of Francis Makemie first appears on the records of said Court on the 17th day of February, 1690, in an Action brought by him against William Finney, for Molasses sold by the said Makemie to the said Finney.

It also appears from the records of the said Court, that 450 Acres of Land were granted to the said Makemie by a Certificate from the said Court, on the 21st day of February, 1692. The name of Francis Makemie does not appear on the Records from the year 1692 until the 4th day of October, 1698. The following is a true copy of an entry made on the Records of the said Court on the 15th day of October, 1699, viz :

“Whereas Mr. Francis Makemie made application by petition to this Court, that being ready to fullfill what the Law enjoynes to dissenters, that he might be qualified according to Law, and prayed that his own dwelling-house at Pocomoke, also his own house at Onancok, next to Captain Jonathan Livesley’s, might be the places recorded for Meeting, and having taken the oaths enjoyned by act of Parliament instead of the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and subscribed the Test as likewise that he

did in compliance with what the said Law enjoynes, produce Certificate from Barbadoes of his qualifications there, did declare in open Court of the said county and owned the articles of religion mentioned in the statute made in the 13th year of Queen Elizabeth, except the 34th, 35th and 36th, and those words for the 20th article, viz:—The Church hath power to decide rights and ceremonies and authority in controversies of faith, which the Court have ordered to be registered and recorded, and that the Clerk of the Court give certificate thereof to the said Makemie, according as the Law enjoynes.”

The name of the said Francis Makemie appears very often on the records of the said Court, from the year 1699 to the 1st day of August, 1703, which does not contain interesting matter enough to be recited here.

On the 1st day of August 1703, the said Francis Makemie executed a power of attorney to his wife, Naomie Makemie, and John Parker, reciting that he was about to depart for England, and therefore constituted them his attorneys to do and transact all manner of business for him.

May the 30th, 1704, the said Francis Makemie executed a power of attorney to his wife, Naomie Makemie, Andrew Hamilton, and James Kemps, reciting that he was about to depart for Europe.

(2.) The name of the said Francis Makemie does not appear on the Records of the said Court (except

through his authorized Attorney, Naomie Makemie,) from the 30th day of May 1704 until December 4th, 1705, after which date, the name of the said Francis Makemie appears frequently on the records until his death, but which is not of sufficient interest to be recited.

The following are true extracts from the will of the said Francis Makemie, which will was recorded in the Clerk's office of Accomack county court, on the 16th day of August, 1708, viz :

“I give, will and bequeath unto my loving wife, Naomie Makemie, and my two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne Makemie, one hundred and twenty books to be chosen by my Executrix afterwards nomenated, and appointed, out of the English Books of my Library. My meaning and will is, that my wife and each of my daughters enjoy forty english Books, and the longest liver or livers, to enjoy said Books in reversion, in case of the decease of my wife, or any of my said daughters, and their heirs for ever, and the rest of my Library of Books of all sorts, I give and bequeath unto Mr. Jedidah Andrew, minister at Philadelphia, excepting my Law Books, and after his decease or removal from Philadelphia, I give and bequeath said Liberary to such minister or ministers as shall succeed him in that place and office, and to such only as shall be of the Presbyterian or Independent persuasion, and none else. My will is, that as soon as said Books are remitted to Philadelphia, the number and names of said Liberary may be put upon record, to be preserved there, as a constant

Liberary for the use of foresaid minister or ministers, successively, for Ever.”

“ I give, will and bequeath unto Mr. Andrew Hamilton and his heirs for ever, all my Law Books to be found among my Liberary of Books, and thoes he already hath in possession.”

“ I order and empower my Executrix afterwards nominated and appointed, to sell, dispose of and Alien my house and lott at the new towne in Princess Anne county, on the Eastern Branch of Elizabeth River, as also my lott and house or frame of house in the new towne on Wormlye’s creek, called Urbana, as also my lot Joyning to the *new* meeting House Lott in Pocomoke towne, called Rehoboth, empowering my Executrix afterwards named, to make over and Alienate that Lott on which the meeting-house is built, in as ample manner to all intents and purposes, as shall be required for the ends and uses of a Presbyterian Congregation, as if I were personally present, and to their successors for ever, and none else, but to such of the same perswation in matters of Religeon.”

“ I give and bequeath unto Mr. Jedidah Andrew, minister at Philadelphia, and his heirs for ever, my black camlet Cloak, and my new cane, bought and fixed at Boston.”

“ I will, give and bequeath unto my beloved wife and two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne Makemie, the remainder of my Estate, reall and personall, not already disposed off, either by the will of Mr. William Anderson or this will, equally to be divided

among them, and the reversion of all Reall Estate to return to the longest liver or livers of them; and if my daughters aforesaid, die without issue of their natural Bodyes, their parts of all Estate, reall and personall, given by this will, I give and bequeath to my youngest sister, Anne Makemie, of the Kingdom of Ireland, and the two eldest sons of my brother John and Robert Makemie, both of the name of Francis Makemie, and their heirs for ever."

"I doe constitute, appoint, and ordaine, my deare and well beloved wife, Naomi Makemie, my Executrix of this my last will and testament, comitting to her, and her only, the guardianship and the tutorship of my aforesaid children, whilst in minority, during her natural life, and in case of the death of my deare wife, Naomi Makemie, before this my will is proved and executed, or the arrival of my said daughters, Elizabeth and Anne Makemie, at age, I doe constitute, appoint and ordaine the Honorable Colonel Francis Jenkins, of Somerset County, in Maryland, and Mary Jenkins, his Lady, and beloved Consort, Executors of this my last will and Testament, and gardians to my said children during their minority, and till marriage, charging all persons concerned in the presents of Almighty and Omnitient God, to give and allow my said children a sober, virtuos, and Religeous Education, either here or elsewhere, as in Britian, New England, or Philadelphia, and that no other person or persons, Courts or Judiciary whatsoever, besides my Executrix or Executors, nominated and appointed, and whom they shall

appoint in case of the Mortality of Executors already appointed, shall have any power to Intermeddle with my said Estate, reall and personall, or the tuctory or guardianship of my said Children, without incurring the penalty of the Statute of wards and liveryes and thereby liable to an accon of trespass."

"My will and pleasure is, that in case of my wife marring, she have power and authority, if she apprehend it requisit or nessessary, either before or after marring, to relinquish her Executorship and comit the same with relation to her children, their Estate and gardianship, unto the trust, care and management of Colonel Francis Jenkins and his Lady.

"In Witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my hand and seale this 27th day of April, in the Yeare of our Sovarian, Lady Anne, Queen of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the faith, Annog. Dom. 1708.

"FRANCIS MAKEMIE." (Ls.)

"Signed, sealed and acknowledged in presence of us as Witnesses, John Parker, of Mattapani; Eliz. Davis, Elizabeth Vepre, A. Hamilton, Tully Robinson, John Lewis."

The within last will and Testament of Mr. Francis Makemie, deceased, was proved in open Court of Accomack county, by the oaths of Andrew Hamilton, Tully Robinson and John Lewis, three of the above witnesses, and allowed by the Cort for suffi-

cient prof, and ordered to be recorded, August 4th, 1708.

Recorded August 16, 1708, by

ROBERT SNEAD, Clerk of the county.

The above extracts I believe contains every thing on record in the said court of any interest in regard to Mr. Francis Makemie, from the year 1690 to the year 1708.

Teste.

Js. J. AILWORTH, Dpty.

For

THOS. R. JOYNES,

Clerk of Accomack Court.