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THE BREAKING OF THE LIGHT.

In no other department of human industry has there been recently in the United States more gratifying results than in the writing of history. The noble spirit of free enquiry is abroad, and the light of truth is breaking through the clouds of prejudice and falsification that have hitherto beclouded the view. History, which has been the personification of error, promises hereafter to be the glorification of truth.

As the Northern writers were by far the greatest sinners formerly against the truth, so I am glad to state that they are now in many ways the most shining missionaries in combatting error. All along the line the old ideas are being repudiated, and everywhere more candid and generous views are being expressed. New England, which has been the greatest sinner of all "against the light," is now the leader under the new dispensation.

The change is immense, the attack is general, and begins with the colonial days. Instead of religious freedom formerly universally ascribed to colonial New England, some writers of eminent character contend that there existed nothing but religious persecution,¹ and instead of democracy in the towns, an aristocracy, based upon a suffrage of the most limited character.²

¹ See Charles Francis Adams, *Massachusetts, its Historians and its History*.

² Weeden says that "the institutions of New England were democratic in form but aristocratic in the substance of the administration"—*Social and Economic History of New England*. Long before Weeden, Rev. Mr. Stone had described the political character of Massachusetts as a "speaking aristocracy in the face of a silent democracy."

Co., whose offices are at Mobile, Ala. He lives at Whistler, Ala., a suburb of Mobile. He married, 10 Oct. 1888, Jane Elizabeth Halliwell of Whistler, and they have,

- i. Benjamin Halliwell Johnston,⁹ mar., 1912, Mabel Fisher of Citronelle, Ala.
- ii. Severn Teackle Johnston.
- iii. Sally Halliwell Johnston.
- iv. Elizabeth Johnston.

41. MATILDA PRICE JOHNSTON⁸ (Christopher,⁷ Christopher,⁶ Susanna,⁵ Griffin⁴) married, 13 Dec. 1892, Rev. Percy St. Michael Podmore. Their issue:

- i. Doris Matilda Johnston Podmore.⁹
- ii. Clara Rhoderena Buckley Podmore.

42. HUGH JOHNSTON MCBIRNEY⁸ (Isabella,⁷ Christopher,⁶ Susanna,⁵ Griffin⁴) of Chicago, Ills., married Mary Elizabeth Campbell and they have issue:

- i. Annie Laurie McBirney.⁹
- ii. Isabelle McBirney.

43. FRANCES FULLER JOHNSTON⁸ (Henry M.,⁷ Christopher,⁶ Susanna,⁵ Griffin⁴) married Henry Spencer Robbins, a distinguished lawyer of Chicago, Ills. Their issue:

- i. Margery Robbins,⁹ mar., 12 June 1912, Kenneth Sawyer Goodman of Chicago, Ills.
- ii. Dorothy Robbins.
- iii. Isabella Robbins.
- iv. Frances Spencer Robbins.

OLD LETTERS OF FRANCIS MAKEMIE.

The following letters are recorded in a suit appearing on the records of Essex County at Tappahannock. The Francis Makemie who wrote two of them was the minister of that name to whom is given the credit of establishing Presbyterianism in America. This gentleman was born near the town of Ramelton, County Donegal, in 1658. He studied for the ministry at Glasgow University, where in February, 1676, he was a student in the third class. In 1681 he was licensed to preach by the Pres-

bytery of Laggan, Ireland, and in 1682 was ordained by them as a missionary to America. He travelled in Maryland, Virginia and Barbadoes, trading as well as preaching. In 1690 his name figures in the records of Accomac County, Virginia, where he was engaged in the West India trade, and where in 1692 four hundred and fifty acres of land were granted to him. Here he married Naomi, daughter of William Anderson, a wealthy merchant. Until 1698 he resided chiefly in Barbadoes, and during that time had a controversy with George Keith, and published several pamphlets on religion. In 1698 he returned to Accomac, where he was licensed to officiate "in his own dwelling house in Pocomoke near the Maryland line, and at Onancock five miles from Drummond town, or the house next to Jonathan Livesey's." He organized a congregation at Snow Hill, Maryland, and for that and four other congregations in the vicinity, Makemie ministered for several years. In 1704 he went to London, and on his return brought back two other missionaries, who, along with Makemie himself and four others, formed at Philadelphia in the spring of 1706 the first Presbytery organized in America. He was made Moderator of the Presbytery. In 1707 he was arrested at Newtown, Long Island, on a warrant issued by Governor Cornbury for preaching on the 19th of that month without permission in a private house in New York. He was tried and acquitted, but required to pay heavy cost. The opposition of Governor Cornbury continued after the trial, the Governor writing of him as "a preacher, a Doctor of Physic, a merchant, an attorney, a counsellor at law, and which is worst of all a disturber of governments." In 1708 he died at his residence in Accomac, Virginia. The Dictionary of National Biography mentions several letters as written by him. The Essex County Records add two more, as discovered by the Editor, to the number.

The suit in Essex County concerns certain lands, which were conveyed to Robert and William Halsey on May 5, 1682, by Randolph Segar and Mary his wife.

LETTERS.

Virginia, May the 16th 1704.

Mr. Halsey

S^r These come to Inform you that your father hase bine dead in Jenewarye next tow yeares & he has made no will nor any of his blood heare to Inherit neither Landes goodes nor Chattels so that administration of his Estate is granted to me & upon y^e apprasement off his Estate it Dide amount about one hundred & ten pounde &, ass for your father's lande, heare

is one Mr. Thomas Merewether has gotten & Escheat for it pretending that there is no hare for' It but ass I have it in possession & iff you thinke fite to come to it I wolde have you to send me a power to kepe it in possession for you or if you thinke fitt to sell it if you thinke fite to Impower me I shall do my best endeavour in y^e sayle of it ffor your advantage but I wolde desire you to send me a power one way or other with what spede you can or Else y^e possession off it will be taken away from me & for aught I know itt is like it will cost you the price off the Land, before you will (have,) it. Again, which is all that offers at present ffrom, S^r, your assured friend & Sar^t. unknown.

JAMES BOUGHAN.

To Mr. Robert Halsey, to be left at Mrs. Anne Kay at the harp in ffitness rentes in London. The p^rsent Jan^r 22^d 1717. Proved by John Boughan son of y^e said James to be his father's handwriting.

Virg^a Wmsburg 9^{ber} 9th 1705.

Mr. Robert Halsey

S^r I had a tedious and sick voyage and could not Informe you last fleet any think of your affair, but this comes by a single ship bound for Bristoll & comes to informe you I brought hither three witnesses in my sloop besides myselfe to prove your papers at y^e first Generall Court, which will be some charge to you and I came to Court seasonably; for Boughan after he had prevented Mr. Merryweather his Escheating your Land, by produceing to y^e Jury of Inquisition your letters to your ffather, he immediately escheates for himselfe, and finding your 400 acres in the Escheat list, I made a motion to y^e Court to stop his proceedings which was accordingly done, soe that I fear trouble from him; and I must draw bills on you for my charge, which I hope you will answer. Co^{ll} Churchill is now a councell^r and will not take any personall trouble upon him, but countenances the thing, and soe my trouble must be the greater living at so great distance by water. I am afraid the

notary has not particularly described your ffather, by not calling him Tanner living at Piscataqua Creek in Rappahannock you may expect a further account ¶ y^e ffeet my service to M^r Parkhurst and let me know if he has or [is] likely to receive money for y^e Catechisms,* I am your most humble servant
FFRANCIS MAKEMIE. Direct your letters to me at Accomack in Virginia.

To Mr. Robert Halsey to be found at M^r Thomas Parkhurst at y^e three crowns & bible, Cheapside, London.

Virg^a James River 7^{br} 4 1706.

Mr. Robert Halsey

S^r I wrote you formerly, which I hope came safe to hand, informing you that when I went to Wmsburg to prove and record your papers, I found M^r Boughan excheating your Land after he had prevented M^r Merryweather doing so by producinge your letters to your father to y^e court or Jury of inquest, and I came searviceable to put a stop to it, and I have been lately with M^r Boughan who owns my power, and seems very ready to surrender and account, we went to y^e Land which he says is 300 acres tho as I wrote you I found in the Excheat list is 400 which he says is a mistake. The plantation is a ruined place, and Boughan seems inclinable to buy it, but greatly undervalues it, tho I believe I shall find a better Chapman as soon as I have a power to dispose thereof, & y^e sooner the better, Co^{ll} Will^m Churchill is a councill^r and so great to be Employed & declines being concerned, so that y^e whole matter, and all charges lyes upon me and I have made some disbursements allready which few would at such distance have undertaken, without Effects in their hands, & having disbursed money for carrying the witnesses proving & recording your Papers, as Mr Layfield y^e barer can Informe you, and I shall send ¶ y^e next an acc^t of particulars w^{ch} I cannot now, being abroad in y^e fleet. When with Maj^r Boughan he showed me the In-

* In 1691 Makemie published his "Catechisms" in which he attacked some of the tenets of the Quakers, and was answered by George Keith.

ventory of Personall Estate and his account of Disbursements and I find little of that coming to you but their are four particulars about personall Estate we could not agree about and as an Esyer way then former to stay with sloop and we consented to refer y^e 'Decision of them to that County Court and as an Easyer way then former to stay with sloop and hands till y^e Court, I employed a Gentleman of my acquaintance an attorney to propose it to Court & receive their opinion which when done that part will be soon settled, I found a poor shoemaker on y^e land & desired him to live there till further order, he paying y^e Quitt Rent.s I have drawn upon you for money I am already out of pocket, and must be more before I get away and hope you will honour and pay a bill for 8 £ sterl twelve shillings I have endorsed to M^r Layfield and if you send a full power to sell your land send it by M^r Layfield & let him & some with him bee witness.

I am in hast your srvt FFRANCIS MAKEMIE. To Mr. Robert Halsey at M^r Parkhurst at the Bible & three Crowns ¶ M^r Sam^l Layfield.

Virg^a Sept. 12, 1708.

S^r while M^r Makemie lived he employed me to sue for y^e account of your ffather Halseys Estate here, w^{ch} I did & sent him an account of it long before his Death, but finding that M^r Makemie had done nothing before his death but perhaps sent you y^e copy of y^e Reciepts w^{ch} I sent him, I was unwilling you should still lye out your money, so told Co^{ll} Churchill of it, Joyned in our Lre of Attorney but he told he had all along refusd to meddle & would not concern himself, I therefore desired him to give me your power of doing it, which he did & so comes y^e Inclosed bill of Exchange. Your Land here lyes neglected, I understand there is a man lives upon it that pays no rent nor takes any care of repairs, M^r Boughan that draws this bill has a mind to buy it, he says, & has writ to you of it, there are some Tobacco Debts which are still due, & now I have power shall get received for you this winter &

send to you, if I can be further serviceable you may (if you please) make use of your humble servant

ROBERT BEVERLEY.

But you must send me a full Lre of Attorney.

To M^r Robert Halsey, Stationer in London ¶ Conrad Huntington.

EXCERPTS FROM THE SOUTHERN LITERARY
MESSENGER.

Copied from *Southern Literary Messenger*, Vol. II., pages 469-471.

(We have rather accidentally met with these two poems, *The Belles of Williamsburg*, and *The Sequel to the Belles of Williamsburg*, both written and circulated in that place in 1777. These pieces are believed to have been either composed by two different gentlemen, or to have been the joint production of both. As we cannot, however, assign to each his due share, we do not think ourselves at liberty to mention their names—which (although the authors in question are now no more,) are still distinguished names in Virginia.)

THE BELLES OF WILLIAMSBURG.

Wilt thou, advent'rous pen, describe
The gay, delightful, silken tribe,
That maddens all our city;
Nor dread, lest while you foolish claim
A near approach to beauty's flame,
Icarus' fate may hit ye.

With singed pinions tumbling down,
The scorn and laughter of the town,
Thou'lt rue thy daring flight;
While every miss with cool contempt,
Affronted by the bold attempt,
Will, tittering, view thy plight.