

HISTORY
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN
NEW BERN, N. C.,

WITH
A RESUMÉ OF EARLY ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS IN
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA,

AND A
SKETCH OF THE EARLY DAYS OF NEW BERN, N. C.

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The test-oath was this: "I—(A. B.)—do declare that I do believe that there is not any transubstantiation in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or in the elements of bread and wine at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever."

The act of toleration permitted the following of the Thirty-nine Articles to be excepted to—a part of the 20th, about decreeing rites, etc.; the 27th, on baptism; the 34th to 36th, of traditions, homilies, and consecration of clergy.†

All this squints wonderfully towards an established Church.

Mr. Campbell preached in both Gaelic and English every Sabbath, and this practice prevailed in a few congregations down to a few years before our late war. His connection was with an independent Presbytery in South Carolina, where Presbyterian churches had been organized as early as 1682 and 1686. About 1773 he united with Orange Presbytery. He was an ardent and outspoken patriot, though the Highlanders, under a sense of the binding obligation of their oaths, fought against the colonies in the disastrous battle of Moore's Creek. Mr. Campbell was threatened with a bullet through his head, unless he kept quiet. He even refused to baptize the children of royalists!

Rev. Hugh McAden,

Already spoken of, was of Irish parentage, through born in Pennsylvania. He was graduated at Nassan Hall in 1753; licensed in 1755, and ordained in 1757, by New Castle Presbytery, and dismissed in 1759 to Hanover Presbytery, which swept indefinitely southward from Virginia. His journal indicates that, in 1755, the uneasy year of Braddock's defeat, he made a missionary tour over North and South Carolina, partly in company with Rev. Andrew Bay, who had been commissioned for a preaching service in Carolina by the Synod of Philadelphia and New York, and was several times *ordered to visit New Bern*. Mr. McAden (or "McCadden") preached on the Neuse, Contentenay, Pamlico, and Tar rivers, and in Edgecombe County sometimes in Presbyterian churches, and sometimes in

† Neil's Puritans, Vol. II. 345, 483; Schaff's Creeds, I. 619—Burnet: Macaulay.

Baptist, to mixed congregations of Presbyterians, Churchmen, Baptists, and Quakers—good and honest Quakers—as he terms them. The Baptists were very kind and liberal. Great religious destitution prevailed everywhere. One Sabbath, April 4, 1756, he remained at Mr. Thomas Little's, near Salter's Ferry, Pamlico. He had not heard a Presbyterian minister in the twenty-eight years he had lived in Carolina; so he kept Mr. McAden until Wednesday, and gathered the neighbors to hear another sermon. Presbyterians were scattered through this section, but there were no organized churches.

At Mr. Dickson's, the Clerk of Duplin County, he preached to a considerable congregation, chiefly Irish. These people made out a hearty call for his pastoral services, as did also "the Welch Tract," before mentioned, and promised him a proper support. This call antedated that of Mr. Campbell, given as the first, because we have it in its entirety. In 1759, Mr. McAden returned and settled amid the Presbyterians of Duplin and New Hanover, and on the Neuse. Here he labored for ten years, respected and beloved by all. He was a man of thoughtful face, in the prime of life, polite, and of easy manners. Doubtless he sometimes visited and preached in New Bern, the neighboring city and seaport of the section. Ill health caused him to remove to Caswell County, where he died, on January 20, 1781, and was buried in the grave-yard of Red House Church, near Milton. *McAden and Campbell were the noble and blessed patriarchs of Presbyterianism in Eastern Carolina and in other portions of the State. Let their names be held in continued honor.*

Robinson and Stanford.

After some years of precarious ministerial supply, these congregations, in 1793, secured the services of Rev. John Robinson, who remained with them to their edification until 1800, when he removed to Fayetteville. Rev. Samuel Stanford, of Orange Presbytery, succeeded him, and conducted a classical academy at the Grove. This school, or one near their homes, was maintained for many years by succeeding pastors