

AMERICAN
PRESBYTERIANISM

ITS ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY

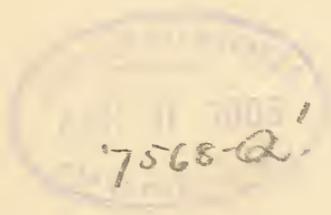
TOGETHER WITH AN APPENDIX OF LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS, MANY OF WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN DISCOVERED

BY

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WITH MAPS



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CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1885

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EDWARD O. JENKINS' SONS.

ling principall of the Colledge of Glasgow " pr Dr Nichols
This "

(Dorso) New York Nov. 25, 1723.

XXI.

LETTER OF GEORGE McNISH, 1718.

This letter is No. 118 in Vol. XXII. of the Wodrow *MSS.*

Jamaica on Long Island Nov: 15: 1718

Rt Rd & hond Sr

I am by order of our Synod appointed to write yow a letter of thanks, for the many singular favours your exemplary piety has mov'd yow to do for the interest of God & godliness in these American parts: I am to tell yow Sr, our Synod are extreme sensible of the great hand yow have had both in projecting & bringing to beare several excellent things for encouraging the ministry here, beare with the expression, your commendation & praise is truly among the ministers of Christ in our bounds, reflect, Sr, what pleasure it must be to us to see that we are in the thoughts & pious affections of a man of your station & character in the church of God & that at so great a distance yow have heart and goodness as well as ability to be aiding to a few mean instruments seeking to recover poor,lost sheep in this vast wilderness.

It's many times a wonder to my thoughts, how many great & pious men in Brittain can beare with themselves, in living in so narrow a capacity as they do, do they not miss it in expounding or applying the 2d petition of our Lords prayer, men to whom the Lord has given riches learning piety great interest yet want largeness of heart to communicate to the spreading the doctrine of Christianity among men, humanly speaking, I see not what considerable progress christianity will obtain in these plantations of America, 'till the antient settlements in Brittain & Ireland shall put on a true generous christian spirit & lay themselves out to seek the good of the disperst of these nations in America. May the desireable time come when the Lord shall claim America for his own & blessed be they who have a hand in ministring to so great a work.

I shall conclude with my hearty desires to the Lord of all goodness for favours of his right hand on yow & all yours, in-

treating withall, you'll go on to strengthen our interest, & devise liberally for spreading the doctrin of salvation among us. I am

Much honoured

Your very humble ser

Geo: McNish

P: S: Mr James Anderson having a smal bill of five pounds sterling due to Robert Anderson merchant in Bells Wynd in Glasgow, it's desired said bill with interest may be paid to said Anderson, Mr Anderson having satisfied for the like sune here to the Synod in consideration of the money raised by your Synod.

G. M.

Addressed: " To The Right Reverend Mr John Stirling princi-
pall of the college of Glasgow "

(Dorso) Synod Pensilvanie Nov. 15, 1718.

XXII.

LETTER OF GEORGE GILLESPIE, 1723.

This letter is No. 120 in Vol. XXII. of the Wodrow *MSS*.

Reverend Sr

Being well acquainted wth your publick spirit, for the Interest of Glorious Christ, I have embraced this opportunity, now presented, to send you this letter.

As to the affairs of Christ in our parts of the world: There are a great many congregations erected, and now erecting; for wthin the space of five years by gone, near to two hundred Families have come into our parts from Ireland, and more are following: They are generally Presbyterians. So, it would appear, y^t Glorious Christ hath great designs in America; tho' I am afraid not to be effectuated in my days: for the mi^{rs} and congregations be multiplied wth us; yet alas, there is little of the power and life of Religion wth either: The Lord disappoint my fears. There are not above 30 ministers & probationer preachers in our Synod, and yet six of the said number have been grossly scandalous; Suspension for 4 Sabbaths hath been the greatest censure inflicted as yet.

Mr Alexander Hutchison was ordained upon the 6th of June