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
OF THE

REV. JOHN H. RICE, D.D.

First Professor of Christian Theology in Union Theological Seminary, Virginia.

BY WILLIAM MAXWELL.



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I think that religion has gradually declined within the bounds of this Presbytery since you left us. There has been added to my congregation only one member during the last year. I do not know that any of my colleagues have been more successful. Perhaps it may have been better with Speece. The judgments which impend the nation seem to have not the least effect. Indeed the people who are immediately within the sphere of my observation seem to be more gay, more thoughtless, and more worldly minded than usual. These things almost overwhelm me, and sometimes I am driven almost to my *wit's end*. But by some or other good word, and encouraging promise, I am supported; and at this time I feel more than usual desires to do good in the vineyard of the Lord.

I have heard nothing of the proceedings of my Baptist brethren, since I wrote last. I have heard, but know not the truth of the report, that they have concluded to let me alone. Old Mr. Weatherford advises them not to undertake to write against *Presbyterians*. When will the time come when the churches will have peace among themselves? I am sick to the heart of controversy.

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER.

*Charlotte, Jan'y 28th, 1810.*

I think the state of religion in this country worse by some degrees than when you left it. Presbyterian congregations are decreasing every year, and appear as if they would dwindle to nothing. The Baptists and Methodists are at a stand. A strange apathy has seized the people. The judgments with which our nation has been visited, and the more awful ones which impend, have produced no effect; or if any, a most disastrous one. Instead of being a blessing, they are a curse. The people feel about nothing but money. As to religion, the very stillness of death reigns amongst us. I can find no resemblance to this part of the country but in

Ezekiel's valley of dry bones. I am sure you do not forget your old friends. Remember them at the throne of grace, and let me particularly have an interest in your prayers.

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER.

*Charlotte, March 18th, 1810.*

I suppose you have heard of Clement Read's last movement. He is now in the employ of the Synod of Virginia, and is about forming a missionary circuit through Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Amelia, through which he designs to itinerate once a month. He appears to be full of zeal, and I hope will do good. He is now altogether a Presbyterian. The Presbytery of Lexington have lately licensed three young men, Messrs. Graham, Ervin, and Wilson, of all of whom, (especially of Graham,) common fame speaks well. We expect to turn out two or three licentiates in April, who will engage in the missionary business. So that, in this part of the vineyard, we shall have a pretty considerable addition of labourers. This is encouraging. God grant them success!

Grigsby writes from Norfolk, that the work is too heavy for him there, and begs that a missionary may be stationed with him for a few months. I believe he will engage for his support. Ichab Graham is about to go. I have told you every thing that is encouraging amongst us. We have just enough to excite our hopes that God is about to do something for old Virginia yet.

Old Mr. O'Kelly, the chief of the Christian Methodists, has passed through the neighbourhood. I understand he is nearly deserted by his followers, and talks of going home, and hanging his harp upon the willow. He says, "That there has sprung up in the country a sect under the general name of Christians, who administer adult baptism only to please the Baptists; who hold Arminian sentiments to catch the Methodists; and yet will allow a man to be a