

A  
GENERAL ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
RISE AND STATE  
OF THE  
COLLEGE,

LATELY ESTABLISHED

In the Province of *NEW-JERSEY*,

In A M E R I C A:

And of the END and DESIGN of its  
INSTITUTION.

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Originally published in *America*, An. 1752, by the Trustees of the said COLLEGE ;  
and now republished, in Pursuance of their Order, with some Alterations and  
Additions, adapted to its present State ; for the Information of the Friends of  
*Learning and Piety in Great-Britain ;*  
By the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>rs</sup>. *Gilbert Tennent* and *Samuel Davies*, Agents for the said  
Trustees.

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*Nor ev'n to Britain is our Care confin'd :  
Lo ! swarming o'er the new discover'd World,  
Gay Colonies extend  
Of Britain's Empire the Support and Strength.  
Behold ! still more these happy Seats to bless,  
The Muses come, and touch the warbling Lyre,  
In Shades that never heard their Voice before—  
See ! the wild Indian, by their Music tam'd,  
His savage Manners quits, and from their Lore  
Mild Wisdom learns, and Arts of polish'd Life !  
Lo ! at my pow'rfull Word, how wide around  
Reforming SCIENCE spreads her sacred Light—  
Till all America's untutor'd Sons  
Feel the blest Influence of my gentle Sway,  
By England's Scepter guarded and sustain'd.*

THOMPSON'S Liberty.

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L O N D O N Reprinted: Anno 1754.

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A  
GENERAL ACCOUNT

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The *Rise* and *State* of the College, &c.

**N**OTHING has a more direct Tendency to advance the Happiness and Glory of a Community, than the founding of *public Schools* and *Seminaries of Learning*, for the *Education of Youth*, and adorning their Minds with useful Knowledge and Virtue. Hereby the *Rude* and *Ignorant* are civiliz'd and render'd humane; Persons, who would otherwise be useless Members of Society, are qualified to sustain with Honour, the Offices they may be invested with, for the public Service; Reverence of the *Deity*, *Filial-Piety*, and *Obedience* to the Laws, are inculcated and promoted.

THE Sciences have no where flourish'd with more Success, than in our *Mother-Country*. The Universities and Seminaries of Learning in *England* and *Scotland*, are annually sending abroad into the Kingdom, Proficients in all Kinds of Literature; Men of refin'd Sentiments, solid Judgments, and noble Principles; who spread (if the Expression may be allowed) a Kind of literary Glory over the *British* Nation.

*AMERICA* remain'd, during a long Period, in the thickest Darkness of *Ignorance* and *Barbarism*, till Christianity, at the Introduction of the *Europeans*, enlightened her *Hemisphere* with the salutary Beams of *Life* and *Immortality*. *Science*, her constant Attendant, soon rais'd her depress'd Head, and the *Arts* began to flourish. *New-England* first felt her *benign* Influences, whose Sons she inspired with a generous Emulation of erecting *Schools* and *Colleges*, for the Instruction of their Youth, and instilling into the tender Mind, the Principles of *Piety* and *Learning*. The South-westward Colonies, except *Virginia*, continued a considerable Number of Years, without any public *Institutions* for the Cultivation of the *Sciences*. At length, several Gentlemen residing in and near the Province of *New-Jersey*, who were Well-Wishers to the Felicity of their Country, and real Friends of *Religion* and *Learning*, having observ'd the vast Increase of those Colonies, with the Rudeness, and Ignorance of their Inhabitants, for want of the necessary Means of Improvement, first projected the Scheme of a Collegiate *Education* in that Province.

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THE immediate Motives to this generous Design, were,—the great Number of Christian Societies then lately form'd in various Parts of the Country, where many Thousands of the Inhabitants, ardently desirous of the Administration of religious *Ordinances*, were entirely destitute of the necessary Means of Instruction, and incapable of being relieved;—the urgent Applications that were annually made by those vacant Congregations to the *Clergy* in their collective Bodies; complaining in the most moving Manner, of their unhappy Circumstances, in being depriv'd of the ordinary Means of *Salvation*, and left to grope after Happiness, almost in the Obscurity of *Paganism*, tho' the Light of *Revelation* shone on their surrounding Neighbours;—the great Scarcity of Candidates for the *Ministerial Function*, to comply with these pious and christian Demands; the Colleges of *New-England*, educating hardly a competent Number for the Service of its own Churches. †—These Considerations were the most urgent Arguments for the immediate Prosecution of the abovementioned Scheme of Education.

ACCORDINGLY, in the Year 1747, a Petition was presented to his Excellency JONATHAN BELCHER, Esq; Governor of that Province, (a Gentleman, who has long signaliz'd himself, as a Patron of *Religion* and *Learning*,) praying his Majesty's Grant of a Charter, for the Establishment of a publick *Seminary of Literature* in *New-Jersey*. His Excellency, with the Approbation of the Council and Attorney General of the said Province, was pleased to comply with their Request; and order'd a Charter to pass the Seals, incorporating sundry Gentlemen, to the Number of Twenty-three; by the Name of *The Trustees of the College of New-Jersey*; and appointing the Governor of *New-Jersey*, for the Time being, who is his MAJESTY'S Representative, to act as their President, when convened. This Charter places the Society upon the most *catholic* Foundation: All Protestants of every Denomination, who are loyal Subjects to our MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN; (the happy Effects of whose mild and equal Administration, the remotest Colonies of the *British* Empire sensibly experience, and gratefully acknowledge;) are admitted to the Enjoyment of all its Priviledges, and allowed the unlimited Exercise of their Religion.

THE Trustees, thus authorized with ample Powers, for the Execution of this Laudable Design; in Conformity to the Plan of their Charter, applied themselves with the utmost Deliberation, to form and enact such Rules and Orders for the Regulation of the Methods of Instruction, and Conduct of the Students, as might tend to prevent the Entrance of Vice into the Society, and the Introduction of Idleness, Vanity, and extravagant Expences amongst its Members. It would be repugnant to the Design of a general Narrative, as well as impertinent to the Reader, to enter into a minute Detail of these several private Regulations. It will suffice to say, that the two principal Objects the Trustees had in View, were SCIENCE and RELIGION. Their first Concern was, to cultivate the Minds of the Pupils, in all those Branches of Erudition, which are generally taught in the Universities

† This is attested by the associated Ministers of *Boston, New-England*, in their Recommendation of the Infant College of *New-Jersey*: which the *Agents* for the said College, now in *London*, have shewn to the Reverend Gentlemen in this City, that have recommended their *Petition*; and are ready to shew to any Enquirer.

fities abroad : And to perfect their Design, their next Care was to rectify the Heart, by inculcating the great Precepts of *Christianity*, in order to make them good.

UPON these Views this Society was founded. Providence so far smil'd upon the Undertaking, in the first Instance, as to point out a Gentleman, possess'd of every requisite Endowment, to be placed at the Head of such an Academy. The Reverend Mr. AARON BURR, has been long known in these Parts of *America*, for his *Piety*, *Affability*, universal Acquaintance with the *Arts* and *Sciences*, and his easy, familiar Methods of *Instruction*. Under his immediate Tuition and Government, this Society has flourished far beyond the most rais'd and sanguine Expectations: The Number of Students has increas'd, in the short Space of five Years, from Eight or Ten, to about SIXTY ; besides near FORTY in the Grammar-School.

As no human Institutions in a World of Imperfection and Error, are so completely model'd, as to exclude the Possibility of farther Emendation ; it may be said, without any Intention of Disparagement to other learned Seminaries, that the Governors of this College have endeavour'd to improve, upon the commonly received Plans of Education. They proceed not so much in the Method of a dogmatic Institution, by prolix Discourses, on the different Branches of the *Sciences*, by burdening the Memory, and imposing heavy and disagreeable Tasks ; as in the *Socratic* Way of free Dialogue, between Teacher and Pupil, or between the Students themselves, under the Inspection of their Tutors. In this Manner, the Attention is engaged, the Mind entertain'd, and the Scholar animated in the Pursuit of Knowledge. In fine, the Arts and Sciences are convey'd into the Minds of Youth, in a Method, the most easy, natural, and familiar. But as Religion ought to be the End of all Instruction, and gives it the last Degree of Perfection : As one of the primary Views of this Foundation, was to educate young Gentlemen for the sacred Office of the *Ministry*, and fit them for the Discharge of so noble an Employment ; *Divinity*, the Mistress of the *Sciences*, engages the peculiar Attention of the Governors of this Society. Stated Times are set apart for the Study of the *Holy Scriptures*, in the original Languages, and stated Hours daily consecrated to the Service of Religion. The utmost Care is taken to discountenance Vice, and to encourage the Practice of Virtue ; and a manly, rational, and christian Behaviour in the Students. *Enthusiasm* on the one Hand, and *Prophaneness* on the other, are equally guarded against, and meet with the severest Checks.

UNDER such Management, this Seminary, from the smallest Beginnings, quickly drew the public Attention, enlarged the Number of her Pupils, rais'd her Reputation ; and now, tho' in her Infancy, almost rivals her ancient *Sisters* upon the Continent.

DAILY Observation evinces, that in Proportion as Learning makes its Progress in a Country, it softens the natural Roughness, eradicates the Prejudices, and transforms the Genius and Disposition of its Inhabitants. *New-Jersey*, and the adjacent

cent Provinces, already feel the happy Effects of this useful Institution. A general Desire of Knowledge, seems to be spreading among the People: Parents are inspired with an Emulation of cultivating the Minds of their Offspring: Public Stations are honourably fill'd by Gentlemen, who have received their Education here: And from hence, many Christian Assemblies are furnish'd with Men of distinguished Talents, for the Discharge of the *Pastoral Office*.

THE Trustees acknowledge, with the utmost Gratitude, the several Benefactions that have been made to this *Infant Society*, by the *Lovers of Piety and Learning*. But notwithstanding the Assistances obtained; considering the constant annual Maintenance of the President and Tutors;—the Expence that must unavoidable attend the Erection of an Edifice, with a requisite Number of Apartments;—the building an House for the Residence of the President;—furnishing the Library: which is at present very small;—and procuring a proper *Apparatus* for *philosophical Experiments*;—the State of their Treasury, is altogether inadequate to those chargeable Demands. † These Things, so absolutely necessary to the Well-being of the Society, must remain uneffected, untill Providence is pleased, to excite the Beneficence of those, who wish the Prosperity of *Religion and Literature*, in the uncultivated Parts of the World. The Members of the College, who are annually growing more numerous, for want of a public Building for their Reception, must struggle under the greatest Difficulties, in procuring Accommodations in private Families; and that too, in a dispersed Village, where their daily Attendance on the Collegiate Exercises, is subject to numberless Inconveniences.

FROM the above Representation of the Ends for which this Corporation was founded; the happy Effects of its Institution; and its present Necessitous Circumstances; it is hoped, that the Pious and Benevolent in *Great-Britain*, into whose Hands these Papers may fall, will extend their generous *Aids*, in the Prosecution and Completion of so excellent and useful a Design. A Design! upon the Success of which, the Happiness of Multitudes in sundry Colonies, and their numerous Posterity, in the present and future Ages far distant, in a great Measure depends. A Design! which not only tends to promote the Weal of the *British* Inhabitants, but also of the *German Emigrants*; and to spread the Gospel of Salvation among the benighted *Indian Tribes*, and attach them to his MAJESTY'S Government. A Design!

† The Trustees have received about £1200 Sterling in *America*, the yearly Interest of which they have voted to be applied to the Support of the President and Tutors: But it is hardly sufficient for that Purpose; much less for the Increase of their Number, which is necessary even at present.—The Inhabitants of *Prince-Town*, where the College is to be erected, have also given in Land forever to the Value of £400 Sterling, for the Seat of the College, and to supply it with Fire-Wood.

The Number of Scholars, including those in the Grammar-School, is already near a HUNDRED; and there is no small Prospect of their annual Increase. They cannot therefore be accommodated in a Building of less than forty Rooms, with a large Hall for public Exercises, a Library-Room, a Dwelling-House for the President, and other convenient Buildings: The Expence of all which, it is thought, will amount to above £2000 Sterling, besides the Charge of enlarging the Library, and furnishing a *Philosophical Apparatus*. And as there are many in those Infant Colonies, who are not able to defray the Expences of a Collegiate Education; it is therefore necessary to raise a considerable Fund for the Support of Youth of Genius and Piety, to qualify them for the Service of the Churches there.

sign ! which is not calculated to promote the low Purposes of a Party, \* but in its Views and Consequences affects the *Protestant* Interest in general, and *Great-Britain* in particular, both in *Religious* and *Civil* Respects ; since by this, the *fili- al* Duty of her Descendants will be inculcated, their Manners reformed, and her Trade increased ; which is the Basis of her Empire, Glory and Felicity.

THE Inhabitants of the Infant Colonies, dependant upon this Seminary, unable to relieve themselves, are constrained to solicit and implore the Assistance of others. And to whom shall they look, but to their tender and powerful *Parent* ? — To move her Compassion, they plead their *Relation* as Children, as Fellow-Subjects, as Christian and Protestant Brethren with her Sons that still enjoy the Advantages of residing in their native Country—They plead the deplorable Circumstances of the Church, and the Exigences of the State, for Want of such an Institution bro't to Maturity—And they beg Leave modestly to intimate their *Importance* to their Mother-Country, as they enlarge the *British* Dominions upon a vast Continent, whither the industrious Poor may transplant themselves, and find a comfortable Subsistence ; as they are a Check upon the Growth of the *French* Power in *America* ; engage the *Indian* Natives to the *British* Interest ; furnish various Assistances in Time of War against the common Enemy ; and carry on sundry Branches of Trade, advantageous to *Great-Britain* ; which will undoubtedly flourish more, in Proportion to their Improvements in the liberal Arts and Sciences ; for History and Observation assure us, that *Learning* and *Trade* mutually promote each other.

NEXT to the Advancement of the *Divine Honour*, the noblest Pursuit of Man, surely nothing can afford the human Mind a more pleasing Reflection, than the being instrumental in promoting the general Felicity of Mankind. These important Ends can by no Means be so effectually served, as by forming the rising Generation to be useful Members of the Community ; and by diffusing the Light of Christianity, among the Ignorant and uncivilized Nations of the Earth.

\* The Trustees of the said College have not made such Regulations as may burden the Consciences of any, or confine the Advantages of the Institution to a *Party* ; nor did they desire such a Power ; as is evident from the following Words of the Charter— “ The said Petitioners have also expressed their earnest Desire, “ *that those of every religious Denomination may have free and equal Liberty and Advantages of Education in the said COL-* “ *LEGE; any different Sentiments in Religion notwithstanding*”——Nor can the Trustees exercise such Power, in Time coming, without counteracting, and of consequence forfeiting their Charter; the Words of which are these —“ The Trustees of the said College are hereby empowered to make such Ordinances and Laws, as may “ tend to the good Government of the said College, not repugnant to the Laws and Statutes of our Realm “ of *Great-Britain*, or of this our Province of *New-Jersey* ; and not excluding any Person of any religious Denomi- “ nation whatsoever, from free and equal Liberty and Advantage of Education, or from any of the Liberties, Privi- “ leges or Immunities of the said College, on Account of his or their being of a religious Profession different from the said “ Trustees of the said College.”——

P O S T.

## P O S T S C R I P T.

THE Trustees, upon Encouragement given by some GENTLEMEN in GREAT-BRITAIN, have sent over the Rev<sup>d</sup>. Mess<sup>rs</sup>. GILBERT TENNENT and SAMUEL DAVIES as their Agents, who since their Arrival, have received between 4 and 5 Hundred Pounds from about 80 Persons in *London*—They are now ready to lay their Credentials before such as desire Satisfaction; and to wait upon those who are disposed to contribute towards this important Design. And as they intend to set out for *Scotland* some Time in April next, and to return about August, in order to embarque for *America*; they have requested and nominated the following Gentlemen;

Dr. Benjamin Avery at Guy's Hospital,  
 William Belbier Esq; in *Lumbard-Street*,  
 Mr. Jasper Mauduit in *Lime-Street*,  
 Mr. Alexander Champion in *Ayliffe-Street*, *Goodman's-Fields*,  
 Mr. Adam Anderson at the South-Sea House,  
 Mr. Joseph Mico in *Watling-Street*,  
 Mr. Dennis De Berdt in *Artillery-Court*,  
 And Mr. John Ward opposite to the *Royal-Exchange*, to receive such Benefactions as may be made in their Absence.

LONDON, *Winchester-Street*, near  
 little Moor-Gate, March 5. 1754. }

