

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

RELATING TO

REMARKABLE PERIODS

OF

THE SUCCESS

Ind. Breckinridge
THE GOSPEL,
AND

EMINENT INSTRUMENTS

EMPLOYED IN PROMOTING IT.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

MATTH. XXVIII. 19, 20. GO AND TEACH ALL NATIONS:—AND LO,
I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE WORLD.

COMPILED BY

JOHN GILLIES,

ONE OF THE MINISTERS OF GLASGOW.

IN MAGNIS VOLUISSE.

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soul against sin and myself for it, that I have thought, if it were lawful, I could freely try to pluck my heart out, and tear it in pieces.

Since you was here, I have been among my people dealing with them plainly about their souls state in their houses; examining them one by one as to their experiences, and telling natural people the danger of their state; and exhorting them that were totally secure, to seek convictions; and those that were convinced, to seek Jesus; and reproved pious people for their faults: and blessed be God, I have seen hopeful appearances of concern amongst a pretty many in the places I belong to," &c. G—— T——

[From a Letter from Mr. Gilbert Tennent to Mr. Whitefield.—Glasgow Weekly History, N^o 1.]

New-York, April 25th, 1741.—“ Very D. B. In my return homewards, I have been preaching daily, ordinarily three times a day, and sometimes oftner (a few days in the aforesaid space excepted) and thro' pure grace I have met with success much exceeding my expectations. In the town of Boston there were many hundreds, if not thousands, as some have judged, under soul-concern. When I left that place, many children were deeply affected about their souls, and several had received consolation. Some aged persons in church communion, and some open opposers were convinced: divers of the young and middle-aged were converted: and several Negroes were hopefully converted. The concern was rather more general at Charles-town; multitudes were awakened, and several had received great consolation, especially among the young people, children and Negroes. At Cambridge also in the college and town, the shaking among the dry bones was general; and several of the students have received consolation. In these places, I found several fruits of your ministry. In Ipswich, there was a general concern among the inhabitants, so in this place also I saw some of the fruits of your labours. There were also several awakened in Portsmouth, in Greenland, in Ipswich, Hamlet, Marble-head, Chelsea, Malden, Hampton, New-town, Rosebury, Plymouth, Bristol, Providence, Stonington, Geatton, New-London, Lime, Guilford, New-haven, Milford, Stratford, New-port. The concern at New-port, was very considerable. Divers Quakers and children came to me, in distress about their souls, with others. At New-haven, the concern was general both in the college and town:—about thirty students came on foot ten miles to hear the word of God. And at Milford the concern was general. I believe by a moderate computation that divers thousands have been awakened, glory be to God on high! I have had good information this journey, that God has blessed my poor labours on Long-Island in my pass to New-England. I thank you, Sir, that you did excite me to this journey. There have been several children in several other places beside these mentioned, who after distress, have received comfort. The work of God spreads more and more. My brother William has had remarkable success this Winter at Burlington. I hear that there are several religious societies formed there. Mr. John Cross has had remarkable success at Statten Island, and many I hear, have been awakened by the labours of

Mr. Rolinson in divers places of the York government. Mr. Mills has had remarkable success in Connecticut, particularly at New-haven. And I hear that Mr. Blair has had remarkable success in Pennsylvania. Mr. Noble and family are well. The Lord bless you dear brother. I add no more, but love and remains yours." G. TENNENT.

P. S. From Horseneck to York beyond Boston, there is in most places a greater or less degree of soul-concern.

[From a Letter from Dr. John Nichols, Physician in New-York to Nicholas Spence, Agent for the Church of Scotland.—Glasgow Weekly History, N^o 12.]

May 20th, 1741.—“I received yours of the 23d of January last, and sent your letter for Mr. William Tennent; he has been a very useful man in training up of youth for the holy ministry: he hath had four sons ministers, but one of them is dead; Gilbert, William, and Charles are yet alive, all of them gospel-preachers, and the labours of them blessed with abundant success. My dear friend, you desire to know the state of religion in this country; and I have good news to tell you—Our Lord Jesus is triumphantly getting himself the victory, the kingdom of Satan falling as lightening to the ground before him, many made to cry out, “What shall we do to be saved?” And that in many places and corners of this country from Boston to Philadelphia; yea, whole colleges under convictions! and many savingly converted. especially the youth at the college of New-Haven, in the colony of Connecticut, young children of six, eight, or ten years of age concerned about their salvation, and inviting one another to come to Christ! Our minister (Mr. Pemberton, minister at New-York) having been lately sent for to Connecticut college, upon the account of the many distressed and exercised people there, in his going and coming, preached twice a-day at different places, told me, that several little children followed him to his lodging, weeping and anxiously concerned about the salvation of their souls. O the power of Divine Grace! There seems to be an unusual effusion of the Spirit in many places, especially among the young generation, and blessed be the Lord, we in this sinful city, particularly in our congregation, are not without the visible effects thereof; many having been, within these four or five months, under strong convictions, and not a few, we have great hope, savingly converted to the Lord Jesus Christ. O dear Redeemer, go on conquering and to conquer!

Dear Sir, You may think these things strange, and indeed so they are, but no stranger than true; I have been an eye-witness to some of them, and, to the praise of FREE GRACE, have experienced them in my own family particularly. The rev. Mr. Whitefield was made the blessed instrument of sowing the seed in these parts^a, and the good Lord hath in his mercy stirred up, and spirited seven more ministers to water it, viz. Messrs. Gilbert and William Tennent, Mr. Pemberton, Mr. Burr, Mr. Mills, Mr. Leonard, and Mr. Davenport, and some others. But alas, Satan is using his utmost endeavours to drive some of them to ex-

^a How much the Lord was pleased to bless the labours of Messrs. Whitefield, Tennent, &c. in America, will appear farther in the next chapter.