

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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disposed to hear or speak of the things of God. Multitudes flock to the evening lecture, tho' it has sometimes been the worst of weather. Ministers seem to preach with more life, and the great auditories seem to hear with solemn attention, and, I hope, our Lord Jesus is getting to himself the victory over the hearts of many sinners." Others write to the same effect. All love, all glory be to God.

For this let men revile my name,
No cross I shun, I fear no shame;
All hail reproach! and welcome pain!
Only thy terrors, Lord, restrain.

[From a Letter from Mr. G— T— to Mr. Whitefield.—Glasgow Weekly History, N^o 3.]

New-Brunswick, Dec. 1. 1739.—“ Very R. and D. B.. I think I never found such a strong and passionate affection to any stranger as to you, when I saw your courage and labour for God at New-York; I found a willingness in my heart to die with you, or to die for you.—The reason why I spoke so little for the most part of the time while I was with you, was a shameful sense I had of my ignorance and barrenness, after such a multitude of waterings and scalings as God had given me. Though I am as a brute beast before God, one of the meanest and vilest worms that ever crawled on the creation of God, yet I must say to his praise, and my own shame, that I have had in time past such discoveries of my great Father's dear affection as have overcome me. For months together my soul has been so ravished with divine objects, that my animal spirits have been wasted, and my sleep much broken. I have been made to loath my food, because of the superior sweetness I have found in Christ. I could not refrain my soul from a secret longing for reproach, poverty, imprisonment and death for a glorious Christ, that thereby I might testify a grateful regard to his unspeakably dear and very venerable Majesty. I could not refrain wishing that every hair of my head was a life, that I might lay it down freely for my sweet Lord Jesus. The fears of bringing any reproach on his religion has many times brought bitter tears from my eyes and heart. Sometimes when travelling on the road, while I beheld the canopy of Heaven, my heart has been suddenly ravished with love to God, as my Father; that I could not forbear crying out in the pleasing transports of a child-like affection, Father! Father! with a full and sweet assurance that he was my Father, and my God.—In the night-season when I awoke, my soul was still with God: the passion of my soul for Christ was so vehement, that my dreams were full of him. It made my rest very broken, and caused me often to speak through my sleep. And thus it was for a long tract of time. But alas, when the great God wisely withdrew his quickening presence, and let Satan loose upon me, O what terrible havock did he make in my soul, and that alas, too much with my will. I thought myself a monster in iniquity, and that there was some peculiar brutishness in my heart, that none had but myself.—This made me often wish for death to get clear of it. This hath often enraged my

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