

DOCUMENTS

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RELATING TO THE

COLONIAL HISTORY

OF THE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

EDITED BY

WILLIAM NELSON.

VOLUME XII.

- I. SOME ACCOUNT OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, PARTICULARLY OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, AND LIBRARIES IN WHICH THEY MAY BE FOUND. PART II.—MASSACHUSETTS.
- II. EXTRACTS FROM AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, RELATING TO NEW JERSEY.

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thereby to enable them to pay the Legacies in the said Will Bequeathed, otherwise they may expect to be Sued in a very short Time, they having already farr relapsed the Time of Payment. And all Persons that have any Demands on the said Estate, or Accounts depending, are desired to come and adjust the same with

Joseph Kaighin,¹ in *New-Jersey*,
and *John Dillwyn*, in *Philadelphia* } Executors.

—*The American Weekly Mercury*, Dec. 25 to
Jan. 1. 1740, 1.

New York, Decemb. 15.

Value of Paper Money, or Bills of Credit in the Plantations.

New England, Connecticut, Rhode-Island, New-Hampshire, 525 l. *New-York*, 160 l. *The Jersey's*, 160 l. *Pennsylvania*, 170 l. *Maryland*, 200 l. *North-Carolina*, 1400 l. *South-Carolina*, 800 l. for 100 l. Sterling.—*The Boston Evening-Post*, Monday, Jan. 12. 1741. No. 284.

To the Author of the Letter in the Post-Boy, of the 28th of December last.

Sir,

In Answer to Your's of *December* the 28th (which I received in the publick Print in my return

¹ John Kaighn, a native of the Isle of Man, was a carpenter, a resident of Byberry, Bucks county, Penn. in 1694. In 1695 he m. (his second wife) Ann, widow of Andrew Griscom, and sister of John Dole, of Newton township, in Old Gloucester county, N. J. In 1696 he bought a tract of 455 acres in Newton. He was a Judge and member of the Legislature. He died in 1724. His son Joseph was b. 4 December, 1702; was surveyor of the highways in 1723, and assessor from 1736 until his death, in 1749. In 1727 he m. Mary Estaugh, of Philadelphia, dau. of James and niece of John Estaugh, of Hadonfield. He left children Joseph, John (a physician), Isaac, James, Elizabeth. He lived in a substantial brick house part of which was still standing in 1877, near Kaighn's Point ferry.—*Clement's First Settlers in Newton Township*, 153-7.

from the Eastward) I would observe, that you have been misinformed as to that Matter of Charge you alledge; viz. of my leaving my Flock from Time to Time destitute and unprovided for: In my late Journey to the Southward, which was for two Months space, just before I came this Way, my People were constantly supplied; and before I came into the Motion of travelling into these Northern Colonies, the Neighbouring Ministers (of whose Integrity I have good Assurance) of their own accord, promised to supply my People: and therefore your Inuendo's of my being unnatural, and worse than an Infidel, bottom'd upon a wrong Hypothesis, might have been spar'd.

In Answer to the Question you put to my Conscience, (namely, Whether or not, the Reason of my travelling so many hundreds of Miles to preach the Gospel, was not founded upon the insufficiency of the Ministers for their Office?) I beg leave to observe, that my Opinion of the Ministry of *New-England*, was the same before I came this Way, as it is now; viz that there are (as in other professing Countries) some good, and some bad among them, some sound in Principle, and some unsound; and further add, that I was informed before I left home by divers Persons worthy of Credit, that there has been in most Places of *New England*, for some considerable tract of Time, a lamentable Decay of the Power of Godliness, both among Ministers and People; so that there has been little to be heard, of a Work of Conviction and Conversion carrying on in them:

And this divers worthy Persons among the Ministry as well as Laity of *New England*, have acknowledged in my hearing, to be a Truth bitterly to be bewail'd ! And it is probable, that if the Author of the Letter duly considers the present State of Things, he will be of the same Sentiment.

The Occasion of my Travels, was not a Notion of any superior Qualifications in me, for the carrying on of that good work, Which GOD has more remarkably begun of late in this Land. Neither was the Design hereof to bring the standing Ministry into Contempt. And it seems not so Kind in this Gentleman as could be wish'd for, to insinuate this upon so slender a Foundation, which will easily bear a contrary construction. Does not the faithful preaching of the Word of GOD by Strangers, tend to strengthen the Hands of those Ministers, who deserve to be encouraged ; and as for dead dry Drones, it is no great Matter how soon their Ministry be brought into Contempt.

Having been thro' much Importunity prevail'd with, to travel some Journeys to the Southward, and having seen much of the Divine Power in those Travels, to the awakening of a great Number of Persons ; and hearing of the Success of the Reverend Mr. *Whitefield's* Labours in *New-England*, and being much urg'd by him, and divers other Ministers in those Parts where I live, to come this Way, as well as earnestly invited by several pious Ministers of *New England*, to come over to their *Macedonia* and help them. After I had been toss'd up and down on

the Billows of distrustful Fears, Reluctance, and contrary Reasonings, thro' frequent Supplications to the Father of Lights, both my self, and with others, for Direction; I found a willingness notwithstanding of my mean Qualifications of Mind, and cold Constitution of Body, to face the Northern Gusts, and commit my self into the Hands of the great GOD, in order to make an Attempt for the promoting of his Kingdom by travelling. Which I consequently did, and have since seen no Cause to repent of it; For in divers Places which I have been in, since I left home, that good GOD (who will not Seal a Blank) has graciously visibly and uncommonly bless'd my poor Labours to the spiritual Good of many Souls. My own Defence makes the mentioning of those Things necessary, which otherwise I would have omitted. I ascribe the Glory of those Successes to that Sovereign good GOD, who will send by whom he will send, and who out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings, is wont to ordain Praise.

And indeed I may truly add, that I was somewhat influenced to undertake this Journey, by the Hopes of obtaining further Progress in the Christian Course. by that continual Train of Labours and Hardships, which I foresaw I should be engaged in and exposed to. Do not general Rules admit of Exceptions? In extraordinary Times, when the Spirit of GOD is uncommonly powred forth, may not extraordinary Methods be pursu'd, without Censure?

Thus Sir, I have given a hasty and simple Narrative of the Reasons of my Conduct in the Case suspected by you, which I trust will be satisfactory

to all that fear GOD, and heartily wish the Weal of Zion. I add no more, but remain,

Your's &c.

Gilbert Tennent.

Marblehead, Jan.

21st 1740.

Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, Jan 9th. P. Scr.

'We have now among us the Rev. Mr. Tennent; a very faithful and labourious Preacher: I have heard him four long Sermons; much to my Satisfaction, and I hope Edification.

Thursday January 15.

'Since I wrote the *Postscript* above, the heavenly Man has delivered two more excellent Sermons, in a manner so affecting and effectual, as I never heard Man speak before: For as he reason'd of the infinite Love and Condescention of *Christ*, and of his compassionate Manner of inviting us miserable distressed Reptiles of the Dust to come unto Him for Relief; a great Part of the very numerous Audience trembled,—and I hope not *Felix* like; for there seem'd to be a most devout Attention, and the most reverential Awe apparent in every Man, Woman and Child, that ever I saw. Every ones Conscience seem'd to be more or less awaken'd; and turn which Way you would you'd see large Numbers melted into Tears; and for a considerable Time before the Conclusion of the last pathetic Sermon, there were such Outcries and loud Weepings of the Congregation, that you could hardly distinguish one Sound from another. I hope they were not all human Sallies but have Reason to think