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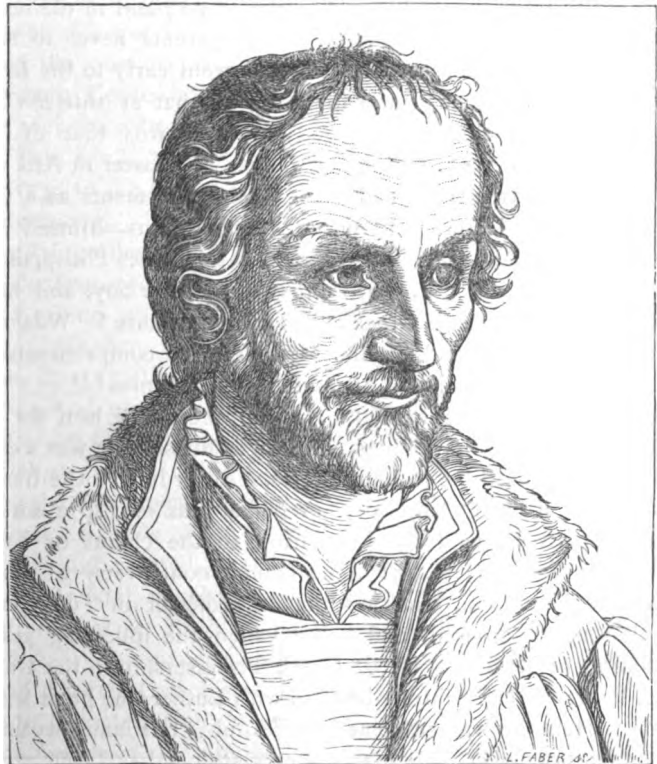
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# EVANGELICAL REPOSITORY.

FIRST SERIES.  
VOL. LVII.—No. 1. }

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{ FOURTH SERIES.  
VOL. VII.—No. 1.



PHILIPP MELANCTHON.

BY REV. J. B. DALES, D. D.

NO century has been more prolific of marked men and important events in connection with the affairs of the Church of Christ, than the sixteenth. It was emphatically the century of Reformers and of the Reformation, of ecclesiastical organizations and bodies, of creeds and confessions, of diets and

## SKETCH OF REV. C. WEBSTER'S LIFE.

IT may be of interest to the many friends of Rev. Chauncey Webster to mention a few incidents of his life, gleaned from letters written to his daughter. His father's name was George Webster, a native of Rhode Island, and his mother, Rhoda, daughter of Col. Stoddard, a Revolutionary soldier, of Connecticut, both of old Yankee descent. In 1803 they removed to a farm in the town of Rupert, Vt., and their son Chauncey, then four years old, first attended school, with a religious young lady for teacher, who afterwards married the Rev. Mr. Judson, the first missionary from the United States to India. For several years thereafter he attended the district schools, where the spelling-book and Bible constituted the entire library for beginners. After 1808 he went to school only in the winter, helping the old folks during the summer, working on the farm, and attended church nearly every other Sabbath, with services in those days at 10 a. m.; intermission from 12 to 1 p. m., and dismissal at 3 o'clock, after which he walked several miles home.

In 1812 his father took a contract with the government for transporting army supplies, in the war with England, and the family removed to Greenbush, then a rendezvous of soldiers, and young Chauncey hired out to a sutler for a while, and was employed in baking bread for the camp. In 1816 he went to Albany, and engaged with Wm. L. Stone in the office of the Albany *Daily Gazette*, and remained with him until his removal to New York, which occurred before the end of the year. Young Webster then went into the employment of Charles and George Webster, publishers of Webster's spelling-book, located on corner of State and Pearl streets, Albany, on the spot now covered by Tweddle Hall. John Murray, afterwards a distinguished Presbyterian minister, was one of his fellow workmen, and he also became intimate with Joseph Henry, who persuaded them to form a literary and debating society. Henry became one of the foremost scientists of the country, and for many years before his death had charge of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington. Webster was also led to attend a young men's prayer meeting, in which he took a prominent part.

On the 8th of June, 1820, he was married by Dr. Cummings, to Jane McElroy Martin, who died September, 1870. In July, 1873, he was again married to Mrs. Jane M. Taggart, who survives him.

Mr. Webster was a great reader of standard theological works, Locke's *Essay on the Human Understanding and Mental Philosophy*, which became absorbing and interesting studies. He made himself master of Edwards on the Will, and was examined by the Rev. Hooper Cummings, who helped him in preparing for the ministry. But he continued as a journeyman printer until twenty-four years of age, when the secretary of the American Tract society came to him to ascertain whether he could do the printing of the society, if it should be given him. He asked for a week to reply, and then proposed to George Wood, one of the best printers in the city, to join partnership, start an office, and take the society's work. They purchased material, giving their notes, and were so suc-

cessful that they had the office all paid for by the end of the year. They printed tracts, canal blanks, and law books for Anthony Gould.

His attention was also called to the necessity of a periodical devoted to the interests of the Associate Church, and he was led to start the *Monitor*, which met with great favor, and was published by Mr. Webster for eighteen years, during several of which he was sole editor. The title was soon changed to EVANGELICAL REPOSITORY, and is now published at Philadelphia in its fifty-eighth year, and is at present edited by Robert Stewart, D. D. In 1826 they were established in a prosperous business. Mr. Webster was sent as a delegate and ruling elder of the church that year to the Associate Synod at Philadelphia, where an ecclesiastical war sprang up, which was waged for thirty years thereafter. The official minutes were published in the REPOSITORY, and its circulation was extended.

The REPOSITORY also took a prominent part in the Anti-Masonic excitement which broke out in that year, on account of the Morgan affair, which added to its subscription. In the fall of 1827 about thirty members of the Assembly and three senators were elected in western New York on the Anti-Masonic ticket. At this time Thurlow Weed edited a powerful Anti-Masonic paper at Rochester. Leading men of that party proposed to Webster and Wood to start a daily evening paper on the Anti-Masonic platform. They were startled at the idea of such a great enterprise, requiring ten times the capital they possessed. But they were given strong assurances of support by the party, and Mr. Webster consented, but Wood bolted and declared he would rather sell out than engage in such a wild-goose chase. Messrs. Packard and Hoffman were induced to buy Wood's interest, and a new firm was organized under the name of B. D. Packard & Co., the profits of the concern to be divided equally between the three, Mr. Webster reserving his interest in the REPOSITORY; and in the meantime the religious war waxed warmer. In the fall of 1830, Mr. Webster went to New York to purchase material for the new daily paper, buying a new press and the type needed, and in less than three weeks the first number of the *Albany Evening Journal* appeared. They hired Thurlow Weed, paying him \$1,000 the first year and \$1,500 afterwards. Mr. Weed reported the proceedings of the Assembly, and Mr. Webster the proceedings of the Senate. They also employed sixteen journeymen and four apprentices, and run a semi-weekly and weekly, besides printing tracts, law books and hand-bills, giving them a lively time, and at the end of the year they were out of debt, and had cleared fifteen hundred dollars each *net*, over and above their family expenses.

The next year Mr. Webster was led to consider his vow to enter the ministry, if Providence should furnish the means. Death having taken four of his five children, he could no longer plead the necessity of continuing the business for their support. He threw away one of the fairest prospects of becoming one of the wealthiest men of the time, by selling his interest in the *Journal* to Mr. White, their book-keeper, for five thousand dollars—less than half its real value. Few men, indeed, are led to commence preparations for the ministry, when in

such a favorable worldly position as he then occupied. In 1835 he studied the Hebrew language in the Theological Seminary at Canonsburg; was licensed to preach in June, 1836, and afterwards filled appointments in Newark, N. J., Brooklyn, Fall River, Providence, Baltimore and Philadelphia, settling in the latter city in 1837. On the first or second day of November, in that year, he was ordained to the work of the ministry in the old Walnut Street Church by the Associate Presbytery of Philadelphia.

In 1840 he resumed the editorship of the *Monitor*, at the same time continuing his clerical duties with the church.

In 1846, resistance to an arbitrary violation of the law of the Church led to a separation from the Associate Synod and the formation of a new Presbytery by himself and Rev. F. W. McNaughton. In regard to their action, he says: "I am better satisfied than ever I was before the Rebellion of the South in 1861, that we did right, and that our separation accomplished much good."

In 1847 he undertook the building of the present Eighth U. P. Church, Philadelphia, making himself personally responsible for the amount, \$8,000, one-half when the building was finished. This he raised by subscription. Fifteen hundred of it was contributed by Miss Margaret B. Livingston—doubtless remembered by many of the older members of that congregation, and who, if our remembrance is correct, contributed at one time \$10,000 for the establishment of the first printing press in India.

Mr. Webster also wrote and published several pamphlets and religious books that had a wide circulation in the Church, and received marked attention among the doctors of divinity. We can only allude to them here.

After leaving Philadelphia he preached for some time in Warren county, New York, and to the congregation of Hinchinbrook, Canada. His later years were passed in the Great Cove, Fulton county, Pa., where at the close of a beautiful Sabbath, his eventful life was peacefully, without a struggle, ended.

His life was one of great activity, labor, study and works of benevolence, and his memory is held in the highest esteem by those who knew him best.

Resolutions on the death of Mr. Jackson Gibson, by the Norris Square Sabbath-school Association of the Ninth U. P. Church, Philadelphia:

WHEREAS, our heavenly Father, on the 21st day of April, 1880, did remove by death, at the age of 22 years, our much esteemed brother and officer of this Sabbath-school, Mr. Jackson Gibson, we as an Association desire to give expression to our feelings and sentiments respecting this divine dispensation, in the following resolutions:

*Resolved, 1,* That in this painful event, we recognize the sovereignty of God, and bow in humble submission to his will; also the goodness and grace of God manifested in leading him to Christ so early in life, in supporting and comforting him during his protracted illness, and in his victorious and triumphant death.

*Resolved, 2,* That we recognize the loss we sustain in the removal of one so exemplary in character and so diligent and faithful in the discharge of duty, and also the lessons we should learn to be more diligent and earnest in our work, more watchful and careful in preparation for death, as we know not at what hour the Son of man cometh.

*Resolved, 3,* That we hereby extend our heartfelt sympathy to the sorrowing family, in this their sore bereavement.

*Resolved, 4,* That this action be published in the papers of the church, entered on the minutes of the Association, and a copy transmitted to the family of the deceased.

SAMUEL J. YOUNG, JOHN BOAL, JOHN C. MCKINNEY. Committee.