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JOURNAL  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. VII  
1913—1914



PHILADELPHIA  
THE PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
WITHERSPOON BUILDING  
1914

MAR 29 1913  
Pub. - Ex

BX  
8905  
P7  
A4

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# JOURNAL

OF THE

## Presbyterian Historical Society

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VOL. VII.

SEPTEMBER, 1914.

No. 7.

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### LETTERS AND REPORTS OF THE REV. JOHN PHILIP BOEHM.

TRANSLATED AND EDITED BY PROF. WILLIAM J. HINKE, PH.D., D.D.

PART V.\* LETTERS AND REPORTS OF THE YEARS 1740-1741.

[COPY OF A LETTER OF THE REV. P. H. DORSIUS TO MR. BOEHM,  
DECEMBER 6, 1739.]

Enclosure C [to letter of March 26, 1740].<sup>1</sup>

Do. John Phil. Boehm, minister at Schip Bach etc., is kindly requested by me, the undersigned commissioner of the two Netherland Synods, both of North and South Holland, to inquire among the German Churches of Pennsylvania, what each family is willing to contribute towards the support of a minister within the congregation, or to a yearly salary, in order that the friendly request of the Reverend Christian Synods be complied with, which are greatly interested in the advancement of our Christian Reformed religion in Pennsylvania, and which have offered assistance to that end, provided that every congregation submit to their wise counsel; to which must be added, that they expect that all the Reformed congregations, out of respect to the Reverend Christian Synods, will refuse to hear the unordained ministers and hirelings, and refuse to accept them for the administration of the holy sacraments etc., among whom are included the young Goetschy and

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\* For Part I, see JOURNAL, Vol. VI, pp. 295-324; Part II, JOURNAL, Vol. VII, pp. 24-60; Part III, JOURNAL, Vol. VII, pp. 113-141; Part IV, JOURNAL, Vol. VII, pp. 274-303.

<sup>1</sup> The enclosures to Boehm's letter of March 26, 1740, are referred to JOURNAL, Vol. VII, p. 286. For Enclosure A, see Vol. VII, pp. 288-289; for Enclosure B, pp. 289-303. These enclosures, together with the letter to which they belong, are in the Classical archives at Amsterdam.

**SOME HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF  
PROF. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER, D.D.**

**I. LETTER TO REV. JONATHAN FREEMAN, D.D.<sup>1</sup>**

Princeton, March 4, 1819.

DEAR SIR:

Yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> ult. came to hand within a few days. I am much pleased to learn, that you have been so successful in organizing a missionary society for your part of the state. I will do all in my power to promote the object, and would be glad to have it in my power immediately to send you a missionary, but at present, we have but few licensed students in the Seminary, and these have their plans already fixed. I have presented the object to them all, but do not find any one disposed

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<sup>1</sup> The autograph manuscript of this letter was found in the Historical Collection of the Synod of New Jersey, deposited in the Library of the Princeton Theological Seminary. It fills two and a half pages of a double sheet of paper, somewhat mutilated in the unused portions.

The address on the back is as follows:

The Rev<sup>d</sup>  
Jonathan Freeman,  
Bridgetown,  
Cumb<sup>d</sup> Cty,  
N. J.

The postmark is Princeton, N. J., Mar. 4.

It is endorsed, in an unknown hand, as follows:

Rev. A. Alexander  
Princeton. March 4, 1819.  
Cannot send a mis-  
-sionary at present nor  
a teacher.  
Difficulties of pub-  
-lishing a periodical.

It was placed in the Synod's Collection by the late Dr. Allen H. Brown, as appears from his stamp on the back of the folded sheet:

From  
Allen H. Brown,  
Camden, N. J.

For some particulars concerning the recipient, see JOURNAL, Vol. vii, pp. 155-157.—ED.

to itinerate in West Jersey. We have however a number who expect to be licensed in the course of the year, and perhaps, among these some one may be found to engage in the work; but this prospect ought not to prevent your exertions to obtain a supply from another quarter.

It will not be in our power to send you a teacher such as you describe. There are no young men in this place, capable of teaching the classics, who are not engaged in pursuing their own education, either in the college or seminary: but if such an one as you want should offer, I will endeavor to direct him your way.

In regard to the 'Periodical work' which you have in contemplation, I do not wish to say anything by way of discouragement, as I wish good to be done in every lawful and practicable way; but I do not know any enterprise attended with more serious difficulties than conducting a periodical work. The event will be that, after a few numbers, the whole burden will fall upon the principal editor. If you have leisure and inclination to engage in the business, on these principles, I would say, *go on*; undoubtedly much might be effected by such a publication well conducted; but as to assistance from us, it is really almost out of the question. Our duties occupy our time to a degree that you can hardly conceive of, unless you experienced it for a while. A recitation or lecture every day—sixty compositions to hear and correct every month—as many speeches—advice to some one or other almost every day; sometimes too on difficult and important subjects, etc., etc. But if we should have it in our power to cast in a mite to your undertaking, we are much disposed to yield assistance; but you must not calculate at all upon our aid.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Jon<sup>n</sup>. Freeman.

A. ALEXANDER.

## II. LETTER TO MRS. PHEBE ROBINSON, OF MORRISTOWN, N. J.<sup>2</sup>

MRS. PHEBE ROBINSON

Princeton, Feb. 16, 1846.

Dear Madam,

Your favour, inclosing \$20 to be applied to the aid of some needy student in the Seminary, came to hand this morning. Every

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<sup>2</sup>This letter has been found, among some of the unpublished documents of Prof. Alexander, in the Princeton Theological Seminary Library. It fills two pages of a double sheet of note paper. The post-mark reads: Princeton, N. J. Feb. 17. It was addressed as follows:

M<sup>rs</sup>. Phebe Robinson  
Morristown  
N. J.

The document is interesting as throwing light upon the way in which some of the scholarship funds of the Seminary were secured.—ED.

contribution to assist our indigent young men, who are struggling through many difficulties, to enter the ministry, affords me much more gratification than would a donation of the same value to myself. I have been so long accustomed to exercise a provident care for such, that it has grown into a habit, and I am sincerely thankful for every dollar contributed to this object. And I would inform you, that there is now in the Seminary a very talented young man for whom no adequate provision has been made. I had promised to aid him but did not know, until I received your letter, where the means were to come from.

It is our custom to report to the Directors of the Seminary all sums received for the students and the names of the donors, unless forbidden. This course will be pursued in regard to your donation.

I sincerely join you in praying that this fountain of divine truth may never be poisoned or adulterated with error. My time of service, which is going on 34 years, must be nearly ended; and I bless God for the continual favour which He has manifested to the institution; and I entertain a strong confidence that this Seminary will continue to teach the pure doctrines of the grace of God to the end of the world. It can hardly become corrupt in doctrine as long as the General Assembly continues sound in the faith.

I take the liberty of sending you one of the catalogues of the students for the current year, and also a tract written by myself, to promote contributions to foreign missions.

I am very truly

Your Obt. St.

A. ALEXANDER.

### III. A CIRCULAR LETTER.\*

Princeton May 21, 1850.

DEAR SIR,

Believing that you feel an interest in the prosperity of the Theological Seminary at this place, I would respectfully request your attention to its wants.

It is now exactly thirty eight years since the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church determined to found a Theological Seminary, and fixed on Princeton as the situation promising most advantages for the success of this important object. No large or permanent funds were provided; but their dependence, under God, was on the liberality

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\* A copy of this circular letter has been in the possession of the Princeton Theological Seminary Library for some years. There is no hint upon the manuscript concerning the addressee.—Ed.

of the Presbyterian Church. And although many difficulties have been experienced in supporting the institution; yet Providence has manifestly smiled on the enterprise. A large number of young men have been here trained for the work of the ministry. The matriculation book of the Seminary contains nearly two thousand names of students who have here commenced the study of theology. By these a large number of our most important churches are now supplied with pastors; and many have gone into the field of foreign missions: while at least a tithe of the whole number have been called away from all earthly cares and labours, to receive their reward.

The impression, I find, is common among our churches, that this Seminary is fully endowed, and not in need of additional funds. Had it not been by the losses sustained by the depreciation of almost every species of stocks, a few years since, this, probably, would now be the case; but the fact is—and it should be known to the churches—that the present income is altogether insufficient to meet the current expenses of the Seminary. Moreover, in the erection of a refectory—a very necessary building—a considerable debt has been contracted; and in a short time, a new roof and other repairs will be absolutely necessary to the main edifice. The debt now due by the Trustees is above five thousands dollars, and during the year, just ended, there was [were] not in hand funds sufficient to pay the interest on this debt, and to defray the incidental expenses of the institution. In a denomination possessing so much wealth as the Presbyterian, such a state of things ought not to exist.

It does not appertain to the office of a professor to solicit funds; but at a late meeting both of the Directors and [of] the Trustees of the Seminary, this subject was brought before them, when they appointed a joint committee to devise means for relieving the institution from embarrassment; and for providing funds sufficient for its necessary expenses. It did not seem expedient to this committee to appoint an agent to collect funds, or to make a general application to the churches; but they judged that a circular, addressed to the friends of the institution, would be likely to answer the purpose, and they earnestly requested that this circular should go out in my name.

My connexion with the Seminary, with which I have been identified from its origin, cannot be long. In the common course of nature my time of service must soon expire, so that my personal interest in the success of the measure is small; but I am free to confess that it is amongst the wishes nearest my heart to see the institution established on a firm foundation and in a flourishing condition before I leave it.

It is probable that you have already given liberally to the funds of the Seminary: I venture to say that you do not regret what you have done in time past. But I would not be importunate. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." An answer to this letter is not expected by

the writer; but it is respectfully requested that whatever sum you may be disposed to contribute be transmitted to James S. Green, Esq., of this place, by whom it will be duly acknowledged and reported to the Trustees of the institution.

I am very respectfully  
your etc., etc.,

A. ALEXANDER.

## NOTES.

### THE KREFELD SOCIETY.<sup>1</sup>

In response to an invitation to take part in the celebration of Founder's Week in October, 1908, as representatives of the First Settlers of Germantown, a number of gentlemen met on the evening of October 3rd, and arrangements were made to participate in the celebration of the coming week.

The sentiment appeared unanimous that the time was an opportune one for founding a Society for honoring the lives and deeds of the First Settlers of Germantown, and for securing and preserving information concerning them and their descendants, as well as for social enjoyment among the members, and the Krefeld Society was the outcome of that meeting.

The Society was organized and a Constitution and By-laws adopted, and eligibility was confined to:—

Any male persons over twenty-one years of age, of good character, who are lineally descended from one or more of the following:

Lenart Arets,  
Johannes Bleikers,  
Peter Kenrlis,  
Thones Kunders,  
Jan Lensen,  
Jan Lucken,  
Abraham Op den Graeff,

Dirck Op den Graeff,  
Herman Op den Graeff,  
Francis Daniel Pastorius,  
Jan Seimens,  
Willem Streypers,  
Abraham Tunes,  
Reynier Tyson,

the original heads of families who settled Germantown. The number of members at any one time shall not exceed three hundred.

Since the founding of Germantown, the first permanent settlement made by German subjects, in North America, on October 25th, 1683, the number of descendants of those people has reached thousands, many of whom occupy the highest positions in the social as well as the busi-

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<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from a circular of information issued by the Society.

ness world, and owe their success to the sterling character and exemplary lives of their Germantown ancestors.

The Annual Meeting of the Society is held on the 6th day of October, in each year, the day on which the Good Ship Concord came to her dock in the Delaware River in 1683, bringing thirteen heads of families who on the 25th of the month founded Germantown under the leadership of Francis Daniel Pastorius.

All correspondence should be addressed to the secretary from whom further information and application blanks may be obtained.

J. E. BURNETT BUCKENHAM, M.D.,  
Secretary,  
Chestnut Hill, Phila., Pa.