RECORDS

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

EMBRACING THE

MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA, FROM A. D. 1706 TO 1716:

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA, FROM A. D. 1717 TO 1758:

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF NEW YORK, FROM A. D. 1745 TO 1758:

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK, FROM A. D. 1758 TO 1788.

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PHILADELPHIA:

PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

JAMES RUSSELL, PUBLISHING AGENT.

1841.

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Horâ 9na. ante merid. post preces sederunt, &c.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Andrews' letter to Sir Edmund Harrison, read and approved, and committed to Mr. Andrews to transmit it to London.*

Mr. Hampton's letter to Mr. Mather and others, in Boston, was read and approved; ordered that Mr. Andrews have the sending of it.

Mr. Taylor's letter to Mr. Davis, and another to Monokin and Wicomico, were read and approved.

Ordered, That no members of this Presbytery, upon any whatever pretence, do depart or leave the Presbytery, without the meeting be broke up, or at least leave be asked and had from the Presbytery.

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* To Sir Edmund Harrison.

May, 1709.

Honourable Sir,

The distressed condition of these Provinces, with respect to religion, in which the providence of God has cast our lot, has moved us to apply to the Reverend Ministers of Boston, in New-England, to join with us in addressing yourself, and other charitable gentlemen in London, to consider the state of these countries, and to implore your help and assistance for promoting the interest of our glorious Lord. To our great satisfaction they have readily complied with our desire, and have drawn up and signed a letter particularly directed to yourself. And that we for our parts may not be wanting, being informed of that public excellent spirit in you, famed both for piety and prudence, do likewise address ourselves unto your honour upon the same account. The negotiation began and encouraged by a fund, in the time when our worthy friend Mr. McKemie, (now deceased,) was with you, for evangelizing these colonies, was a business exceedingly acceptable to a multitude of people, and was likely to have been of great service if continued, which makes us much grieved that so valuable a design was, so soon after its beginning, laid aside. The necessity of carrying on the same affair being as great, if not greater now, than it was then, we hope that our patriots [patrons?] in London, will revive so good and important a work, and not let it lie buried under the ashes, but that some suitable method will be taken that it may be set on foot again. Unto whom can we apply ourselves more fitly than unto our fathers, who have been extolled in the reformed churches for their large bounty and benevolence in their necessities. We doubt not, but if the sum of about two hundred pounds per annum, were raised for the encouragement of ministers in these parts, it would enable ministers and people to erect eight congregations, and ourselves put in better circumstances than hitherto we have been. We are at present seven ministers, most of whose outward affairs are so straitened as to crave relief, unto which, if two or three more were added, it would greatly strengthen our interest, which does miserably suffer, as things at present are among us. Sir, if we shall be supplied with ministers from you, which we earnestly desire; with your benevolence to the value abovesaid, you may be assured of our fidelity and Christian care in distributing it to the best ends and purposes we can, so as we hope we shall be able to give a just and fair account for every part of it to yourself and others, by our letters to you. It is well known what advantages the Missionaries from England have of us, from the settled fund of their Church, which not only liberally supports them here, but encourages so many insolences both against our persons and interests, which sorrowfully looking on, we cannot but lament and crave your remedy. That our evangelical affairs may be the better managed, we have formed ourselves into a Presbytery, annually to be convened at this city; at which times it is a sore distress and trouble unto us, that we are not able to comply with the desires of sundry places, crying unto us for ministers to deal forth the word of life unto them; therefore we most earnestly beseech you, in the bowels of our Lord, to intercede with the ministers of London, and other well affected gentlemen, to extend their charity and pity to us, to carry on so necessary and glorious a work; otherwise many people will remain in a perishing condition as to spiritual things. In so doing, your humble supplicants shall ever pray that the blessings of God's throne and footstool may be conferred upon you and them.

P. S. The death of that worthy and honourable person, the Lord Lovelace, we are afraid will prove detrimental to our interest; and we could wish that his place were filled again with a person of such a spirit and temper as he appeared to be of. We desire that what you shall please to transmit to us, as to letters or otherwise, may be directed unto Mr. Andrews, or in his absence to Mr. David Giffing and Mr. William Allen, in Philadelphia.—[*Letter Book.*]

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