

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

RELATING TO

REMARKABLE PERIODS

OF THE

SUCCESS OF THE GOSPEL.

COMPILED BY

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CONTINUATION TO THE PRESENT TIME;

BY

THE REV. HORATIUS BONAR,

KELSO.

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Christ?" In my return home, I made an excursion to preach to a number of people who had never before heard a new light (as they call us). I hope the word of God was attended with Divine power to many of their hearts.

From a Letter to the Publisher, from Mr WRIGHT, a minister in Virginia, 18th August, 1755.

The situation of our colony is most doleful, as the Gazette will inform you. We have not only the sword without, but famine within, and alas our people, till the defeat of our army, quite unalarmed and secure! But now there seems to be a general concern among all ranks. People generally begin to believe the Divine government, and that our judgments are inflicted for our sins; they now hear sermons with solemnity and attention; they acknowledge their wickedness and ignorance, and believe that the new light clergy and adherents are right. Thus you see, dear Sir, that amidst all our troubles, God is gracious, and brings real good out of our real evils: adored be his great name. When the conduct of people lately appeared so differently, it puts me in mind of Zechariah, 8th, ult. I had the sacrament of the Lord's supper administered the last Sunday of July, in my infant congregation, which proved a solemn season. There was a vast concourse of people, about 2000 I daresay. I was installed at the same time by Messrs Davies and Henry of Lunenburg. I have had about 180 communicants, above 80 of them never partook before I came here. There were general awakenings for sundry Sabbaths before the sacrament, and new instances of deep and rational convictions, which I found by examining the communicants. I have had an afflicting winter of it. The rivers were generally so high, that I had but very thin congregations. It was a double winter to your poor countryman. But the Lord heard me out of the deeps, and with the natural spring, made the day spring from on high to visit us. I have seen last Lord's day, above a hundred weeping and trembling under the word. Dear Sir, see how much I need the prayers of the children of God in Glasgow. I now preach any where, being so distant from the metropolis, and the time being so dangerous and shocking; and, I would fain hope, not without success. I again and again beseech you, and the people of God, to join together in prayers for me.

From a Letter to the Publisher from Mr DAVIES, Hanover, 14th July, 1756.

About a month ago, I took a journey to Mr Henry's congregation in Lunenburg, about 130 miles hence, to assist him in administering the sacrament, and in thirteen days I preached eleven or twelve sermons, with encouraging appearances of success. I think Mr Henry's and Mr Wright's labours continue to be blessed in those parts. At the sacrament, in that wilderness, there were about 2000 hearers, and about 200 communicants; and a general seriousness and attention appeared among them. A considerable number of thoughtless creatures are solicitously inquiring after religion. Last Sunday I had a sacrament, assisted by my good brother and next door neighbour, Mr Tod. It was a time of unusual anxiety to me. I hardly ever felt

so much of a pastoral heart, I mean an affectionate concern for my flock; and yet I had not a proportional liberty to vent it: however, I hope it was a refreshing time to some hungry souls. I had the pleasure of seeing the table of the Lord adorned with about forty-four black faces. Indeed, my principal encouragement of late has been among the poor negro slaves. A considerable number of them give good evidences of a sincere conversion to Christianity; and in the land of their slavery, they have been brought into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. But alas! notwithstanding these promising appearances, an incorrigible stupidity generally prevails through this guilty land; and there is no spot on our globe that more requires the pity and the prayers of God's people.

A DEMAND FOR THE GOSPEL IN SOME PARTS OF NORTH CAROLINA, 1755.

There has been, for some time, a very loud call for the gospel in North Carolina, where, till lately, they had hardly any appearance of public worship: sundry of my brethren of the Synod of New York have been appointed to take a tour in their turns through that province, for three or four months; and they bring agreeable accounts, that congregations are forming fast, and show the most eager zeal to be supplied with ministers. But alas! the labourers are too few with us, for this extensive and growing harvest.

FLOURISHING STATE OF NEW JERSEY COLLEGE, 1755.

I feel the warmest gratitude, dear Sir, to your congregation for exerting themselves so generously to promote the college of New Jersey. By the last accounts I heard of it, it is flourishing under the smiles of God and man.

FARTHER ACCOUNTS OF THE WORK IN ENGLAND FROM 1738 TO 1755, AND OF THE INSTRUMENTS GOD WAS PLEASED TO EMPLOY.

From a Letter to the Publisher from the Rev. Mr WILLIAM GRIMSHAW, at Haworth, 19th July, 1754.

In the year 1738, our gracious Redeemer was pleased to revive his work in the West Riding, as we call it, of this county of York. Now were poor souls amongst us brought to know Jesus alone, for their wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. The first instrument sent hither by our dear Immanuel, was one Mr Benjamin Ingham, a clergyman, and one of the Oxford Methodists. He was born at Osset, in this Riding. The clergy at first received him into their pulpits, the churches were soon crowded, and a great stirring up of the people to seek salvation by faith alone, in the merits of a crucified Saviour, quickly appeared. But Satan, perceiving his kingdom to be in danger, began to roar, and the clergy (as I have been informed) were forbid to receive Mr Bingham any more. Wakefield, Osset, Leeds, Halifax, and many other churches and chapels he preached in, until he was prohibited. And greatly were the people blessed. He then betook himself (as did Messrs Wesleys, Whitefield, and others at the same time,) to our Saviour's manner, field preaching. As eminently