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VOL. III
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LOUIS F. BENSON, D. D., Editor.

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JOURNAL

OF THE

Presbyterian Historical Society

VOL. III.

MARCH, 1905.

No. 1.

THE DATE OF JOHN KNOX'S BIRTH.

THE ATHENÆUM CORRESPONDENCE.

I

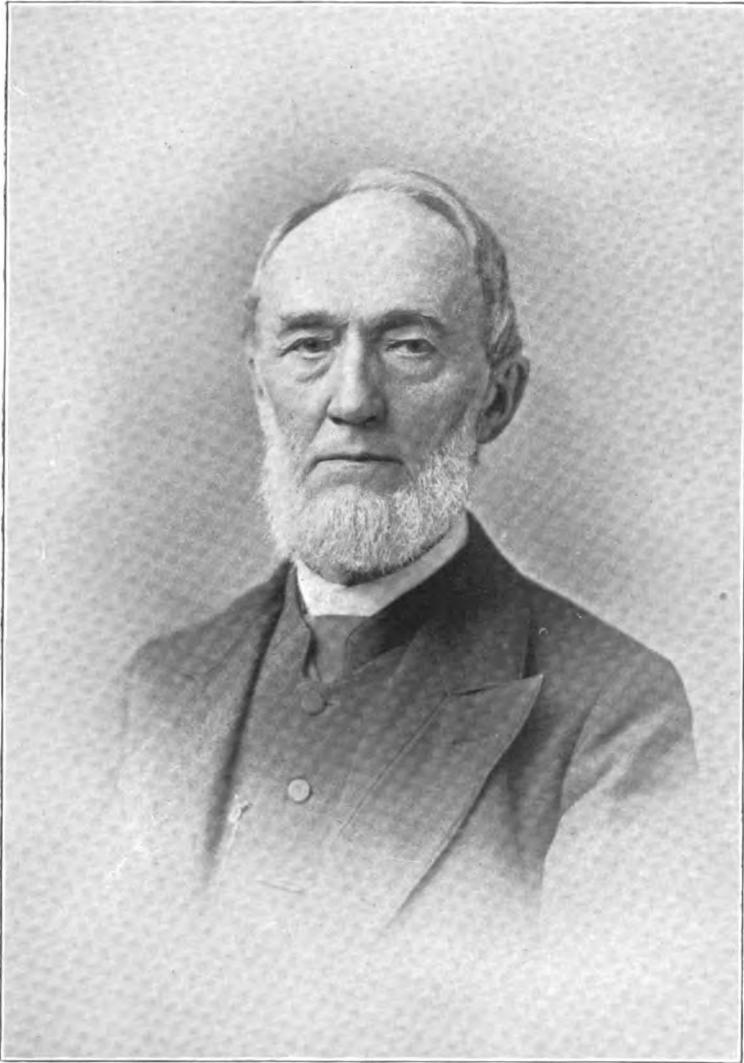
The celebration of the quater-centenary of John Knox's birthday next year promises a number of new and more or less popular biographies of the Reformer. The question of whether Knox was really born in 1505 does not, however, appear to have been definitely settled. Dr. Hay Fleming, who is preparing an elaborate biography, brings forward evidence to prove that Knox was born in 1515; and there is certainly some ground for the belief that the older biographers, in fixing upon 1505, have confused the Reformer with another John Knox. It is rumoured that an eminent historian meditates the presentation of Knox from the Roman Catholic point of view. In support of that presentation *bona fide* Jesuit documents preserved in the Vatican will be quoted.—(*From the Athenæum, October 29th, 1904.*)

II

THE DATE OF KNOX'S BIRTH.

October 30th, 1904.

The date of Knox's birth, referred to in the "Literary Gossip" of last week's *Athenæum*, is apt to cause searchings of heart among his biographers. The earliest authority is the letter of Peter Young to Beza (November 13th, 1579). Young says that



REV. WILLARD M. RICE, D. D.

WILLARD MARTIN RICE :

1817-1904.

BY HARRY P. FORD.

The Rev. Willard Martin Rice, D. D., for a number of years a member of The Presbyterian Historical Society, traced his ancestry, on the maternal side, to Edward Doty (also written Dotte, Doten, Dowty, and, in the record of his will, dated May 20th, 1655, Dotten), a Mayflower Pilgrim. "The oldest house in Plymouth is the Doten House, built in 1640, and the principal wharf is the Doten Wharf. The first duel fought in New England was between Edward Doty and Edward Leister, June 8th; 1621, in which both were wounded."¹

Dr. Rice was 8th in descent from his Mayflower ancestor : (1). Edward Doty (born about 1600) married Faith Clark, January 6th, 1634-35; died at Plymouth, Mass., August 23d, 1655. His name appears as one of the signers of the Solemn Compact in Cape Cod Harbor, November 11th, 1620. (2). Edward, eldest son of Edward and Faith (Clark) Doty, was born, probably, in 1637; married Sarah Faunce, February 25th, 1662-63, sister of Elder Thomas Faunce, Town Clark of Plymouth, 1685-1723; was drowned in Plymouth Harbor, February 8th, 1689-90. (3). Samuel, son of Edward and Sarah (Faunce) Doty, was born at Plymouth, May 17th, 1681; married at Saybrook, Conn., December 3d, 1706, to Anne Buckingham, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Buckingham, minister at Saybrook from 1670 till his death in 1709, a founder of Yale College, and one of the Moderators of the Synod which formed the celebrated Saybrook Platform of 1708. Samuel died January 26th, 1750. (4). Samuel, son of Samuel and Anne (Buckingham) Doty, was born June 17th, 1712; was graduated from Yale College in 1733; married Margeria Parker, April 3d, 1733;

¹From *The Doty-Doten Family in America: Descendants of Edward Doty, an Emigrant by the Mayflower, 1620*. Compiled by Ethan Allen Doty, Brooklyn, New York, and published for the Author, 1897.

died at Deep River, Conn., December 16th, 1751. (5). Samuel, son of Samuel and Margeria (Parker) Doty, was born at Saybrook in 1736; married his cousin, Mercy Doty, about 1758; served throughout the Revolutionary War in the Continental Army; died subsequently to 1810, in which year he was living in Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York. (6). Warren, son of Samuel and Mercy (Doty) Doty, was born at Saybrook, April 23d, 1768; married at Stephentown, New York, to Sarah Wood; died in Martinsburg, New York, in 1807. (7). Diana, daughter of Warren and Sarah (Wood) Doty, was born at Lowville, New York, September 3d, 1794; married Abel Sherman Rice, August 13th, 1809; died at Lowville, in May, 1845.¹

Willard Martin Rice, son of Diana (Doty) and Abel S. Rice, was born in Lowville, New York, on the 30th of April, 1817, and died in Haverford, Pa., March 6th, 1904.

The old homestead of Dr. Rice's paternal ancestors is still standing in Lowville, and is now occupied by his nephew, Leonard C. Rice. It has sheltered five generations of the Rice family.

Dr. Rice was received into the communion of the Church at the early age of ten. He pursued his preparatory studies at the Lowville and Cazenovia Academies, New York, and was graduated with highest honors from the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, in 1837. In this year he first visited Philadelphia, which was to be his home for sixty-four years. He liked to recall that on his way he stopped in Princeton and dined with Professor Joseph Henry, who took keen delight in explaining to him his telegraphic apparatus with which he was then experimenting; and that in Philadelphia he met James K. Polk, who was then the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

He spent three years (1837-40) as a tutor in Wesleyan University, during which time, in addition to his duties as a teacher, he pursued an extensive course of post-graduate studies in Latin and Greek, and also in English literature. He removed to Philadelphia in 1840 and opened a classical school the same

¹ *The Doty-Doten Family.*

year, which soon took its place among the educational institutions of the city. He continued at the head of this school until 1856. One of his students was the late Samuel C. Perkins, Esq., Vice President of The Presbyterian Historical Society, who was here prepared for Yale College.

During these sixteen years, he was a close and systematic student, not only along the lines already indicated, but also in Hebrew. He devoted much time to mineralogical and geological studies, visiting and making valuable collections from noted localities. Many of these specimens were afterwards contributed by him to the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

In February, 1846, when only 29 years old, he was elected and ordained a Ruling Elder in the Spring Garden (now McDowell Memorial) Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, and served in that capacity until he entered the ministry. He was also Superintendent of the Sunday school of the church. Dr. Rice had married the daughter of the pastor, the Rev. Dr. John McDowell, and under Dr. McDowell's supervision he continued his theological studies, begun while a tutor at Middletown. This early and close association with Dr. McDowell had a marked influence upon the life of Dr. Rice.

On July 7th, 1856, Dr. Rice was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and in November of that year he assumed charge of the Moyamensing Mission of the Tenth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. This brought him into close personal relations with the eminent pastor of the latter, Dr. Henry A. Boardman, who became greatly attached to him, and whose influence became another factor in Dr. Rice's future in the city of Philadelphia.

In the Moyamensing Mission, which afterwards developed into the Hollond Memorial Presbyterian Church, Dr. Rice labored with untiring zeal and faithfulness. It is interesting to note that on Sunday, May 31st, 1857, he introduced morning service at the Mission; the sermon he then preached he repeated by request, in the Hollond Memorial Church, on Sunday morning, May 31st, 1903, forty-six years to a day later.

The Mission became organized as the Moyamensing Presby-

terian Church, October 11th, 1858, and Dr. Rice was ordained and installed as its pastor one week later, October 18th. He was then forty-one years of age. He entered the ministry with exceptional equipment both of classical learning and of experience in church work. His pastoral relations continued with the Moyamensing Church until October 15th, 1863, when he resigned to accept the pastorate of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia.

At the request of Dr. Rice, this relation was dissolved by Presbytery April 30th, 1874, in order that he might accept a call to the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Reeseville (now Berwyn), Pa. He was prompted to take this action in the hope that the country would prove beneficial to Mrs. Rice, whose health had become seriously impaired. He was installed over his new charge June 11th, 1874. Mrs. Rice died on the 23d of the following November.

The pastoral relation existing between Dr. Rice and the Trinity Church was dissolved December 1st, 1876, and on the 7th of May, 1877, he was again received by the Presbytery of Philadelphia. From this time he led a quiet but useful life, being fully occupied with literary and church work. In the winter of 1876-77 he supplied the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church, Bridesburg, Pa., for six months. In 1881 he supplied the Frankford (Pa.) Church, for the same length of time, while its pastor, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Murphy, was laid aside by almost fatal injuries received in a railroad disaster. In 1883-84 he was for nearly a year and a half the Stated Supply of the Southwestern Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; and during the summer vacation of the Rev. Thomas A. Hoyt, D. D., in 1885, he supplied the pulpit of the Chambers Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, for two months.

While a pastor, he received, in 1866, the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from his Alma Mater.

He sustained long and honorable official connection with the Presbytery of Philadelphia. He was its Permanent Clerk from 1859 to 1861. In 1861 he was elected Stated Clerk and held this position continuously until his death in 1904, save from 1874 to 1877, when he was connected with the Presbytery of

Chester, over which body he was elected Moderator. He was Permanent Clerk of the Synod of Philadelphia from 1869 to 1872, and Stated Clerk from 1872 to 1881, when it was consolidated with other Synods of the State into the Synod of Pennsylvania. He represented his Presbytery in the General Assemblies of 1865, 1868, 1887, and 1895. In 1901 he was the Chairman of the Assembly's Committee on Judicial Commissions.

In 1860, he was appointed by the Old School General Assembly on its Board of Publication. Two years later, he was chosen by the Board as its Recording Clerk, and in this office he continued for forty-two years, until his death.

In 1870 he was chosen by the General Assembly of the reunited Old and New School Churches one of the forty-eight members then constituting the Board. In 1887, when the Board was reconstructed and reduced to twenty-four members, the rule was adopted that none of the officials should be members, as had formerly been the case. He was therefore dropped from the membership and continued in the clerkship.

Under the direction of the Board, he edited *The Presbyterian Monthly Record* for ten years, until it was merged into *The Church at Home and Abroad* in 1887. He wrote *History of the Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work* (Philadelphia, 1889). He also prepared *The Westminster Question Book*, 1875-96; *The Westminster Lesson Leaf*, 1878-96; and *The Westminster Senior Quarterly*, 1880-96. He also rendered other literary services to the Board, especially along the line of passing critical judgment on manuscripts submitted for publication.

For above twenty years he was the Philadelphia correspondent of *The New York Observer*, and was a contributor to other literary and religious periodicals.

His final literary effort, completed during his last year, was a valuable history of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, the manuscript of which is now in the care of The Presbyterian Historical Society. Being blessed with a remarkably retentive memory, and sustaining intimate personal relations with his brethren of the Presbytery, few men were more familiar with the history of the Presbyterian Church in Phila-

phia than Dr. Rice. It is a matter of sincere regret that he did not carry out his intentions to prepare his reminiscences of churches and ministers. Such a work would have made an invaluable contribution to local church history.

Dr. Rice was married July 7th, 1840, to Miss Elizabeth McDowell, daughter of the Rev. Dr. John McDowell, Moderator of the General Assembly of 1820. Their eldest son, John McDowell Rice, M. D., was a surgeon in the United States Navy. He served throughout the Civil War, and was present at the ceremony of hauling down the Russian flag and raising our own at Sitka when Alaska was transferred to the United States in October, 1867. In a letter to his mother, describing this event, he thus wrote:—

“A very curious incident occurred as the Russians were hauling down their flag. It caught in the cross-trees of the flag-staff; the man who was hauling it down, not noticing this, hauled away, leaving it hanging on the cross-trees about fifty feet above the ground. Three of the Russian soldiers attempted to climb up and reach the flag, but failed. They sent a man aloft in a bowline. Instead of bringing the flag down with him, he either threw it or dropped it, and it was caught on the bayonets of the guard. The Governor at this was very angry, but the poor fellow had done the best he knew how. We then hauled up our own flag, and the salute was repeated.”

The young surgeon died at sea on the United States man-of-war “Ossipee,” July 13th, 1868. He was a general favorite with both officers and men. Less than a year ago Dr. Rice read to the writer of this memoir a letter from the ship’s commander giving a touching account of his son’s death and paying a tender tribute to his memory. As he read tears coursed down the cheeks of the venerable father, and his voice was broken by suppressed sobs. Although the suns and snows of thirty-six years lay between, yet the sense of loss had not lifted and the old hurt lingered.

One son, four daughters, and some thirty-five grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Dr. Rice are now living, and in each of the three generations there is a Willard Martin Rice.

On January 29th, 1904, Dr. Rice was in his office for the last time. A severe cold, which continued to develop, detained him

at home, and he rapidly lost strength. Up to that time he had been in the full enjoyment of his physical and mental powers; the latter he retained to the end. He was hopeful until a few days before his death that he would soon be able to resume his accustomed duties. He died March 6th.

On the day before his burial a private funeral service was held at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. Marshall Buddy, Haverford, Pa., where he died. At this service an address was made by the Rev. Louis F. Benson, D. D., who had long been intimately associated with him in the work of The Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work. After referring to the fullness of Dr. Rice's years, Dr. Benson continued :—

“ In this long human experience how many tender ties of son, brother, lover, husband, father, grandfather, of pastor, helper and friend, have been entered into! Many of them broken off, it is true, long ago, and some year by year. None are left, perhaps, that knew the boy's life; few, indeed, that knew his young manhood; and of those who knew his prime, fewer every year. And yet how many there are who knew him and associated with him, and surrounded him at home and throughout the city! And I wonder if there was one who knew him who did not have the kindest regard for him, one who knew him well who did not love him. The affection that surrounded him here in this home was deeper, no doubt, and closer than in the circle of his social intercourse without; but I think it is not too much to say that wherever Dr. Rice's duty took him, there was he loved. * * * He not only irradiated goodness, but he recommended it. He made goodness to be cheerful and winsome and attractive. He was, indeed, lovable. In every relation of life as gentle and tender as a woman. How faithful and affectionate to those nearest to him only they could say, but an outsider could estimate it without the asking. And to all of his associates and friends as kindly and winning a presence as ever lived among them; who worked faithfully and unselfishly and gave every man his own and more, gave it with a smile and a warm pressure. Who spoke never harshly and never unkindly or thoughtlessly, but always remembered to be brotherly, or perhaps, was brotherly, without even having to remember it. Modest, unassuming, never overrating himself or exacting anything from any. Always pleasant and always quiet, as pure as man could be in heart and speech, a simple-hearted gentleman—so Dr. Rice lived and walked among us, and did his work in trust in God and trust in his brothers. And so he bound his friends to him with entire confidence in him and real affection for him.”

The public funeral was held in the Hollond Memorial Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, on Wednesday afternoon, March 9th, 1904. The Presbytery of Philadelphia attended in a body, and many other friends assembled to pay their last tribute of affection. Tender and appropriate addresses were made by Drs. J. Addison Henry, James A. Worden, and J. R. Miller. The interment was in the family lot in Woodland Cemetery.

Appropriate action on the death of Dr. Rice was taken by the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work and by the Presbytery of Philadelphia. The paper adopted by the Presbytery closed with these words :—

“He won the esteem and fellowship of all with whom he was associated by the fidelity, tact, kindness, and efficiency with which he performed all his duties. Whether in the church or the office, in public or in private life, his were the high virtues of humility, meekness, integrity, quiet courage, and simplicity. The Presbytery rejoices to place on record this tribute to his worth as a man, his admirable service as a church officer, and his high character as a minister of Jesus Christ. Having fought a good fight, having finished his course, having kept the faith, his is the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give unto all them that love his appearing.”