

FIFTY YEARS

IN THE

LOMBARD STREET

Central Presbyterian Church

BY

ELDER ROBERT JONES

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PHILADELPHIA

1894

and four thousand dollars, besides his expenses and percentage. He also received many presents, among which was a Bible for the pulpit that is still in use; and a black silk gown to use when preaching, it being customary with all denominations in England to wear gowns. The friends that presented the gown had him promise to wear it, and Mr. Gloucester did so, not stopping to ask what might be thought of it, for he was very bold and determined in his opinions. The gown and new church had much to do in drawing the crowds that came after we got in the building. Of the letters Mr. Gloucester must have written while in England the following are the only ones known to have been kept :

LETTERS FROM MR. GLOUCESTER.

*London, March 30, 1847.*

BROTHER BROWN AND BROTHER JONES:—I take my pen to drop you a line. You may imagine how I feel when you think I have not heard a word from you or my dear family since I left; the reason I cannot tell. I am well. Arrived here on the 27th, somewhat jaded; did not go to work until to-day. What I shall do here I can form no opinion yet. London is large enough to get all I want, but I doubt whether it will come up to my expectations. It would be useless for me to attempt to give you a description of it: I would

say that all the people of Philadelphia and New York set down here in the city would only make a third. I am gathering all things of interest to tell if I am spared to return. Now, brethren, what is the spiritual state of the church—what is the state of her temporal affairs? I send this time, one hundred pounds or more, the account you see in Brother Laws' letter, and the manner how I get it. My object will be to try to effect collections here if I can. I have said to Brother Laws, I will send again by next mail, which will be about the 20th of April, and then write a letter to the congregation in general. How long I will have to be an "exile" from home, the account and amount of money I collect will decide. I want to look homeward about the 1st of August, if I can get what we need. This month will tell how it will be. But, dear brethren, as I have come so far and suffered so much in feelings, and shed so many tears, and can see that God does bless my weak and unworthy services among the people of this land, I shall not think of returning until all the money is raised that is needed to pay for the church and ground, as probably it is the last great work I shall do, and if done from a right motive, God will bless it to the next generation. You must all do what you can to help. It is hard work here making new friends wherever I go, and never meeting one of

my color. It seems to me I would give almost anything to see one of my sisters or brothers in Christ. But God is good to me, I find kind sisters and brothers, though of another color. I went to church last Sabbath with a Mrs. Edwards, and through her I got an introduction to her minister, who will be of service to me. She is a fine lady of good address, and stands high in the community, was not ashamed of me, took my arm, and nothing was thought of it—none of that cruel prejudice here. I dine with several merchants to-day. A gentleman from Manchester called on me this evening. I am to dine at their boarding house, and they are to take me to visit some of their friends. I mention these things to let you know that a colored man, if respectful, is treated as a man. I would not take a thousand dollars for the testimonials I shall bring home if spared. I would like to see you all. Pray for me, and go on and finish the church as soon as you can. I am to preach in one of the largest churches here three times next week, and assist in the Lord's Supper.

Your brother in Christ,

S. H. GLOUCESTER.

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*Edinburgh, Scotland, June 1, 1847.*

DEAR BRETHREN:—This leaves me in this place. Well, I came here suddenly to meet the General