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[VOL. III.

BIOGRAPHY.

The following Sketch appeared first in the Evangelical Intelligencer, for the year 1807. Having been revised by a near friend of Col. BAYARD, it is inserted in the Christian's Magazine, with a good hope that it will prove both interesting and edifying to the reader.

A SHORT SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF
COL. JOHN BAYARD.

“ I HAVE often thought,” says the celebrated author of the Rambler, “ that there has rarely passed a life of which a judicious and faithful narrative, would not be useful. For not only every man has, in the mighty mass of the world, great numbers in the same condition with himself, to whom his mistakes and miscarriages, escapes and expedients, would be of immediate and apparent use, but there is such an uniformity in the state of man, considered apart from adventitious and separable decorations and disguises,

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DOMESTIC.

A NARRATIVE

OF
THE STATE OF RELIGION

Within the bounds of the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** of the *Presbyterian church*, in the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**;

During the period of time intervening between **May, 1809**, and **May, 1810**.

The Committee appointed to collect and digest into a connected narrative, the information received in the free conversation concerning the state of Religion, submit the following report.

THE General Assembly having heard a narrative of the state of religion within their bounds, are happy in having the opportunity of publishing an abstract of it, for the information of the churches under their care. And we begin with thanksgiving to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for that grace with which it has pleased him to visit a goodly number of our churches. In many instances the arm of the Lord has been made bare; the prince of peace has displayed the power and glory of his grace, in the edification of his people, and the conversion of sinners. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be the glory."

The state of the church upon the whole is favourable; and in particular parts, the Spirit of God has been poured out in copious effusions. In many towns within the bounds of our sister churches in Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, and New-Hampshire, the Gospel of Christ is seen to be the power of God, and the wisdom of God to salvation. Zion is there putting on her beautiful garments; there, is flowing with a full stream that river which makes glad the city of our God; and the great shepherd is leading his flock to the green pastures, by the living waters.

Advancing towards the south, we see the foot-steps of our glorious Redeemer, within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Long-Island, Hudson, and New-York. Jesus shows that he is able to save, even to the uttermost, by the conversion of old and hardened sinners, of open, avowed unbelievers, and of abandoned profligates. The slaves of Satan are delivered from their bondage, and admitted into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. In the western parts of the state of New-York;

particularly in the newly settled regions, the progress of religion has been great; that desert buds and blossoms as the rose, and promises, under the auspices of grace, to become as the garden of the Lord. It is mentioned as a proof of this, that in the space of eleven years, the number of ministers of Jesus, in that country, has increased from two to nearly fifty.

Although the revival in New-Jersey, of which the Assembly made report to the churches last year, has, in some degree, declined, yet we are delighted to hear that the precious fruits of it remain; that apostacies are very rare; that they who name the name of Christ, appear generally to walk worthy of their vocation; and that, although the harvest seems for the present to be past, yet still, in many places, the gleanings are considerable.

In the Presbytery of Philadelphia the work of the Lord goes on, in the congregations of Cape-May, and Fairfield. Many souls are there brought from darkness to light, and from the power of satan unto God.

There are tidings also from some parts of the Presbytery of Baltimore, which make glad the hearts of the friends of Zion.

The Assembly are happy to learn that the fruits of the great revival in some of the Southern States, which took place several years ago, still remain; that there, also, apostacies are very rare, and professors of religion appear to have their conversation in Heaven. In some instances professional characters, formerly notorious for their adherence to the principles of infidelity, and for inattention to the duties of religion and morality, are now found publicly manifesting their attachment to the friends and the doctrines of christianity.

With pleasure we have received the information, that several Seminaries of learning have been favoured with the special grace of God; and some of those youth who are expected hereafter to influence public opinion and sentiment, have become disciples of a crucified Redeemer.

In addition to this general view of the good things which God has done for us, it is remarked, that the Missionaries employed by the General Assembly, and by other Missionary bodies within their bounds, have performed their services with fidelity, and, in several instances, with considerable success. The gospel has been carried to destitute places, and the sun of righteousness has risen, with healing under his wings, upon some of the dark and benighted regions of our wilderness. A goodly number of churches have been organized during the year past; and now in several places there is an earnest cry

for the stated preaching of the gospel, where ten years ago there were none who cared for these things. The Missions to the poor blacks in our country, have also been, in some degree, blessed by the head of the church, and even the heart of the savage has been melted by the all-subduing grace of God.

It is pleasing also to remark, that in some places, where infidelity appeared to have built her strong holds, the doctrine of Christ crucified has triumphed. The impious heresy of socinianism which reduces to the level of a mere man our blessed Lord and Saviour, has been also in some instances, considerably diminished.

The Assembly cannot forbear mentioning here, with great satisfaction, the Institution of several Bible Societies, in addition to the one established nearly two years ago, in Philadelphia. We thank God that he has put it into the hearts of the pious and benevolent of various denominations, to devise and furnish the means of sending the scriptures, which alone are able to make men wise unto salvation, to the poor and needy. And we anticipate with joy, the happy effects which it is hoped will result from these institutions. It is our most ardent prayer that they may be increased, until all who dwell upon the earth, shall be favoured with the word of God, *the only infallible rule of faith and practice.*

The Assembly also acknowledge, with joy, the goodness of God in checking the progress of the errors, and healing the divisions which have prevailed for some years, in a few of the western churches.

In producing the happy effects which have been just detailed, God has done honour to his word and ordinances. As the Assembly cannot recognize as genuine any work in the hearts of men, bearing the name of religion, but that which is produced by the instrumentality of truth, acknowledges and honours that truth, so they observe as usual, a confirmation of this great principle in the reports concerning the state of religion, at the present sessions. In those parts of the church, without exception, in which vital religion has flourished, in the course of the last year, the fundamental doctrines of the gospel; viz. *the total depravity of human nature, the divinity and atonement of Jesus Christ, justification by his imputed righteousness, the sovereignty and freeness of divine grace, and the special influences of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration and sanctification of sinners,* have been decidedly received and honoured.

The means, in addition to the preaching of the word, which God has owned and blessed, are, catechising and prayer meetings. And the Assembly hail it as an auspicious omen, that,

upon many of his people and churches, God has poured out a Spirit of grace and supplication. We rejoice in being able to say that praying societies have considerably increased in the last twelve months. Let those who have been favoured with the effusions of the Holy Spirit, persevere with increasing diligence in the use of those means which it has pleased God to bless : and let those who are still in a state of languor and coldness, remember that it is only in the diligent use of the means appointed by God, that they can expect to obtain his blessing. We recommend this the more earnestly, dear brethren, because, although the state of the church, on the whole, is prospering, yet in some very extensive and populous regions of our country, religion declines, errors prevail, vice abounds, and souls are perishing. Let the friends of Jesus, throughout our land, united in one purpose, and animated by one spirit, rise to more vigorous exertions for the promotion of vital piety. Let their time, and their talents, and their all, be devoted to the cause of God and of Christ. God has done and promised enough, to encourage our hopes, and animate our labours. The time is approaching, when Jesus will come in the glory and majesty of his grace ; proceed from conquest to conquest, and fill the whole earth with his salvation. Try then, brethren, the utmost efficacy of prayer, and let every soul with fervour cry, *even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus ! Amen.*

Attest,
JACOB J. JANEWAY, Stated Clerk.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF NEW-YORK ;

Established under the inspection of the General Synod of the Associate-Reformed Church.

(Continued from p. 228, No. IV.)

AT the same meeting of Synod in which the foregoing plan was adopted, the Rev. John M. Mason, D. D. was chosen Professor, and the Rev. Mess'rs Robert Annan, John Mc Jimsey, James Gray, James Laurie, and Alexander Proudfit, were chosen superintendents. The Professor was ordered to begin the course of instruction on the Nov. following ; and at the next meeting of Synod, in May, 1806, the Superintendents presented the following Report :