

A

MEMOIR

OF THE

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BY WILLIAM MAXWELL.



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and calculated to inspire a spirit of vital piety. You will attribute to friendship that anxiety which I feel in relation to your religious progress. Above every thing, my dear friend, seek to be wise unto salvation.

I wish that intercourse could be kept up between this place and Boston. I would send you some money for the purchase of books for me, were there any safe conveyance for the books. Can you by any means send me Noldius and Pearson? What did they cost?

I am, with earnest prayers for the blessing of Heaven on you,

Your assured friend,

JOHN H. RICE.

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER, D. D.

*Richmond, Feb. 25th, 1813.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I have a little flock here, but they are greatly scattered. They expect, and they need much attention from me. My house is crowded by company, and my time very much occupied in visiting. When the labours of the day are over, I feel a great degree of langour, and an almost invincible repugnance to do any thing, even what is necessary to be done.

Since I wrote last, my brother Benjamin has pitched his tent in Petersburg. He has very lately been on a visit to me, and I learn that he has considerable hopes of usefulness in that place. A large unfinished building has been procured as a temporary place of meeting, to which the people crowd in great numbers. A very considerable change has taken place in the appearance and manner, of those who attend divine worship, and some pretty deep religious impressions have been made. The people are raising a subscription to build him a church; and upwards of five thousand dollars have been subscribed already. I trust that the Lord has

sent him to that place for good; and that he will be an instrument of turning many to righteousness.

I have every reason thus far to be satisfied with my removal to this place. My labours have been successful far beyond my most sanguine hopes. We have about sixty names now on our register, and I expect at the next sacrament a considerable increase. Of the piety of most of our members I have a very high opinion. Some of them I think are the most eminent christians that I know, quite warm and zealous. A daughter of the old judge Henry, (Mrs. M.) is of this number. She remembers you, and speaks of you in terms highly gratifying to a friend.

TO MRS. JUDITH RANDOLPH.

*Richmond, March 9th, 1813.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Your last very friendly letter has been unanswered until conscience is beginning to give me some very severe reproaches for it. And yet, I can hardly see how I could have done better than I have, for my time has been so occupied, I have had so much company, and so many calls to visit the people, that I have done nothing in the way of study, and have contracted heavy debts in the way of correspondence.

I am sure you will not believe that there is any thing like affectation in all this; and yet you may ask me what I have done since my removal to this place? I answer little, very little, compared with what I wished or ought to have done. But yet I trust that I am not entirely useless here. Several who now rejoice in hope of heaven, were at the time of my coming very thoughtless of their eternal interests, and very ignorant of the way of salvation. Religion is certainly gaining ground among us, but the more its influence extends, the greater the opposition which will be made to it. There are many here who, I fear, would not believe though one should rise from the dead.