

A

MEMOIR

OF THE

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BY WILLIAM MAXWELL.



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Ezekiel's valley of dry bones. I am sure you do not forget your old friends. Remember them at the throne of grace, and let me particularly have an interest in your prayers.

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER.

*Charlotte, March 18th, 1810.*

I suppose you have heard of Clement Read's last movement. He is now in the employ of the Synod of Virginia, and is about forming a missionary circuit through Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Amelia, through which he designs to itinerate once a month. He appears to be full of zeal, and I hope will do good. He is now altogether a Presbyterian. The Presbytery of Lexington have lately licensed three young men, Messrs. Graham, Ervin, and Wilson, of all of whom, (especially of Graham,) common fame speaks well. We expect to turn out two or three licentiates in April, who will engage in the missionary business. So that, in this part of the vineyard, we shall have a pretty considerable addition of labourers. This is encouraging. God grant them success!

Grigsby writes from Norfolk, that the work is too heavy for him there, and begs that a missionary may be stationed with him for a few months. I believe he will engage for his support. Ichab Graham is about to go. I have told you every thing that is encouraging amongst us. We have just enough to excite our hopes that God is about to do something for old Virginia yet.

Old Mr. O'Kelly, the chief of the Christian Methodists, has passed through the neighbourhood. I understand he is nearly deserted by his followers, and talks of going home, and hanging his harp upon the willow. He says, "That there has sprung up in the country a sect under the general name of Christians, who administer adult baptism only to please the Baptists; who hold Arminian sentiments to catch the Methodists; and yet will allow a man to be a

Calvinist if he chooses; that they profess Socinian tenets, and make that profession the only bond of union. They have taken in all the Marshallites in Kentucky, and have made some progress there. In New York, they publish a periodical work, called the Herald of Religious Liberty. He states too, that they are increasing rapidly, and in some parts utterly subverting the faith of many. Have you heard any thing of all this?

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER.

*Charlotte, July 15th, 1810.*

I feel myself, since my last journey, less tied to the spot on which I live, than I did before. Or rather, I feel more ready to go wherever the providence of God may open a door for greater usefulness in the church than appears to lie open before me here. I am now quite reconciled to your living in Philadelphia. It matters but little where we are, so that we are doing the work of the Lord.

I have written my Presbyterial sermon over again, and without doing it any injury, I have reduced it from fifty-nine to thirty-nine pages. I hope that you will do me the favour to accept of a copy when it is printed, and, if you think it worth your while, take half a dozen, and distribute them as you like best.

I am zealously engaged in the study of Hebrew this summer. I am determined to master it if possible. Would I could get a Syriac New Testament such as yours! I am anxious to be an Orientalist. *Who knows but that I may yet be a professor in a Theological school!*

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER.

*Charlotte, Sept. 4th, 1810.*

I have a very strong inclination to represent Hanover Presbytery in the next General Assembly, and to represent the next General Assembly in the Association of Connecticut.