

A

MEMOIR

OF THE

REV. JOHN H. RICE, D.D.

First Professor of Christian Theology in Union Theological Seminary, Virginia.

BY WILLIAM MAXWELL.



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TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER.

*Charlotte, Feb. 6th, 1808.*

“The opinion that Mr. Hoge will succeed very well at college seems to be gaining ground. He is in high estimation with the students. He is very popular among the trustees; and many in the neighbourhood who have never been thought friends to the college, have expressed a favourable opinion of him. My own opinion is that he is very well qualified to be a teacher.

The embargo has completely stopped all collections for the Theological School. The last year was a time of such scarcity, that many of the most judicious friends of the institution, advised us to wait until the present crop should be sold before we urged the payment of the money. And now we must of necessity wait until the embargo is taken off; so that not a great deal has been done since you left us. Perhaps fifteen hundred dollars have been collected, of which about eleven hundred are in the hands of major Morton. The whole success of the scheme depends upon the activity of one or two individuals. The whole energy of the Presbytery, I fear, will never be exerted in its favour. The truth is, as a body, we are deplorably deficient in public spirit. And I fear that the remark extends much farther than the bounds of Hanover Presbytery.

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER.

*Prince Edward, March 26th, 1808.*

I have a very ardent desire to possess either Mills' or Wetstein's Greek Testament. I should greatly prefer Wetstein's, but I know not whether it can be procured. If it cannot, I would take Mills; I shall leave the matter to your discretion.

I believe I mentioned to you before, my anxiety to obtain Trommius' Concordance. I rely upon your friendly attention to procure it for me if possible.

I think that religion has gradually declined within the bounds of this Presbytery since you left us. There has been added to my congregation only one member during the last year. I do not know that any of my colleagues have been more successful. Perhaps it may have been better with Speece. The judgments which impend the nation seem to have not the least effect. Indeed the people who are immediately within the sphere of my observation seem to be more gay, more thoughtless, and more worldly minded than usual. These things almost overwhelm me, and sometimes I am driven almost to my *wit's end*. But by some or other good word, and encouraging promise, I am supported; and at this time I feel more than usual desires to do good in the vineyard of the Lord.

I have heard nothing of the proceedings of my Baptist brethren, since I wrote last. I have heard, but know not the truth of the report, that they have concluded to let me alone. Old Mr. Weatherford advises them not to undertake to write against *Presbyterians*. When will the time come when the churches will have peace among themselves? I am sick to the heart of controversy.

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER.

*Charlotte, Jan'y 28th, 1810.*

I think the state of religion in this country worse by some degrees than when you left it. Presbyterian congregations are decreasing every year, and appear as if they would dwindle to nothing. The Baptists and Methodists are at a stand. A strange apathy has seized the people. The judgments with which our nation has been visited, and the more awful ones which impend, have produced no effect; or if any, a most disastrous one. Instead of being a blessing, they are a curse. The people feel about nothing but money. As to religion, the very stillness of death reigns amongst us. I can find no resemblance to this part of the country but in