

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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or her husband would not have such rough and uncouth manners.”

I would say much more, but time and paper would fail. I do not say these things because I suppose you particularly need them; but because I wanted to give you some token of fatherly affection. And I add as a final remark, that a heart entirely filled with the love of God, and into which the Spirit is fully breathed, will teach you better than any thing else; because you will then, in every case, feel how you ought to act.

Mrs. Rice loves you as I do; and I know she joins in the earnest prayer that in your present relation you may fully discharge every duty, be a blessing to your husband, and a faithful servant of the Lord.

Bless you, my daughter.

Yours truly,

JOHN H. RICE.

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER, D. D.

*Union Seminary, March 4th, 1828.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I am very much obliged to you for your kind and prompt attention to the case of my friends in Florida; and I hope that I have a heart to rejoice in the prospect of good to be done in that desolate region. I am delighted with the account which you give of Mr. Cox. As far as I can see, he is just the very man for the place. I write by this mail to Col. G——, and shall direct him forthwith to communicate with you on this subject, and point out the way by which Mr. C. may get to this theatre of labour. The gentlemen, I have no doubt, will be liberal. Whether it will be best to get aid from the Home Missionary Society for the present, will depend on circumstances yet to be learned. If Mr. C. should be unwilling to hold himself in suspense long enough for G—— to receive my letter, and send one to Princeton, I

should suppose he had better go with the aid of the society; but if he is willing to wait, he had better wait as I think.

We hear that Finney is making a noise in Philadelphia. He has certainly got G—— and D—— fully with him, and Mrs. G—— is beyond any of them. From what I hear, I should suppose that there is a deep-laid scheme to get support for what are called “the new measures.” Mr. Nettleton thinks that the great object is to get influence among the excitable and enthusiastic part of the community; and that there is a determination to revolutionize the churches, and make what are called Evangelists superior to settled Pastors. From his account, there is a stress laid on employing females in conducting worship; and on mentioning names in prayer, which appears to me truly surprising. And he seems to be fully persuaded that without some vigorous measures on the part of the friends of order, the credit and usefulness of revivals in religion will be completely ruined for the time in this country. He affirms that wherever these measures have been tried, they have run down any revival that may have occurred, have divided the church, and put the judgment and feelings of all that have not been brought in, utterly against religion. From the little that I saw, I would say that if good is done by these irregular means, it is done at a frightful expense. It is like slaying hundreds to save one. It is supposed, too, that there is a strong desire to set the students of our seminaries agog in this new plan. A mighty effort was made at Auburn, and some at least were caught in the trap laid for them. Philadelphia is so near to Princeton, that if a mighty agitation were to take place in that city, it would be felt in your village, and perhaps the unstable in the seminary might be led away. It is proposed in view of all these matters, that there should be a meeting about the last of the first week in May, in New York, of those who are most concerned in this matter, professors in seminaries and heads of colleges, to consult as to the interests of these institutions, and the important matters connected with them, and

see if nothing can be done to keep out extravagance, and prevent the gross animal feeling which is raised by these measures. I should like to know what your opinion is as to a measure of this kind; and I should like to know very soon.

Mr. Douglas is doing most excellently at Briery. He is one of the most efficient ministers in the two states. He is powerful—persevering—decided. They have encouraging times in Richmond.

Mrs. Rice joins me in love to Mrs. Alexander and the children, as well as yourself.

Most truly yours.

JOHN H. RICE.

TO THE REV. LEONARD WOODS, D. D.

*Union Theological Seminary, March 12th, 1828.*

MY BELOVED BROTHER,

It is long since we communed together. Yet my heart has yearned after you, and I have often wished much, very much, to see you, and hold sweet counsel with you as in former times. But I have had a burden on me too heavy to be borne, and have been obliged to confine my attention to business, to the neglect of offices of friendship.

But the other day, I accidentally saw a notice in a newspaper which went to my heart. I saw that you had been afflicted, deeply afflicted; for it was there reported, that God had been pleased to take a son from you. Is it so? I can see no reason to doubt it; for why should report on this subject be falsified? And, I have felt, ever since I saw the notice, that I ought to share with you in all your afflictions. It is the only way in which I can bear your burdens. I trust that you have found all God's precious promises verified to you in this trial. O! may the good Lord bless you, and your family—especially the mother of your children, with his presence, while he lays his rod on you. I have thought, considering how much affliction there is in the