

A

MEMOIR

OF THE

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

BY WILLIAM MAXWELL.



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“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me in that day; and not to me only, but to all who love his appearing.” Now, the apostle had, of himself, no more power to attain to this blessed state of assurance, than you or I have. “By the grace of God,” says he, “I am what I am.” Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, to-day, and forever. He has the same grace to bestow now upon those who ask him, that gave the Apostle such holy confidence, and raised him above the fears of death and hell. May we, my dear madam, be made abundant partakers of this grace, and may we be counted worthy to stand among those who surround the throne of God, and dwell at his right hand, where is fulness of joy forever more!

Tudor seems very anxious to see his aunt H——, before she leaves Bizarre. I am willing to gratify him in this, for he pleases me very much this summer. I hope, however, that he will return to school very early next week. He is now of that age that every hour is more precious than the preceding.

If Mrs. Rice were at home she would write. And I am sure she would not be pleased to know that I had written without mentioning her to you in terms of the warmest affection. Give my love to St. George, and Miss Sally. I pray for you, and all that are dear to you.

I am, very respectfully and sincerely, yours, &c.

JOHN H. RICE.

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER, D. D.

*Charlotte, Sept. 9, 1811.*

MY DEAR SIR,

Upon going to Richmond, I found the state of affairs somewhat different from what I had expected.

I preached four times; thrice in Richmond, and once in

Manchester, to considerable congregations of the most attentive people that I ever yet saw. In Richmond, there was a good deal of affection among the people, and they appear anxious that I should remove to that place. There are very many among them who feel the importance of religion. The minds of the generality were turned to the subject, but except the Episcopalians, and the *great Presbyterians on the Hill*, they do not seem, at least the great bulk of them, to know any thing about religious doctrines, or the difference about religious denominations. They are indeed as sheep without a shepherd;—like a vast flock in the wilderness, alarmed and running in every direction, without knowing which way to go. They seem indeed to have some notion of the superiority of Presbyterianism as it exists somewhere, and of course many of them are desirous that a Presbyterian of the right sort should come among them.

The opposition of the great men on the Hill, however, has thrown very great impediments in the way of building a church. The subscription, I believe, has very nearly stopped in Richmond, and there is a deficiency of at least three thousand dollars. They have no hope of finishing the building, of which the foundation has been laid, unless assistance is afforded them by the friends of vital religion in the northern towns, and I am most importunately solicited to take a journey to Philadelphia and New York, for the purpose of obtaining aid for them. Now, do you think that to have a church of Christ in Richmond, would interest the people and the clergy to the North, so that a journey thither would not be in vain? I wish that you would as soon as possible give me such information on this subject as you can, or as you judge necessary. I have some inclination to help these poor people, whether I live among them or not, and my motions will depend very much upon what you communicate.

In very great haste,

I am as ever,

JOHN H. RICE.