

A
HISTORY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church in America,

FROM ITS ORIGIN UNTIL THE YEAR 1760.

WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF ITS EARLY MINISTERS.

BY THE
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WITH
A Memoir of the Author,
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AND
An Historical Introduction,
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 which being effected, contrary to expectation, such charges were laid against him as have subverted him from acting there or anywhere else." He removed to Delaware; and Newcastle Presbytery met in Colhanzy to investigate the case. (The synod judged, though several things were not proven, yet it was due to rebuke him openly, in Fairfield Meeting-house, and to suspend him for a season. He was sent to supply Conestoga and St. Jones, in Kent, on Delaware. Hans Hanson and John Burgess, commissioners from Drawyers or Appoquinimy, presented a call for him, March 12, 1723: he did not accept till September 14, 1724, and Creaghead, of White Clay, installed him. He was sent frequently, as a supply, to St. Jones, and, in 1737, to Kent, in Maryland. He died in 1741, and was buried on land he had bought in 1724, and which is owned by his descendants at this day.

JOSEPH LAMB

GRADUATED at Yale in 1717, and was ordained, by Long Island Presbytery, December 6, 1717, pastor of Mattituck, Long Island.

But few things are known of him, further than that his wife died in April, 1729; that he was appointed by the synod to supply Jamaica, in April, 1737; and that, being called to Baskingridge, in New Jersey, he joined New Brunswick Presbytery, May 24, 1744.

Brownlee calls him "a Scottish worthy;" but he was probably a native of Connecticut, for he was sent, in July, 1744, to supply the Presbyterian Church in Milford, in that colony. He died in 1749.

WILLIAM TENNENT

✓ WAS born in Ireland, and was a cousin,* on the mother's side, of James Logan, the Secretary of the Province of Pennsylvania; the Rev. Patrick Logan having married Isabel Hume, a relative of the Laird of Dundas and the Earl of Panmure. Tennent married, May 15, 1702, a daughter of the Rev. Mr. Kennedy, a dis-

* Watson's Annals of Philadelphia.

tinguished Presbyterian minister in Ireland. The Rev. Gilbert Kennedy, a kinsman of the good Earl of Cassilis, who sat in the Westminster Assembly, having been ejected from his charge in Girvan, Ayrshire, went to Ireland, and became the minister of Dundonald. He was imprisoned, in 1670, by Boyle, Bishop of Down, and died February 6, 1687-8. His brother Thomas was the minister of Donoughmore; and his grandson, Gilbert, successively minister of Lisburn, Killileagh, and Belfast, died in 1773.

William Tennent was ordained, by the Bishop of Down, a deacon in July, 1704, and a priest, September 22, 1706. He resided in Down at the time of his marriage, then in Armagh, and, after entering into orders, in Antrim and Down. He is said to have held a chaplaincy in a nobleman's family.

A brief* family record states the births of Tennent's children, and their baptism by Church ministers. After having been† in orders a number of years, he became scrupulous of conforming to the terms imposed on the clergy of the Establishment, and was deprived of his living. There being no satisfactory prospect of usefulness at home, he came to America with his wife, four sons, and a daughter, in September, 1716.

He settled, November 22, 1718, at East Chester, New York, and removed, May 3, 1720, to Bedford. In 1721, he took charge of Bensalem and Smithfield, in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. He accepted a call to Neshaminy in 1726. He had a school, at which his sons and others were educated,—the Latin being as familiar to him as his mother-tongue. In 1728, James Logan‡ gave him fifty acres on Neshaminy Creek, "to encourage him to prosecute his views, and to make his residence near us permanent." The presbytery did not send a minister to install him; but the people, being asked in the meeting-house, declared their acceptance of him as their pastor. He had two congregations, distinguished on the presbytery-book as the upper and lower. On obtaining the land, a log building was erected, twenty feet square, in which his pupils studied. Whitefield says, eight ministers trained by him were sent out before the fall of 1739. Of these, four were his sons; two others were Samuel Blair and John Rowland.

In September, 1734, the newly-formed congregation of Newtown asked for one-fourth of his time; but his upper congregation would not consent. In June, 1736, he asked the presbytery if they considered him the regular pastor of Neshaminy: they replied that they did. The people then carried the matter to the synod, who concurred with the court below. Again Tennent asked the presbytery, in 1738, and they replied as before. Two years after, a

* Published by Dr. Alexander, in the Log College.

† Memoir of Wm. Tennent, of Freehold.

‡ Watson.

petition, signed by sixty-six names, was brought, asking for an assistant. The presbytery called Boyd and Thomson to sit with them in considering the matter: they came, and Tennent freely and cheerfully agreed to the people's proposal. It was arranged that each party should pay their own minister, and the two should preach "day about." McHenry was chosen as assistant.

His people complained, September 18, 1739, that he had yielded his pulpit to Rowland, against the synod's express order in the previous May. When the presbytery entered on the consideration of the case, he disclaimed their jurisdiction, and withdrew; and they did no more than beseech his friends not to suffer the like violation of the synod's authority any more.

On the 10th of November, he came to Philadelphia to see Whitefield, who rejoiced to welcome "an old, gray-headed disciple and soldier of Jesus Christ,—a great friend of Mr. Erskine, but secretly despised by most of the synod." Two days after, Whitefield went to Neshaminy, and, on his arrival, found Gilbert Tennent preaching in the churchyard to three thousand persons. He stopped at once, and gave out a psalm; after which "Whitefield preached, and the people were unaffected; but, in the midst of my discourse, the power of the Lord Jesus came upon me. The Lord brought great things to pass." The revival was extensive and powerful there.

Tennent entertained Whitefield as one of the ancient patriarchs would have done. Whitefield saw in him another Zacharias; and his wife appeared like Elizabeth. There were then "several gracious youth" in the Log College, nearly ready for the ministry. Whitefield wrote to a friend in Philadelphia, July 15, 1740, "I rejoice you have been at Neshaminy. I can say of Mr. Tennent and his brethren as David did of Goliath's sword:—'none like them.'"

Tennent was regularly at synod during the exciting scenes of the three years preceding the rupture, and concurred with his sons in all their measures. Regarding himself as cast out by the Protest, in 1741, he withdrew from the synod and joined New Brunswick Presbytery. He soon asked for an assistant; and supplies were sent till 1743, when Beatty was called and ordained. Roan took charge of the school for a season.

Tennent finished his earthly course May 6, 1746, aged seventy-three, having seen of his pupils, Samuel Blair, Rowland, McCrea, Robinson, John Blair, Samuel Finley, Roan, Beatty, Lawrence, and Dean, besides his four sons, make honourable proof of their ministry, as men "allowed of God."

He lived and died poor. On his coming to this country, he borrowed from the synod's fund, McNish being his security. He asked, in 1724, for "some supply from the fund," in vain. On one occasion, the unpaid interest was remitted. His widow petitioned

for the same favour: eight pounds were thrown off, on condition that principal and interest were paid at once.

His widow, Catharine, closed her days with her son Gilbert, and died in Philadelphia, May 7, 1753, aged seventy. Of his daughter, Eleanor, we have no notice except of her birth, December 27, 1708.

To WILLIAM TENNENT, above all others, is owing the prosperity and enlargement of the Presbyterian church. Other men were conservative, and to their timely erection of barriers we owe our deliverance from the "New Light" of Antrim; others were valiant for the truth, and exerted by the press a wide influence on the age; many were steadily and largely useful in particular departments and in limited spheres: but Tennent had the rare gift of attracting to him youth of worth and genius, imbuing them with his healthful spirit, and sending them forth sound in the faith, blameless in life, burning with zeal, and unsurpassed as instructive, impressive, and successful preachers.

SAMUEL YOUNG

WAS received from Armagh Presbytery by the synod, September 23, 1718, and was appointed by Newcastle Presbytery to supply Drawyers. In May, 1720, a number, (lately come from Ireland,) having settled about the branches of Elk River, sent Thomas Read and Thomas Caldwell to present their case to the presbytery. Young visited them, and countenanced their design of having the gospel settled among them. They were organized as a congregation in June, and they made out a call for Young in September: he declined, and died before June 6, 1721, leaving a widow.

ROBERT CROSS

WAS born near Ballykelly,* in Ireland, 1689; and his credentials as a probationer were approved by the synod in 1717. After spending some time in Newcastle, he was called to that

* Near Letterkenny, according to Mr. Hazard.