

ANNALS

OF THE

AMERICAN PULPIT;

OR

COMMEMORATIVE NOTICES

OF

DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN CLERGYMEN

OF

VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS,

FROM THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE COUNTRY TO THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE.

WITH HISTORICAL INTRODUCTIONS.

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VOLUME I.

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1754.6

"I find I love God, and desire to love God, principally for Himself,—a desire to requite evil with good,—a looking up to God to see Him and his hand, in all things that befall me,—a greater fear of displeasing God than all the world,—a love to such Christians as I never saw, or received good from,—a grief when I see God's commands broken by any person,—a mourning for not finding the assurance of God's love, and the sense of his favour in that comfortable manner, at one time as at another; and not being able to serve God as I should,—a willingness to give God the glory of any ability to do good,—a joy when I am in Christian company, in godly conference,—a grief when I perceive it goes ill with Christians and the contrary,—a constant performance of secret duties between God and myself, morning and evening,—a bewailing of such sins which none in the world can accuse me of,—a choosing of suffering to avoid sin."

Mr. Newman had four children—three sons and one daughter. *Samuel*, probably the eldest son, lived at Rehoboth. *Antipas*, the second minister of Wenham, began to preach there in 1657; was ordained in December, 1663; was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Governor Winthrop, in 1668, and died October 15, 1672. *Noah* succeeded his father as minister of Rehoboth, in March, 1668; was married to Joanna, daughter of the Rev. Henry Flynt* of Braintree, December 3, 1669; and died April 16, 1676. *Hope* was born at Weymouth, November 29, 1641; was married to the Rev. George Shove,† the third minister of Taunton; and died March 7, 1674.

ABRAHAM PIERSON.‡

1639—1678.

ABRAHAM PIERSON was born in Yorkshire, England; was graduated at the University of Cambridge in the year 1632; and, having been ordained, as is supposed episcopally, and preached for some years in his native country, came to New England in the year 1639, and joined the church in Boston. Soon after his arrival, he took up his abode in Lynn; and, after remaining there a short time, removed with a company of immigrants to Long Island; they having, while yet at Lynn, been gathered into a church, and he constituted their pastor. They at first attempted to make a settlement on the West end of the Island; but, not being successful, removed to the East end, and became the first settlers of the town of Southampton, in 1640. Mr. Pierson agreed with John Davenport in wishing to vest all

* HENRY FLYNT arrived in this country from England in 1635, and became a member of the church in Boston; was ordained teacher of the church in Braintree, Massachusetts, March 17, 1640; and died April 27, 1768, aged sixty-eight. He had the reputation of being an earnest and able minister. His wife was Margery, sister of President Hoar. His son, *Josiah*, was born at Braintree, August 24, 1645; was graduated at Harvard College in 1664; was ordained at Dorchester, December 27, 1671; and died September 16, 1680, aged thirty-five. His son, *Henry*, was graduated at Harvard College in 1693; was chosen a Fellow of the College in 1700, and tutor in 1705. He held this latter office until September 25, 1754, when he resigned it. He died February 13, 1760, aged eighty-four. He lived and died a bachelor; and the few foibles which he exhibited were attributed chiefly to this circumstance. Dr. Chauncy pronounces him "a solid, judicious man, and one of the best of preachers." He published A Sermon, preached at the Thursday Lecture in Boston, 1729; A Sermon to the students in the College Hall, 1736; Oratio funebris in obitum B. Wadsworth, 1738; Twenty Sermons, 1739.

† GEORGE SHOVE was a native of Dorchester, and was ordained at Taunton, November 17, 1665, where he lived and laboured till his death, April 21, 1687. His son, *Seth*, was graduated at Harvard College in 1687; was ordained at Danbury, Connecticut, October 23, 1697; and died October 3, 1735, aged sixty-eight.

‡ Winthrop's Hist. N. E., II.—Trumbull's Hist. Conn., I.—Felt's Hist. of Salem.—Stearn's Hist. of the First Church in Newark.—Yale Literary.

civil as well as ecclesiastical power in the Church, and to allow none but church members to act in the choice of the officers of government, or to be eligible as such. Accordingly, he was anxious that the little colony at Southampton should become connected with New Haven, as Southold had been, and was dissatisfied with the agreement, in 1644, to come under the jurisdiction of Connecticut. He therefore removed, in 1647, with a small part of his congregation, to Branford, Conn.; and there, uniting with others from Wethersfield, organized a new church, of which he was the pastor about twenty-three years.

The settlement at Branford, which had commenced in 1644, received a new impulse from Mr. Pierson's going thither, and continued to prosper until the charter of Connecticut was obtained in 1662, including within its limits the jurisdiction of New York. Meanwhile he had acquired great influence, and was much beloved by his people. He was especially distinguished for his efforts to instruct and evangelize the Indians. As early as the year 1651, we find him spoken of as studying the language, and "continuing with much seriousness therein, that he may the better be able to treat with the ignorant children of the forest concerning the things of their peace." Shortly after, we hear of him not only as preaching to the Indians, but preparing a Catechism for them in their own language. It was first written in English; and, by the assistance of a skilful interpreter, was translated into Indian. It was printed by Mr. Green in 1660.

Mr. Pierson had a regular salary for his services in the Indian department, from the Commissioners, in the same manner with Eliot and Mayhew and some others. His labours in this field were highly appreciated; as is evident from the correspondence of the Commissioners, and the fact that special appropriations were repeatedly awarded to him, in consideration of his extraordinary efforts.

In 1654, Mr. Pierson was selected as chaplain to the forces raised against the Dutch; and he seems to have enjoyed the confidence and esteem of not only the ministers, but the more prominent civilians, connected with the confederacy of New Haven.

In the contentions between the jurisdictions of Connecticut and New Haven from 1662 to 1665, Mr. Pierson took sides with Mr. Davenport and others against the union; and so strong were his feelings on this subject, that, when the event took place, he resolved to remove with his people from the Colony. Arrangements were accordingly made; and on the 30th of October, 1666, he, with most of his congregation, and many prominent individuals from Guilford, New Haven and Milford, made and signed "a plantation covenant" for that purpose; the first article of which was, "that none should be admitted freemen or free burgesses, but such planters as are members of some or other of the Congregational churches, and that none but such be chosen to magistracy, or to carry on any part of civil judicature, or as deputies or assistants, to have power to vote in establishing laws, making and repealing them, or to any chief military trust or office."

Mr. Pierson, accompanied by a considerable portion of his flock, left Branford about June, 1757, and directed his course towards New Jersey; and the place where they settled, they called Newark. Dr. Trumbull states that "Mr. P. carried away the Church records of Branford, after it had been settled nearly twenty-five years, and left it almost without an inhab-

itant." The next year, (1668,) his people voted to pay the expenses of his journey from Connecticut to New Jersey, and to allow him eighty pounds salary per year.

This was the third colony he had planted; and now, in his declining years, he sat down with his people under a code of laws of his own choice, and remained with them greatly beloved and honoured until the close of life. During several of his last years, he was privileged to have his son, afterwards the first President of Yale College, to share with him his pastoral charge. He died on the 9th of August, 1678. As early as the 10th of August, 1671, he made his will, "being firmly persuaded," as he said, "of the everlasting welfare of my soul's estate; and my body's resurrection to eternal life by Jesus Christ, my dear and precious Redeemer." His library, at his decease, contained four hundred and forty volumes, valued at one hundred pounds, and was nearly all bequeathed to his eldest son.

Mr. Pierson was evidently a man of high character, and exerted a commanding influence. Governor Winthrop, who knew him personally, pronounces him "a godly, learned man." Cotton Mather says of him—"Wherever he came, he shone. * * * He left behind him the character of a pious and prudent man; and a true child of Abraham, now safely lodged in Abraham's bosom."

Mr. Pierson was married to a daughter of the Rev. John Wheelwright of Exeter, N. H. They had four sons—*Abraham, Thomas, Theophilus* and *Isaac*. Four daughters are mentioned in his will, and one is supposed to have died before. One daughter, *Abigail*, was married to a son of the Rev. John Davenport.

JOHN KNOWLES.*

1639—1650.

JOHN KNOWLES was a native of Lincolnshire, England, and pursued his studies at Magdalen College, Cambridge. In 1625, he was chosen Fellow of Katharine Hall, where he had full employment as a tutor. At one time he had forty pupils, many of whom afterwards became well known—some as distinguished preachers, others as eminent statesmen. Before the death of Dr. Sibbs, Master of Katharine Hall, a fellowship became vacant in Magdalen College, for which Archbishop Laud recommended one of his bell ringers. Mr. Knowles, in a moment of weakness or inconsideration, gave his vote in favour of the individual thus recommended; but it was subsequently a matter of deep regret with him, and he is said to have remarked, fifty years afterwards, that there was scarcely any act of his life which, in the review, gave him so much pain.

Mr. Knowles, while he was thus employed in the business of teaching, as Fellow of Katharine Hall, was invited by the Mayor and Aldermen of Colchester to become their lecturer. He accepted the place, and performed its duties with great acceptance and success. During his residence here, he

* Mather's Mag., III.—Noncon. Mem. III.—Francis' History of Watertown.