

A

HISTORY

OF THE

Presbyterian Church in America,

FROM ITS ORIGIN UNTIL THE YEAR 1760.

WITH

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF ITS EARLY MINISTERS.

BY THE

REV. RICHARD WEBSTER,

LATE PASTOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MAUCH CHUNK, PA.

WITH

A Memoir of the Author,

BY THE REV. C. VAN RENSSELAER, D.D.

AND

An Historical Introduction,

BY THE REV. WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, D.D.

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PHILADELPHIA:

JOSEPH M. WILSON,

No. 27 SOUTH TENTH STREET, BELOW CHESTNUT ST.

1857.

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ther, he completed his second "Vindication of the Sovereignty of Grace."

Foxcroft, in his preface, highly commends the continuation. Dickinson also prepared a treatise on the questions, Whether blindness of mind is the primary cause of unbelief? and Whether regeneration is wrought by the Holy Ghost operating with the gospel, whereby the sinner is enlightened and enabled to know the truth? He took the affirmative side, in opposition to the new theology then coming into vogue. It was read before the Fairfield County Association and the trustees of Yale, and was approved by them.

Early in 1764, he sought an assistant in William Tennent, Jr., the son of the patriarch of Freehold; but, after his removal, during the closing years of life, he pursued his work unaided.

He died May 1, 1778, aged eighty-three. Dr. Trumbull, in preparing his "History of Connecticut," had access to his manuscripts; but they have been lost or destroyed.

THOMAS EVANS

WAS received by Newcastle Presbytery as a student from the Presbytery of Caermarthen, in Wales; and they recommended him, (September 14, 1719,) after appointed trials of his ministerial gifts and high satisfaction in his blameless life, as a very hopeful candidate. They licensed him, May 28, 1720. The congregation of Welsh Tract (where his relatives were among the wealthiest and most highly-esteemed people) petitioned for him; but the presbytery persevered in efforts to reconcile them to their late pastor, David Evans. The call was placed in his hands, March 12, 1723; and he was ordained at Pencader, May 8. Proclamation was made thrice at the door of the meeting-house, by David Evans, Esq., that, if any had allegations to make against his life or doctrine, they should do so before the ordination.

He was the brother* of Nathaniel Evans, a large proprietor in Delaware. He was an excellent scholar and a valuable instructor. Among his pupils were Abel Morgan,† the Baptist minister of Middletown, New Jersey, with whom President Davies acquired the rudiments of classic lore, and who maintained a discussion on baptism with President Finley. Evans was a bachelor, a book-

* So I am informed by Joshua Edwards, whose father (Rev. Morgan Edwards) took for his second wife the widow of Nathaniel Evans.

† M. Edwards's History of the New Jersey Baptists.

worm, possessed a fine library, and was continually adding to his store. He was esteemed a truly pious man.

He was absent from the synod in 1741; but the Old Side appointed him, with two others, to defend the "Protestation" in print, if need be. He died in 1743.

ALEXANDER HUTCHESON.

THE Rev. Alexander Hutcheson, of Saintfield, county Down, (Ireland,) was one of the ministers of the Synod of Ulster to whom Sir Arthur Forbes first spoke of the project of the Regium Donum. He died in 1711. Francis Hutcheson, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, took a deep interest in our infant church, and proposed to Francis Alison that the synod should establish a seminary of learning.

When Alexander Hutcheson was received by Newcastle Presbytery as a probationer from Glasgow Presbytery, (September 10, 1722,) they transmitted a formal vote of thanks to that body for sending him to these parts. After supplying Drawyers, he was called (March 12, 1723) to Bohemia Manor and Broad Creek, in Cecil county, Maryland. After proclamation made, no objections being offered, he was ordained, June 6. His people were not numerous or wealthy, and he asked to be dismissed; but the presbytery declined, and gave him aid out of the fund, and left him at liberty for one-third of his time to supply vacancies which desired him.

He, with Gillespie, dissented from the act requiring a synodical examination of candidates for the ministry; and they withdrew with the Brunswick brethren. Hutcheson wrote to the Synod of Philadelphia, expressing his opinion of the proceedings of both parties, and giving his advice.

Augustin Herman, a Bohemian, a large land-purchaser, was "the first founder and seater of Bohemia Manor." The "Manor" covered eighteen thousand acres. In Whitefield's day, it was one of the most interesting portions of our country. The Bayard family were his choicest friends. He wrote from there, April 26, 1747, "After two days' abode here, I purpose taking a three weeks' circuit in hunting for Maryland sinners." 1754: "Again I have got into Maryland, and into a family out of which five, I trust, have been born of God. To-day I am forty." From St. George's, November 24, 1740:—"We have had precious times at