

OLD REDSTONE,

JAN 13
THEOLOGICAL

OR,

Historical Sketches

OF

WESTERN PRESBYTERIANISM,

ITS

EARLY MINISTERS, ITS PERILOUS TIMES,

AND

ITS FIRST RECORDS.

BY

JOSEPH SMITH, D.D.

“Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee: thy elders, and they will tell thee.”—DEUT. xxxii. 7.



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Your affectionate Uncle
Joseph Patterson

with Mr. Smith, as he was a thorough classical scholar, and fifteen years older than Dr. M'Millan, and the pastor of two very large churches, where a great number of youth had been hopefully converted to God under his ministry.* That he

* We would also invite attention to the following statements from the Rev. Joseph Patterson, and from his son, the Rev. Robert Patterson, as in harmony with the entire view we have given above, though by no means written for that purpose. The first is an extract from a prefatory note to a volume of letters written by the Rev. Joseph Patterson: "In the fall of 1785, being thirty-three years old, it was thought best, with the advice of the Presbytery of Redstone, that I should endeavor to prepare for the gospel ministry. There being no places of public education in this country, I, with a few others, studied with the Rev. Joseph Smith, of Buffalo congregation, Washington county, Pa. Being partially absent from my family," &c.

The other statement will be found in the following extract from a letter of the Rev. Robert Patterson to the Rev. M. Brown, D. D., dated Oct. 1st, 1846: "Between 1780 and 1790, and chiefly in the latter part of these ten years, some of the few Presbyterian clergymen living west of the mountains in Pennsylvania, were in the habit of giving instruction in the languages and sciences to young men, whose object in their studies was the gospel ministry. The Rev. Messrs. Joseph Smith and John M'Millan were distinguished in their devotion to this cause. They both settled in congregations in Washington county, Pa. Mr. Smith had a small building erected in a corner of the garden, called "the students' room," too small to be dignified with the name of a *hall*. And Mr. M'Millan had a small log cabin built near his log dwelling-house, known to this day by the appellation of the "log cabin." In these primitive seminaries were educated some men who became eminently useful and successful in the Church. Among them may be named the Rev. Messrs. William Swan, Samuel Porter, James Hughes, John Brice, David Smith, Joseph Patterson, and others whose names do not occur to my memory. It should be here stated, that, for want of suitable places elsewhere, the students generally lodged in the minister's family, without profit, and sometimes at considerable expense to the household. In this service and toil, the wives of these two godly ministers heartily concurred. I knew them well, and they were both eminently mothers in Israel.

"For some time in the latter part of 1790, instruction in these small seminaries had been suspended," &c.

Both these statements substantially confirm the account given by