

THE PRESBYTERY
OF
THE LOG COLLEGE;

OR,
The Cradle of the Presbyterian Church
IN AMERICA.

BY
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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

IN order to prevent misunderstanding, it is proper to state that this valuable history is published by the Board for the Presbytery through the author, the members of that body and Dr. Murphy defraying the entire expense. For obvious reasons the Board has acted on the rule that it is inexpedient for it to publish local histories, however interesting and valuable they might be. But for the action of the Presbytery and Dr. Murphy, this volume, notwithstanding that more than two-thirds of it relates to the origin and general history of our Church and contains much new and valuable information pertaining thereto, could not have been published by this Board.

E. R. CRAVEN, *Secretary.*

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THE ORIGINAL LOG COLLEGE BUILDING.

APPENDIX.

CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF THE LOG COLLEGE, SEPT. 5, 1889.

FOLLOWING the preparation of this volume, and growing out of it, there was held on September 5, 1889, the year which is the centennial anniversary of the organization of the General Assembly, a celebration which was so extraordinary in every respect that the author was persuaded to delay the issuing of the book until a description of that noteworthy event could be prepared as an appendix. The commemorative occasion was marked by so many favoring providences; it drew together such a vast assembly; it was so cordially advocated by the public press; it was honored by the presence of so many distinguished people; it had with it such hearty good-will from all classes, all parties and all denominations,—that it cannot but be regarded as a most remarkable and significant event. It was the more noteworthy in that such results were entirely unanticipated. In the beginning its friends had no higher purpose than an ordinarily important reunion, and all its vast proportions were developed as the work of preparation progressed.

The celebration grew out of the continued study of its history which had been undertaken by direction of the Presbytery. As that study progressed and led to the minute investigation of points in the history which had not come in the way of previous explorers, certain new and striking facts were discovered. How should these important facts be rescued from oblivion and brought to the attention of those who are interested in the cause of religion? Evidently some extraordinary thing must be done for that purpose. This was the first impulse that prompted to our wonderful celebration. What else would be so well adapted to awaken the attention of the Christian public to our strangely interesting history?

It became more and more manifest to us at every step that we were following the leadings of Providence. Plans of preparation

carry the gospel, to those who need it and will accept it; let us found and foster the modest but efficient institution of sound learning wherever an intelligent constituency will demand or warrant it. From this Atlantic coast to the shores of the broad Pacific let the policy and practice of the fathers find their counterpart in the wise and conservative action of the present generation. *Multiply the log colleges!* MULTIPLY THE LOG COLLEGES!

The next address was by Postmaster-General Wanamaker, who received a warm welcome as he stepped to the front of the platform. He said:

MR. CHAIRMAN AND FRIENDS: It is because I am your neighbor that I am honored to-day with a place on your programme. Three months ago, when my old and dear friend the Rev. Dr. Murphy invited me to make an address, I said no, but that I would endeavor to attend, though not to speak. Nevertheless, the compliment is paid me by your committee of placing my name on your historic programme, which in itself is a roll of honor. I am too grateful to take advantage of this to make a long speech.

Permit me to say that I share with you in pride of the good fortune that fixes our homes close to the Revolutionary glories of Independence Hall and near by the scenes of Germantown, Valley Forge and Neshaminy, where the Log College made its mark in the history of our nation. A lowly spot this seems, to be the birthplace of the momentous movement that set in motion the early educational life of the land, but it is not the first time that out of obscure places streams of light have shed brightness over the land—never more so than when the star shone on Bethlehem's plains and the Light of the world came with angelic songs. Centuries before, David came from the hidden pastures with the harp whose melody for three thousand years has been singing on. In later days, Elisha left the plough for that first day-school of the prophets of which the Log College was the succession.

When those untitled heroes, in whose ancestry some of you may well be proud, came nearly two centuries ago to this place to lay the foundations for their college, their path lay through the shining gateway of faith in God. The bush that flamed at Moses' feet, indicating God's presence with his servants, must have glowed again before their reverent eyes. Not in their own strength they came, neither were they alone; for Joshua and Elijah spoke again through these early teachers, Isaiah and David with lofty inspiration repeated their message, and the apostles and martyrs took up the strain, and the word of God had free course and God was glorified in the widespread beneficence of the institutions of learning that grew out of this holy ministry.

Few in number, not powerful nor rich, without stone or costly carvings, they built a great cathedral enduring as the truth, its base and buttresses, column and capstone, a benediction to all the land. Not created by act of Parliament nor fostered by act of Congress, but in simple and strong confidence in the God whose Spirit led them, they wrought this work that in the ages to come will continue to manifest the wisdom and goodness of its founders and give glory to God.

I like Memorial Day that puts flowers on the graves of the nation's heroes, and I like the thought that gathers us to keep this feast of celebration for the heroes of our faith. While we stand together to-day on this high level, looking off over the centuries at the true men whose

work built the institutions we are now enjoying, there comes to me, like the song of the lark, an inspiration that out of other humble places true men may come up with God's blessing to do service in Church and State for themselves and coming generations, for which the world will rise up and call them blessed.

Charles A. Dickey, D. D., of Philadelphia, read a paper on "The Presbytery of Philadelphia," in substance as follows :

I am asked to convey the congratulations of the mother-Presbytery of Philadelphia, and to note that exchange of influence which gave the Christian college the fostering care of the Church, and the Church the never-failing fruits of the college. The college and the Church have common interests. Through mutual dependence they have come to present power and influence. We can hardly believe that the humble Log College whose memory has inspired our assemblage, and whose history calls forth our homage, was the germ of so many great institutions. And the growth of the Church is no less marked or wonderful. When the college was a humble cabin the Church was a single small Presbytery. The Presbytery of Philadelphia has become a glorious Church, whose borders are the sands and rocks of the great oceans, whose Synods are commensurable with nearly half a hundred sovereign States; whose larger Presbyteries occupy imperial cities thronged with more people than composed the nation a hundred years ago. The depth and breadth and strength of the foundations laid by the noble men whom we honor to-day clearly indicate that they conceived the glory and greatness of the edifice that should be built by their successors. God's promises were facts to their faith. Their visions were their inspirations. Our inheritance was their hope. If our statistics show marvelous growth, let us remember that, under God, we are indebted for it all to that noble band of Christian ministers who stood at the cradle of Church and State and covenanted with God to meet responsibility, and to ensure the life of both by the creation of an educated Christian ministry. Our heritage is the favor that God has shown to their fidelity. More than a million strong in our Presbyterian households; represented by more than six thousand able ministers of the word; our missionary fires kindled around the globe; millions of substance contributed every year; with great seminaries and colleges to meet increasing demands; the memorials of the dead and the praise of the living,—this is the triumphal arch under which the procession of the loyal dead passes to-day; this is the monument upon which we would inscribe their devotion to truth, to Christ and their country. The Log College trained men to keep the liberties of the land out of the grasp of tyrants and to free the gospel from the shackles of ignorance and unbelief. To call the roll of the Log College would be to name the champions of civil and religious liberty. To the Presbyterian college and to the Presbyterian Church is to be credited a large share of the prosperity and stability of this free Christian nation. The principles for which both have contended have, in a large measure, determined our national greatness. The Church has nobly sustained the college, and the college has nobly sustained the Church, and both have strengthened the nation.

Looking in pride upon the children whom she has nursed to greatness, the mother-Presbytery pays her homage to the old Log College which contributed so much to their growth.

I claim no gift of prophecy, no ken to reveal the future, but I know what I hope. I hope the future may be the past repeated more glori-