

Calendar of Letters, 1742-1831.

(Continued from page 43.)

12. 1763. May 5.

From ROBERT ROBINSON, at Hauxton, to Mr. RIST, grocer, at Isleham.

Commends Xt. as "a powerful antidote against all heart-sorrows," and bids Rist study "that Revelation" as follows:— (1) The dignity of His Person. (2) The efficacy of His atonement. (3) Perfection of His obedience to the Law. (4) Fulness of Grace.

"Pray earnestly to know him more and more for in that science is all happiness contained." Mentions Mr. Lambert, who has recently suffered loss, and "whom I have heard sweetly on God's *Sovereignty*."

[Robert Robinson, aged 28, had been pastor at Cambridge for two years. Samuel Lambert, once of Olney, had been pastor for six years at Isleham, which was not purely Baptist.]

13. 1765. May 18.

From WM. CRABTREE, of Bradford, to GEO. NESFIELD, at Bridlington.

Sympathising with G.N., who has trouble in his Church. Refers to Whitehaven—and "the stedfastness of those that are left" there. Mentions Mr. Barker "to whom I wrote for a supply but without avail."

[William Crabtree, aged 45, had been pastor at Bradford for twelve years. George Nesfield was holding a brief pastorate at Bridlington, Mann's home. Whitehaven had called John Huddleston in 1760, when Crabtree had charged the church; but the church had just split. Mann wrote a short life of Crabtree in 1815.]

14. 1766. Sep. 3.

From JOHN GILL, D.D., London, to GEORGE NESFIELD Bridlington.

Re £3 8s. received from the Church at Bridlington "for the Fund" to be paid to Mr. Burch "on your account."

15. 1766. Nov. 23.

From the Church at Eagle St. London to the Church at Bengworth, near Evesham.

Transfer of Elizabeth Beezley (now Hughs). Signed by A. Gifford (Pastor), Jno. Brailsford, Saml. Dent, G. White, W. Hopper and Jno. Archer.

[This is the first of several letters connected with Lawrence Butterworth, son of a blacksmith at Goodshaw, minister at Bengeworth near Evesham from 1764 till 1828. Three brothers came to the midlands, James to Bromsgrove, Henry to Bridgnorth, John to Coventry.]

16. 1767. Oct. 22.

From Church at Haworth to Church at Roddeland (pastor—Rich. Thomas).

Transferring Sarah Horsfall, "who maintains the character of a steady, peaceful, and regular member among us." Signed by Jas. Hartley, Wm. Greenwood, Adam Holden, Wm. Yates, John Rhodes, Jonas Horsfall.

17. 1772. Sept. 14.

From BENJAMIN BEDDOME, Bourton, to HENRY KEEN, Southwark.

A letter to "cheer, refresh, and quicken" commending "My grace is sufficient for thee." Mentions "Mr. Clark, of Oxford, formerly your neighbour, preached at the Meeting House built by Madame Gin for Mr. Rudd," but "apprehend not the most settled in his sentiments or direct in his conduct" and "appears to have acted weak." Mentions "Mr. Wall" from whom "I have not heard for a long time." After his signature he quotes a 3 verse hymn "When sorrows rise and sins prevail." "They are a short hymn which I composed (I do every Sabbath)."

[Benjamin Beddome, aged 55, was pastor at Bourton 1743-1795. Sayer Rudd had been expelled Baptist circles for Unitarian views, and Mrs. Elizabeth Ginn in 1736 built him a meeting-house in Snow's Fields, Southwark; but he joined the Church of England in 1742. That a "Mr. Clark of Oxford" preached here was not known to Walter Wilson when he wrote the story of dissenting meeting-houses in and near London.]

18. 1773. Nov. 18.

From SAM. J. STENNETT, London, to Rev. CRABTREE, Bradford.

Re the Hamsterley Church and a Mr. Whitfield. Stennett quotes a letter from a Newcastle friend which conveys Mr. Knipe, an Indpt. minister's, opinion of Whitfield. It says that W. has settled at Hamsterley after having previously been with the Establishment and the Methodists, from whom, under the

influence of Mr. Allen, he came to the Baptists. Further, S. quotes a Mr. Hartley as informing him that Hamsterley messengers have been to Mr. Crabtree, to whom he "communicated his scruples" re W. Reflection is cast (with no supporting evidence) on W's fitness for Hamsterley, "but it now lies with the Hamsterley folks to give you further satisfaction." S. further says that he fears that W. might apply to Mr. Knipe, although an Indpt., to ordain him.

[Samuel Stennett, aged 46, had no particular means of knowing anything about Charles Whitfield. For him and the church at Hamsterley, reference should be made to Douglas, History of the Northern Baptist Association, page 199. John Allen, originally of Bewdley, had been pastor at Bromsgrove, Chester, Salisbury, London (Petticoat Lane), Newcastle, and was now in New York. James Hartley, of Haworth, was of considerably better character. Whitfield proved himself a fine leader till 1821, planting churches and supporting missions.]

19. 1774. Ap. 22.

From D. TURNER (Abingdon) to THOS. YEOMANS (Leicester Fields, London).

Stating willingness to grant a transfer to Mary Wilkins, a returned "wanderer from the ways of God" and now living in London upon request being made for it. Sends Xn. regards to "Mr. Martin and the Church, to the pastoral charge of which he is now, I suppose, called."

[Daniel Turner, aged 65, had 24 years still before him. The church meeting at Grafton Street, Westminster had lost its pastor, Benjamin Messer, in 1772. This call to Martin from Shepshed involved a secession. Martin's career in London had many unhappy incidents.]

20. 1774. May 21.

From J. SUTCLIFF (Bristol) to "The Tutors and Gentlemen of the Bristol Education Society."

"Being about to leave the Academy" would "return my warmest thanks for all favours conferred on me."

21. 1776. Oct. 16.

A legal document by which JOHN ASH, LL.D. (of Pershore, Worcs.) leaves to JOHN SITCH ("the elder of Kingswood in the County of Wilts"—who, a later note says, died in 1789) the sum of £100. Witnesses: Thos. Hillier and Benj. Badford.

(To be continued.)