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Memoir
of

THE LATE REV. JOHN KEIR. D. D.

of Paines town, P.S.

By Rev. George S. Walker.

I. INTRODUCTION.

In proceeding to give an account of the life and labors of this venerable servant of Christ, whose loss the church at large deploras, we may be permitted to express our regret, that he and so many of the fathers of our church have left such scanty records of their early labors and trials. The lives of most ministers is of such a calm and uniform tenor, as to present few materials for biography. It was however very different with those, who first planted the gospel in the forests of this country. Their lives abounded in arduous toils, in spirit stirring incidents, and in abundant success; the record of which would form an interesting addition to religious literature. But with the modesty that characterised them, they, with scarcely more than a single exception, left no written record of their labors and sacrifices. They kept no journals. They neither courted nor expected notoriety for what they had done. They were content to labor and look for no other reward, than the blessing and approval of the great master whom they served. Or if they looked to posterity, it was in the hope, that their works would follow them. This indeed is a record more enduring than the written page, or the marble pillar.— Still we have reason to regret that the facts of their history are so imperfectly known; and justice to their memory, as well as the dictates of the word of God require that, as far as possible, these facts should be preserved. "What we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us, we will not hide them from their children; showing to the generations to come, the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done." "Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations; ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy Elders and they will tell thee."

These remarks especially apply to the subject of this memoir. His was a long life of abundant labor, and of cheering success, but he has left no particular record of what he has done. He kept no journal of his early toils, and with the humility of his character, he