

# RECORD

OF THE

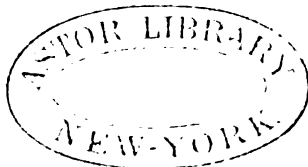
# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: General

EMBRACING THE

MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA, FROM A. D. 1706 TO 1716:  
MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA, FROM A. D. 1717 TO 1758:  
MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF NEW YORK, FROM A. D. 1745 TO 1758:  
MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK, FROM A. D.  
1758 TO 1788.



PHILADELPHIA:

PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

JAMES RUSSELL, PUBLISHING AGENT.

1841.

## PART SECOND.

THE MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA,  
FROM A. D. 1717 TO 1758.

At a Synod held at Philadelphia, which began

*September 17th, 1717. Post preces sederunt,*

Ministers: Messrs. George McNish, moderator, Jedidiah Andrews, James Anderson, George Gillespie, Robert Wotherspoon, Malachi Jones, David Evans, Samuel Pumry, John Bradner, Robert Orr, John Thomson, John Pierson, Jonathan Dickinson.—13.

Elders: John Snowden, Alexander White, Elias Naudain, Peter Watkins, Daniel Howell, John Rodes.—6.

For moderator this Synod was chosen Mr. Jedidiah Andrews, and Mr. Robert Wotherspoon was chosen clerk.

There not being time for the reading of the last year's minutes this *sederunt*, adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

*Wednesday, at eight o'clock, sederunt ut supra, post preces.*

Mr. Bradner's excuse for his absence last year was sustained.

The list of the ministers belonging to the Synod being read, it was found that Mr. Henry and Mr. Powell are dead.

The minutes concerning Mr. Morgan being read, the whole affair relating to that minute was referred to that Presbytery whereof he is a member.

The reasons of Mr. Conn's absence were by letter given, and sustained.

Masters Gillespie, Wotherspoon, and Evans, supplied Kent county according to appointment, as also did Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Thomson was ordained, according to appointment; Masters Gillespie and Bradner absent at that time; and their excuses on that occasion were accepted.

Mr. Pierson was ordained, according to appointment, at Woodbridge, on the 29th of April, 1717.

The brethren belonging to Long Island have done their endeavour for erecting a Presbytery there, and were successful.

Some Presbyteries being defective in not bringing their Presbytery books, it was ordered that they should have them ready against the next meeting of the Synod.

The consideration of the minute made last year with respect to Mr. Pumry, referred to next *sederunt*.

The moderator of the last Synod being hindered from being here at the time appointed by the last year's Synod, he was appointed to preach this day at ten o'clock, his Synodical sermon.

Mr. Gelston was ordained at Southampton, April the 17th, 1717, by Masters McNish, Philips, and Pumry, according to appointment.

Adjourned till three o'clock, afternoon.

bytery book of Philadelphia, and Masters Andrews and Jones to revise the Presbytery book of New Castle.

This Synod being further informed of Mr. Gelston's absence last year, do accept his reasons.

The affair concerning the fund, referred to the next *sederunt*.

The committee reported the case concerning Mr. Anderson, viz: that they transported him from New Castle to New York, having had power lodged in them by the Synod to determine that affair.

Mr. James Anderson reported to the Synod, that Mr. Wotherspoon had in due time observed the order of the Synod concerning Andrew Van Dyke's incestuous marriage with his brother's wife.

Mr. Andrews preached from 1 Cor. iii. 11, on the third Tuesday of 7br. 1718, at the opening of the Synod.

The Synod ordered that a committee of bills and overtures, should be appointed to meet before the next *sederunt* of the Synod, and that they consider what matters have been orderly proceeded on, and what are suitable to be by them transmitted to the Synod. The Synod also ordering, that in any case of difficulty coming before the committee, they shall take the advice of the Synod. The Synod also appoints the reverend brethren, Masters Andrews, Hampton, Anderson, Gillespie, and the Moderator, to be members of the said committee, and that the committee meet at eight o'clock to-morrow morning, and the Synod at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Synod concluded with prayer and adjourned till 3 o'clock, post merid. to-morrow.

17th day at 3 o'clock, *sederunt ut supra*.

The Presbytery's book of New Castle was produced according to promise.

The Presbytery's book of Long-Island being called for, it was delayed.

The affair concerning the fund, referred till the next *sederunt*.

Mr. William Tennent's affair being transmitted by the committee to the Synod, was by them fully considered, being well satisfied with his credentials, and the testimony of some brethren here present, as also they were satisfied with the material reasons which he offered concerning his dissenting from the established Church in Ireland; being put to a vote of the Synod, it was carried in the affirmative to admit him as a member of the Synod. Ordered, that his reasons be inserted in the Synod book *ad futuram rei memoriam*. The Synod also ordered that the moderator should give him a serious exhortation to continue steadfast in his now holy profession, which was done.

The reasons of Mr. William Tennent for his dissenting from the established Church in Ireland, delivered by him to the Reverend Synod, held at Philadelphia, the 17th day of September, 1718.

*Imprimis*. Their government by Bishops, Arch-Bishops, Deacons, Arch-Deacons, Canons, Chapters, Chancellors, Vicars, wholly anti-scriptural.

2. Their discipline by Surrogates, and Chancellors in their Courts Ecclesiastic, without a foundation in the word of God.

3. Their abuse of that supposed discipline by commutation.

4. A Diocesan Bishop cannot be founded *jure divino* upon those Epistles to Timothy or Titus, nor anywhere else in the word of God, and so is a mere human invention.

5. The usurped power of the Bishops at their yearly visitations, acting all of themselves, without consent of the brethren.

6. Pluralities of benefices.

Lastly. The Churches conniving at the practice of Arminian doctrines inconsistent with the eternal purpose of God, and an encouragement of vice. Besides I could not be satisfied with their ceremonial way of worship.

These, &c. have so affected my conscience, that I could no longer abide in a church where the same are practised. Signed by

WILLIAM TENNENT.

Mr. Samuel Young, minister of the gospel, presenting his credentials from the Presbytery of Armagh, met at Donaghmore, in the county of Down, in the kingdom of Ireland, to this Synod; they were cordially approved, and he admitted a member *nemine contradicente*.

The Synod adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning, and appointed the committee to meet at eight, and then concluded with prayer.

18th day at 10 o'clock, *sedesunt ut supra*.

Mr. Pumry's absence was excused.

The Presbytery's book of Long-Island being called for, they produced their minutes.

Masters Pierson and Bradner appointed to revise the Presbytery's minutes of Long-Island.

Masters Jones and Bradner's absence excused.

Mr. McNish his absence excused.

Mr. Gillespie reported that he recommended to his congregation to contribute to the public fund, and that he received subscriptions for six pound odd money to be paid against next Synod.

The Synod having considered the business of the public fund, did recommend it to the several ministers, to use the methods that according to their discretion, should seem best to answer the pious intention of it, and to apply their utmost diligence therein.

Mr. Jedidiah Andrews continued treasurer of the fund till next Synod. And it is further ordered by the Synod, that the treasurer for the time being have a book, wherein the Synod shall have credit for the several sums he shall receive, and be charged debtor for what disbursements shall be made by the appointment of the Synod, and that some of their number whom they shall think fit to appoint, shall examine the said book yearly, and transmit the balance into the Synod book, which shall be subscribed and sealed to by the said treasurer, for which he, his heirs, executors, and administrators, shall be accountable to the Synod, excepting in case of unavoidable emergencies only; and that a copy of the treasurer's obligation, signed and sealed by him, be delivered to some person whom the Synod shall appoint.

The committee met as appointed.

The Synod adjourned till three o'clock precisely, and concluded with prayer.

At 3 o'clock post merid. *sedesunt ut supra*.

The business concerning the fund referred till to-morrow morning; and that a collection be made then by those that shall be ready.

Masters Dickinson and Young appointed to write a letter to Mr. Boyse, minister in Dublin, to be communicated to the Presbytery there.

Masters Hampton, McNish, and Anderson, appointed to write a letter to the ministers of London, as also another letter to Mr. Stirling, principal of the University of Glasgow, and another letter to the Synod of Glasgow.

Masters John Clement and William Stewart, probationers, presented their credentials from Britain to the Synod, which were considered and approved. As also a call from Pocomoke, being presented by them to Mr. John Clement, and another was presented from Monokin and Wicomico, to Mr. William Stewart, both of which were approved by the Synod, and their ordination appointed to be according to the usual methods, and performed by Masters