

MEMOIR

OF THE

REV. JOSEPH SANFORD, A. M.

PASTOR OF THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA.

BY ROBERT BAIRD.

“Soldier of Christ! well done;
Praise be thy new employ;
And while eternal ages run,
Rest in thy Saviour's joy.”
J. MONTGOMERY.

PHILADELPHIA:

HENRY PERKINS, CHESTNUT STREET.

BOSTON: PERKINS & MARVIN.

1836.

ENTERED according to Act of Congress, in the year 1836, by
HENRY PERKINS, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of
the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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“MY DEAR BROTHER,

“Permit me to mingle my tears with yours. You have indeed been called, at an early period, to suffering of the most acute kind and its consequence deep and prostrating sorrow. May your covenant God support you with the consolations of that covenant, and cause you to *feel* that he is *your* God and Father in Christ Jesus his Son. I commend you to him and to his blessing on this occasion, knowing full well that if you are *his*, as I am persuaded, he will support and comfort you in this the hour of your affliction. The Lord God of his church be with you and bless you—enable you to carry out in your ministerial department the evidences of mediatorial fidelity to *his* own promises, who is *our* Jehovah, in righteousness and sanctification.

“Your sympathizing brother in the common salvation,
“J. B. ROMEYN.”

“*Princeton, Dec. 19th, 1823.*

“MY DEAR SIR,

“I received, ten days ago, with unfeigned sympathy, the intelligence of the heavy bereavement with which it has pleased an infinitely wise and sovereign God to visit you. Be assured you have not been forgotten in those approaches to the throne of grace which my companion and myself are in the habit of jointly making; and I should have taken an opportunity of expressing to you our kind remembrance, had not a variety of circumstances, and among the rest a temporary interruption of health, prevented my enjoying a moment's leisure until this time.

“We little thought, eight weeks ago, when we saw you and your excellent companion going to New York together, that she would so soon take her flight to a better world. But it is all well—infinity for the best. God has been

pleased, indeed, in your case, to sever the tenderest ties that human nature knows—and, of course, to lay upon you one of the heaviest earthly calamities. But, oh how much mercy is mingled with the affliction! How seldom is it that surviving friends have so much evidence of the safe and happy departure of any one, as in the case of your beloved, and now, we doubt not, glorified partner! For this you have reason evermore to bless God, and to have his praise continually in your mouth. The Lord grant that while your heart is wrung with that anguish which such an event *ought*, in some respects, to produce, you may be enabled more than ever to rejoice in God your Saviour, and to praise him for the great mercies attending this dispensation! May He who has inflicted the stroke send the balm of consolation, and enable you to say, *It is good for me to be afflicted!*

“My dear young brother, perhaps the Lord, by thus early trying you in the furnace of affliction, intends to prepare you for a course of *peculiar devotedness to his cause*, and of *peculiar usefulness*. If so, will you not have reason for ever to praise him for it? If so, will not one of the most mysterious dispensations that has lately come to my knowledge, prove to be full of light, and mercy, and joy, in the end?

“I am unexpectedly cut short in my letter by an interruption, and have only time to add, again, the assurance of affectionate remembrance in our prayers, that the God of all grace may bless and comfort you.

“I am, my dear sir, with cordial sympathy, your friend and brother,

✓
“SAMUEL MILLER.

“REV. MR. SANFORD.”