THE SPEECH OF MR. JOHN CHECKLEY, UPON HIS TRIAL AT BOSTON IN 1724

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JOHN CHECKLEY

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THE SPEECH

OF

MR. JOHN CHECKLEY.

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THE SPEECH

OF

MR. JOHN CHECKLEY, 1680-1754

UPON HIS TRIAL AT BOSTON.

IN 1724.

With an Introduction by REV. E. H. GILLETT, D.D
of Harlem, N. Y.

MORRISANIA, N. Y.
1868.

ADVERTISEMENT.

This is a careful reprint of the very rare tract published by J. Applebee, in London, in 1738, and contains the verdict of the jury, Mr. Checkley's Plea in Arrest of Judgment, and the Sentence pronounced by the Court.

We are indebted to Mr. A. Lloyd, the antiquarian bookseller, 115 Nassau-street, New York, for the privilege of republishing it, and to our untiring friend, Rev. E. H. Gillett, D.D., of Harlem, N. Y., for the very carefully-prepared Introductory Note from his own pen, which precedes it.

A few copies, exclusively for private circulation, have been printed in this form.

HENRY B. DAWSON.

MORRISANIA, N. Y.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

Few pieces in ecclesiastical or theological controversy ever published in this country, are, in themselves and their results, so memorable, historically, as that which appeared in Boston in 1722, under the title of *A Short and Easie Method with the Deists, &c.* It was the reprint, with slight alterations, of the noted work by Charles Leslie, but at the close of this, which extended only to forty-one octavo pages, was introduced *A Discourse concerning Episcopacy*, which extended from the forty-first to the one hundred and twenty-seventh page, the whole closing with *The Epistle of Ignatius to the Trallians.*

The work was published at London, by *J.* Applebee; but was "sold by John Checkley, at the sign of the Crown and "Blue Gate, over-against the West-End of the Town-House "in Boston." John Checkley therefore might be considered the Boston Publisher; and the *Discourse Concerning Episcopacy* was drawn up by him, who was compelled doubtless to send to England to procure its printing.

Checkley was born in Boston, in 1680, but his parents were from England; and throughout his life he was most untiringly devoted to the interests of the English Church. His feelings, or perhaps we might say prejudices, were very strong, and he was as violent an Anti-Calvinist and Nonjuror, as he was Episcopalian. His education was well cared for. He was placed at an early age under the care of Ezekiel Cheever, and subsequently went to England, and finished his studies at the University of Oxford, although he seems never to have received a degree.

Abounding in wit and humor, he must have been a genial companion. After his return to this country, he fell in with one who was several years his junior, but in many respects was fully his equal; while on the leading theological questions of the day, the two young men held positions perfectly antagonistic.