

**REV. SAMUEL AARON:
HIS LIFE, SERMONS,
CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.**

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Rev. Samuel Aaron: his life, sermons, correspondence, etc. by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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INTRODUCTION.

At the request of a number of the friends of the late REV. SAMUEL AARON this volume has been prepared. I regret exceedingly that so few of his sermons, lectures, speeches, etc., have been preserved. A number of the sermons are largely notes of sermons, just as Mr. Aaron prepared them for his own use. That the work may prove a source of pleasure, as well as of profit, to those who read it, is my earnest wish.

L. C. AARON.

REV. SAMUEL AARON.

Samuel Aaron was born in New Britain township, Bucks county, Pa., October 19, 1800; and the old house where he was born is still standing, but has undergone numerous alterations and repairs, so that there are now but few traces of the original building left. He was of Welsh-Irish extraction; his father being of Welsh and his mother of Irish descent. The offspring of a second marriage of his father, he was the youngest but one of four brothers; the family consisting also of three sisters.

His father, Moses Aaron, a farmer in respectable circumstances, was a member of the Baptist church, and a man of sincere and humble piety, who endeavored, both by precept and example, to train up his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. His son Samuel always cherished the highest esteem for his character, and most filial respect for his memory, and was accustomed to speak of him in simple but expressive and comprehensive language as emphatically "a good man."

The second wife of Moses Aaron was Miss Hannah Kelly, a native of Hilltown, Bucks county, Pa. She was also a consistent member of the Baptist church; a woman of piety and social worth. She died when the subject of our sketch was but three years of age, and at the age of six he had the misfortune to lose his father also.

Left an orphan at this tender age, he was placed under the care and control of an uncle, a kind-hearted man by nature, but unfortunately addicted to habits of intemperance. The little boy was frequently obliged to trudge bare-footed to the village store and back with the jug of liquor, and often felt tempted to break it against the stones along the road. He

was compelled also to carry it to the men in the harvest field, and hated to do it. His uncle was very cruel when intoxicated, and his little nephew would frequently hide in the barn to escape undeserved punishment, and wish that he could die. The sad condition of his guardian's family and business affairs, and the neglectful treatment he received then, made him in after life the terrible enemy he was of every form of intemperance.

Samuel, with his brothers and sisters, attended school at New Britain, and the former learned rapidly, and was noted for his intellectual ability when a mere boy. At school he read aloud in "Sanford and Merton"; and his voice was so clear, and he spoke so distinctly, that he presented a great contrast to the other boys. He was kind and polite to the girls, and a favorite with them. An old lady (who is still living) who went to school with him when he was a small boy, said lately, that on cold winter mornings he would keep at a distance from the fire in the school-room, and say to the other boys, "stand back, boys, and let the girls have the warm seats." As he set the example, the boys could not refuse to receive his advice and do as he did. He was fond of wrestling, playing ball, skating, and other athletic sports, and entered into them with all his heart; but he had at the same time an equally active brain; composed verses, rhymes, etc. He had a quick and violent temper, but brought it completely under control after he became a Christian. He worked upon his uncle's farm for several years, attending school during the winter months, and there imbibing that taste for reading and study which afterwards, in connection with his great natural endowments, enabled him to become such an accomplished scholar and well-informed man.

After leaving his uncle he went to live with Squire Roberts, and attended school at Montgomery Square, Pa. His teacher, Mr. Collom, an excellent, mild-tempered man and a capable scholar, was exceedingly kind to his youthful pupil, and encouraged him to cultivate the talents he possessed. This kindness was never forgotten, and was often referred to in after years by Mr. Aaron, who cherished the

memory of his former teacher, and always spoke of him in the highest terms of admiration, respect and affection.

At sixteen years of age, obtaining a small patrimony inherited from his father, Samuel entered the Academy of Rev. U. Du Bois, at Doylestown, Pa. In referring to that event years afterwards, he says:

"In the Spring of 1817, I was first introduced to the knowledge and notice of the Rev. U. Du Bois. I had not unfrequently seen him in public, and heard him from the pulpit; but at that time it was decided by my guardian, a respectable old farmer, that I should receive from him some lessons in the ancient classics. I was dispatched alone to negotiate my admittance into his school; and with not a little fashful reluctance, greedy as I was for that sort of knowledge, I presented myself and my purpose to Mr. Du Bois. I have the most vivid remembrance of the interview; of my own rustic dress and appearance contrasted with his perfectly genteel form and bearing; how he fixed at first his black eyes upon me, sparkling through his spectacles; how he smiled hope and encouragement upon me when he heard I had come to woo the Muses; how eloquent was every look and word in praise of learning and the learned; how he spoke of bright men who had risen from what is called humble life, and amongst others of Mr. —, then far advanced in years and intellectual honors, though in early life the teacher of a common school. In a few minutes he put me at my ease; made me feel I was more than a clumsy cipher in the human series, and strengthening the determination in my soul to be useful, virtuous and intelligent. From that hour until his death, his kindness beamed upon me without variation or eclipse; in spite of all that was weak and all that was wrong in my course, his affection was that of a father and a friend. He had no peculiar, far-fetched modes of thinking or of teaching. He seems to me now to have adapted, with sound common sense, his workmanship to such tools and materials as he had. He succeeded well, I think, in educating, that is, drawing out, the powers of almost all who had anything in them; whether he toiled enough to fill up empty or leaky skulls, I dare not undertake to say."

The boys at the Academy looked upon the new pupil with great admiration, when they heard that "that boy has been through the arithmetic."

At twenty he connected himself with the Classical and Mathematical School of John Gummere, at Burlington, N. J., as both a student and assistant teacher. While there he became a favorite with teachers and pupils, corresponded with many of them for years, and retained them as friends through life.

While at school in Burlington he decided not to remain a teacher very long, as he thought he was not fitted for the work, and shrank from the responsibility. His friends thought he underrated his abilities, and it is probable he did so.