

**MEMORIALS CONCERNING  
DECEASED FRIENDS:  
MEMBERS OF PHILADELPHIA  
YEARLY MEETING**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649301164

Memorials Concerning Deceased Friends: Members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting by  
Various

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
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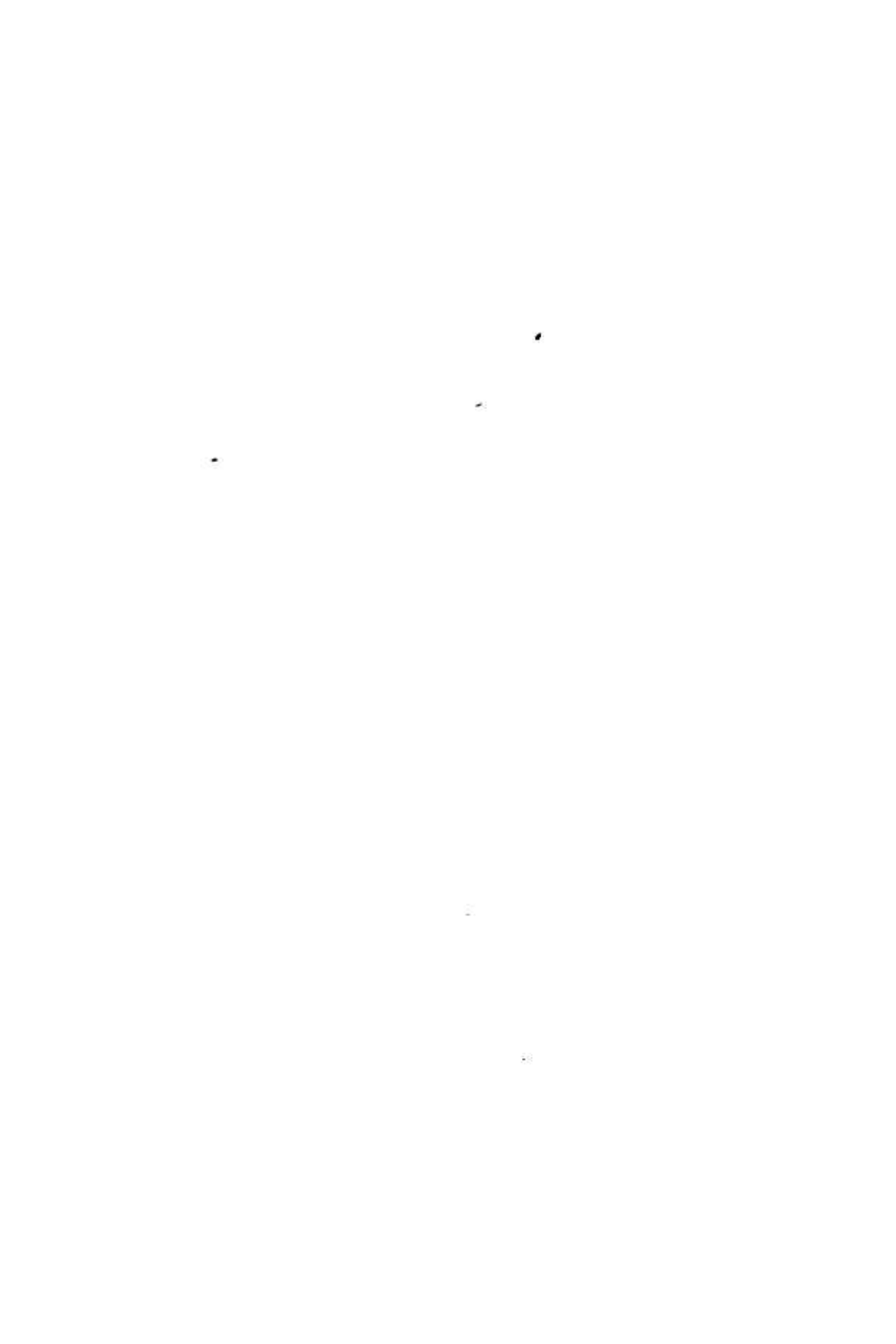
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MEMORIALS

CONCERNING

DECEASED FRIENDS.

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- *A Testimony of Burlington Monthly Meeting, New Jersey, held the 7th of Second month, 1856, concerning our beloved friend STEPHEN GRELLET, deceased.*

“THE grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world; looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

This Meeting is concerned to bear testimony to the blessed efficacy and all-sufficiency of this grace, as evinced in the experiences of our beloved friend STEPHEN GRELLET, who thereby, without human instrumentality, was called with

a high and holy calling, when he was in the darkness of unbelief, and living as it were without God in the world.

He was born at Limoges in France, 2nd of Eleventh month, 1773, and was subjected to the snares attendant upon wealth, rank and luxury. He was trained in the observances of the Romish Church, and received a liberal education at a military college.

At the early age of seventeen he was chosen one of the king's body guard, but although a soldier in times of extraordinary excitement, he was preserved from ever taking human life, which exemption from blood-guiltiness was through many years, a cause of gratitude to Him who had reserved him for warfare in the army of the Lamb.

On the breaking out of the French revolution the whole family of Stephen Grellet were exposed to danger of their lives, and their estate was confiscated. His parents being sentenced to death were actually taken out for execution, but were remanded to prison. Stephen Grellet and his brother being taken prisoners of war, were ordered to be shot, the completion of which sentence was each moment expected, when some sudden commotion gave them an opportunity to escape, and they eventually found their way on



board a ship bound to the West Indies, after a series of Providential deliverances, at one time actually brushing against soldiers, who, with fierce profanity, were declaring their bloody intentions respecting them.

After being engaged in business for two years in Demarara, the brothers embarked for New York, where they landed in the spring of 1795, and proceeded to Newtown, on Long Island, Stephen Grellet being then twenty-two years of age. His experiences about this time furnish a signal illustration of the blessed reality of the doctrine of the immediate and perceptible influences of the Holy Spirit: a doctrine to which he was ever after concerned to bear witness. It was alone by this powerful influence that he was awakened to a sense of his alienation from his Almighty Father and gracious Creator. Whilst walking alone in the evening twilight, he heard a voice sounding in his ears, "Eternity—Eternity—Eternity!" Struck with the awfulness of this voice, which was accompanied with a light that reached his soul and manifested to him his depravity, he cried out: "Surely if there is no God, there is a hell, and it is my just portion!" Retiring to his sleepless bed, he lay during the night, hoping that the Lord might again visit and bring consolation to his distressed mind. Seclud-

ing himself from society, he continued for many days and nights in this waiting state.

About this time, those dedicated disciples, Deborah Darby and Rebecca Young, having appointed a meeting at Newtown, a young woman who spoke French, and who was of a seeking mind, invited Stephen Grellet and his brother to attend it and afterwards to accompany these Friends to her father's house. During the silence of this meeting his mind was introduced into a state of awful reverence, and he found that for which he had been seeking, revealed within him, the inward illumination and the inspeaking voice [of the Holy Spirit,] ministering the consolation for which his soul yearned. Thus the work was wholly the Lord's, to whom we ascribe the glory. After they had dined, a religious opportunity occurred. Stephen Grellet comprehended little that was communicated, till Deborah Darby was led to address herself particularly to him and his brother, when his spiritual understanding was so opened as to enable him to feel and to know what was said. She spoke as one acquainted with the whole course of his past life.

Continuing to attend the small and silent meetings held at that town, he was at one of them brought to feel the weight of his past sins and transgressions in such a manner as to be in-

troduced into the deepest distress. Earnest were his supplications that He whom he had pierced would speak peace to his soul; when in the riches of His everlasting compassion and marvellous condescension, He was pleased to grant the request. His heart glowed with love and gratitude, and he thought that he must *then* proclaim to others what great things the Lord had done for him. He continued in this state of solemn prostration before the Most High, until on raising his head he saw no one in the house but his brother, who was also bathed in tears.

Our dear friend was made a witness of the operations of the Spirit as a Reprover, Teacher, Comforter and unerring Guide. Marvellous were the Lord's dealings with him from time to time, and though in silent brokenness of spirit he could magnify His gracious providence, yet his allegiance was closely proved; for when a clear evidence was afforded that he would be called to the work of the gospel ministry, he sought to be excused, pleading his unworthiness, his inability, and his want of a knowledge of the English language. Very great were his distress and conflict before he yielded obedience to this awful requisition, but he was brought to feel that it was only in entire dedication of body, soul and spirit that he could be accepted, and fervent were his aspi-