

**MEMOIR OF HIRAM
WITHINGTON: WITH SELECTIONS
FROM HIS SERMONS AND
CORRESPONDENCE**

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Memoir of Hiram Withington: With Selections from His Sermons and Correspondence by
Hiram Withington

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This Memoir has been prepared at the request of the Worcester Association of Ministers, to which Mr. Withington belonged. In preparing it, my design has been to give to his friends and his people as faithful an image as can be preserved, of the character of one who, as friend and as pastor, was equally esteemed and beloved. For the readiness with which material has been furnished me, I return my warmest gratitude; and for the freedom with which it is used I trust that no apology is needed, and that the delicacies and proprieties of personal feeling have not been overlooked.

In fulfilling this service of affection to the memory of a very dear and honored friend, I have endeavoured to present what might give the most complete view of his style of thought and the character of his mind. I have not felt myself authorized to withhold anything essential to express distinctly his opinions on all subjects of special interest to him. As part of his mental habit, his friends are entitled to expect a record of them; and, as the judgments of a truthful and conscientious mind, they are not wholly without their independent value.

Trusting that this little volume may be as acceptable to others as its preparation has been grateful to myself, I submit it, with the highest respect, to those who have honored me with the charge of superintending it.

J. H. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April, 1849.

MEMOIR.



MEMOIR.

HIRAM WITHINGTON was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, July 29, 1818. He entered the Theological School in Cambridge in the summer of 1841; was settled as pastor over the First Church in Leominster, December 25, 1844; and died, "among his kindred, and at his father's house," October 30, 1848.

It is rare that a life so brief and fragmentary has left an impression so entire, harmonious, and distinct. The strong devotional tendency which he manifested from his earliest years, the exceeding affectionateness of his disposition, making him singularly dear to those who knew him personally, his frankness and simplicity of manner, and the transparent sincerity of his judgments of himself, the readiness and good faith with which he offered sympathy or counsel, the

beauty of spirit which was maintained and matured during the deep and sorrowful experience of his last few years, and the innocent yet very free and mirthful humor which so tempered the elements of his character, and made him as cheerful a companion as he was cordial and trusty friend, have all combined to strengthen and deepen that impression, and to make us desire that some memorial might be preserved to us of his character and his life.

Of his earlier years hardly any record seems to have been preserved, except in the affectionate reminiscence of a few friends, and one or two passing allusions in his correspondence ; and his outward course was the uneventful one of a teacher, student, and pastor. So that his biography reduces itself almost entirely to the inward history and experience of the last ten years of his life ; and the materials for it must be gathered from that delicate border-ground between what is personal and impersonal of his private and confidential correspondence, which has so much more to gratify our sympathy than our curiosity.

The few traces we have of his school-boy days show the same traits, in the main, which we find more fully developed afterwards. He was amiable and