

**MEMOIR OF REV.
HEZEKIAH
PACKARD, D.D., CHIEFLY
AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL**

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Memoir of Rev. Hezekiah Packard, D.D., Chiefly autobiographical by Hezekiah Packard

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HEZEKIAH PACKARD

**MEMOIR OF REV.
HEZEKIAH
PACKARD, D.D., CHIEFLY
AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL**



I remain your affct Father.

Wm. Packard

aged 87 years

MEMOIR,

OF

REV. HEZEKIAH PACKARD, D. D.;

CHIEFLY AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL.

BRUNSWICK:

FROM THE PRESS OF J. GRIFFIN.

1850.

TO THE MANY FRIENDS,

THE CONSTANT AND VARIOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF WHOSE

RESPECT AND REGARD GLADDENED

THE DECLINING YEARS OF THEIR FATHER,

This brief Memoir

Is affectionately Inscribed

BY HIS CHILDREN.

Brunswick, Me., August, 1850.

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MEMOIR, &c.

THE following pages are a monument of filial love and veneration to the memory of an honored parent, due alike to the best of fathers and one of the best of men. Sensible every day of the influence of his precepts and example on their whole lives, the surviving children wish, for their own satisfaction, for the benefit of their children and for the gratification of the many friends of their father, to record a more full and extended account, than could be given in an obituary notice, of his long and laborious life, of the prominent traits of his character and of his views of life and duty.

There was found among our father's papers a manuscript bearing on the cover the following: "To be opened by any of my children after my decease." It was a sketch of his life, with these few lines of preface: "Prepared and left for the gratification and benefit of my children and posterity. Not having kept a diary, many incidents and circumstances of some interest have been erased from the tablets of memory and some changes and occurrences are so imperfectly recollected, that they are not stated." This autobiography was written in 1837, immediately after his retirement from active life. Free use will be made of it in these pages.

The autobiography opens in the following manner.—
 “Feeling myself infirm, and under the increasing weight of years, and well knowing I must soon go the way of all the earth, I have a desire to prepare some written testimonials of divine goodness to me and my family, hoping they will be of some use to my children and descendants. And now, O Father of mercies, may it please thee to impart to me thine assistance, guidance and blessing, that what I write may correspond with the record kept on high. And I do pray, that all the members of the family may be ever ready to recount the great goodness and rich mercies of God to me and them, and keep fresh in mind the marked indications of benignity and love. May those of them who have families teach their children and households the fear of the Lord, and make known to them the distinguishing favors bestowed upon the writer and subject of this brief and imperfect memoir, and upon those of the family already gone to inherit the promises.

“This memoir is more readily undertaken from the persuasion, that one, who stands upon the confines of two worlds and deliberately utters the memory of divine goodness to him and his household, and professes to put his hope and trust in God through the great Redeemer, may afford much satisfaction and real benefit to affectionate children and dear friends. With these motives and views I prepare the following brief sketch of my life, marked as it has been with many important changes and incidents.”

Our father was born in the North Parish of Bridgewater, Mass., Dec. 6, 1761, the youngest of ten children. Of this family one only now survives, a sister in her 95th year. It was favorable for the development of strength of character, as well as of great bodily vigor, that the humble circumstances of the family accustomed him early to habits of active industry, rigid economy and self reliance. Of his parents and of their influence he used often to speak with affection and respect. His father died in his childhood. His mother lived to the age of 93, retaining her faculties to the close of

life, and remarkable for her vigorous sense, her strength of character, and her piety. To their fidelity he thus bears his last more formal testimony in his record. "Being the youngest of ten children, I experienced no doubt the indulgence common to the youngest of a large family. My parents, however, were blessed with a good spirit of government, and, what is highly important to domestic peace and happiness and to success in training a family, they acted in concert in the management of their children. In the estimation of neighbors they were remarkable for their industry, economy and pious example. The closet, as well as the domestic altar, witnessed their devotions. A deep impression was early made upon my mind, that their scheme and habits of life were formed and sustained upon Christian principles and adorned with Christian piety. Having made profession of religion in the prime of life, even before an early marriage, if I mistake not, they consecrated a domestic altar, I believe, as soon as they were in a family state, and dedicated their infant offspring to God in the ordinance of baptism. As far back as my recollections can carry me, they took pains to make good early religious impressions upon the minds of their children and to inspire in them respect and veneration for the Sabbath and public worship. My father was a farmer upon a moderate scale. Our farm was sufficient to support five or six cows, a yoke of oxen, a horse and a few sheep. My parents were, I believe, well satisfied with their condition. Their early advantages for improvement, as they frequently mentioned, were very limited. Their reading was confined to few books, but they searched the Scriptures prayerfully and made it a family book and daily companion. They occasionally read Henry, Flavel and Boston's Fourfold State. They were able however to impart instructions, to offer prayer, and to set examples important to their children. The Assembly's Catechism had long been familiar to them and they taught it to their children without note or comment. Their children, I believe, were professors of religion, excepting two who died young.