MEMOIR OF PRISCILLA CADWALLADER, PP. 1-139

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MEMOIR

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PRISCILLA CADWALLADER.

"The Lord is their strength, and He is the surges strength of His anointed,"

PHILADELPHÍA:

PUBLISHED FOR THE BOOK ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS.

BY T. ELLWOOD ZELL,

Nos. 17 and 19 South Sixth Street.

1862.

PREFACE.

Believing there was a debt due to the memory of our beloved friend PRISCILLA CADWALLADER, this little labor of love has been performed, with the desire also that the remembrance of her humility and devotion may encourage others to a like submission to the regulating and qualifying power of Truth, that so there may be a succession of standard-bearers, who can say as she said, both by precept and practice, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth."

J. J.

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It is well to bring to our remembrance the character and virtuous lives of those faithful servants and handmaids of the Most High who have passed away from this state of being. Future generations, and many at the present time, may derive strength and profit from the perusal of the lives of those who have endeavored, through the trials and discouragements that attended them here, to walk worthy of the vocation to which they were called.

"Who is blind, but my servant, or deaf as my messenger that I sent," (Isaiah xlii. 19.) seems especially applicable in connection with the religious engagements and movements of that

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dignified minister of the gospel, the late Priscilla Cadwallader.

Her writings having been destroyed during her absence from home, and no connected account of her life preserved, we are unable to represent her labors and exercises as fully as would be desirable; but the *fragments* gathered from various sources, will, we think, prove instructive and interesting.

She was born in North Carolina, the 10th of 7th mo., 1786. Her father, Matthew Coffin, was a native of Nantucket, and her mother, Hannah Coffin, formerly Mendenhall, was from Chester County, Pa. Her mother died when she was quite young. Her father was well known and much respected as a man of superior judgment; he was for many years an Elder of Springfield Monthly Meeting, N. C., and endeavored to give his children the blessing of a guarded education.

Priscilla's school opportunities were limited, but owing to the advantages of parental home in-

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PRISCILLA CADWALLADER.

struction, she had read the Bible through when only six years of age. Her early fondness for serious reading and the seciety of those much older than herself, were the peculiar characteristics of her childhood. Her perceptive and reasoning powers were large and early developed. and she availed herself of all the means of study furnished from books and other sources. The great volume of Nature was marvellously unfolded to her comprehension, and she became early in life interested in Geology, Mineralogy and Natural History. Her acquaintance with these sciences was remarkable, and afforded throughout her life an unfailing source of enjoyment. She was in a great measure self-educated, and in after years, during the long journeys of many hundred miles, taken in the prosecution of her religious engagements, when not under the immediate pressure of religious exercise, she would sometimes pour forth the rich abundance of her mental treasury, dwelling with beautiful interest upon the outward evidences

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