

**MEMOIR OF THE REV.
MORRILL ALLEN,
OF PEMBROKE, MASS**

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Memoir of the Rev. Morrill Allen, of Pembroke, Mass by Theophilus Pipon Doggett

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THEOPHILUS PIPON DOGGETT

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Rev. Merrill Allen,

OF PEMBROKE, MASS.

By Rev. Theodore C. Booth,

PLYMOUTH:

PLYMOUTH ROCK PRESS.

1870.



Preface.

THE children of late MR. ALLEN, knowing that their father was deeply averse to all undue eulogizing of the dead, and feeling themselves no less averse to everything which might seem to savor of ostentation, were quite reluctant in consenting to the publication of this memoir. But the writer is quite sure that it contains no eulogistic utterances which the departed did not deserve; and that it will be most gratifying to a large circle outside of his family, who entertained towards him no other sentiments but those of friendship, respect and veneration. Besides, it is believed that short biographical sketches of those like him, who have been truly faithful and useful in the humbler walks of public life, will exert a more extensive and salutary influence over the risen and

PREFACE.

rising generations, than the lives of persons whose career has been far more brilliant and widely known. When they read the life of a great man, few feel that they can be like him. They feel that even to entertain the idea would be consummate vanity, and therefore make no attempt to imitate this type of excellence and distinction. But when they peruse a memoir of a person like him who is the subject of this, *his* endowments and opportunities being more nearly on a level with their own, they are able to cherish a reasonable hope that they, too, can become equally useful and respected, and are thus stimulated to imitate the good example of which they have read. It is with a full belief in the correctness of these views, and a due regard to the solicitations of many friends, that the writer of this sketch is induced to publish it, and dedicate it to the Pembroke Parish, of which he is Pastor.

Memoir.

FROM a brief autobiography we learn that Mr. Allen, was born at Dover, Mass., April 3d, 1776. He was the son of Capt. Hezekiah Allen, and the fifteenth child of his father, who had a second wife, and the tenth of his mother, whose maiden name was Mary Peters.

His parents belonged to the Calvinistic order, and to the most respectable and substantial portion of the inhabitants of his birth-place. The occupation of farming afforded them a comfortable livelihood, but not an income sufficiently ample to educate their children in academic halls. Young Morrill, the subject of this memoir, was not satisfied with the limited and imperfect education which the common schools, at that time, afforded. He thirsted for a

higher culture, and his literary tastes prompted him to seek it in the study of a private teacher. There he pursued the studies which were preparatory to his entrance on a college course. He entered Brown University in the autumn of 1795, and graduated with honor, in 1798. During his residence in college he was a diligent student, and his whole deportment was upright and pure. The merit of such diligence and deportment is enhanced by the consideration that the government of the institution at that time was far from being stringent, and if a scholar devoted his time to his studies, and maintained purity of habits and character it was from personal choice, from a virtuous self-denial, rather than from any compulsion or restraint on the part of the college authorities. He did not possess much of that sober, plodding devotion to books which trims the midnight lamp, and shuts the door

against light-hearted and buoyant companionship; possessing a temperament that was humorous and social, he could enter heartily into every kind of innocent sport and greatly enjoy a merry time. A young man with such proclivities, would be likely to be foremost in all those sly combinations which have been often formed among college students, to do secretly all sorts of mischief, not probably from any bad, malicious motive, but simply to give vent to the pent up element of fun and merriment. A description of these combinations might make a long, amusing, but somewhat dark chapter in the history of collegiate life. Mr. Allen, always kept clear from such combinations, and while he avoided disturbing the feelings of his teachers by these youthful frivolities, he had a peculiar way to maintain his popularity among those of his fellow-students who indulged in them the most.