

AUTOBIOGRAPH Y AND WRITINGS

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Autobiography and Writings by George W. Taylor & John Collins

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GEORGE W. TAYLOR & JOHN COLLINS

AUTOBIOGRAPH Y AND WRITINGS

AUTOBIOGRAPHY
AND
WRITINGS
OF
GEORGE W. TAYLOR.

*"The path of the just is as the shining light,
that shineth more and more unto the perfect
day."—PROVERBS IV : 18.*

PHILADELPHIA:
1891.

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Jackson fund

INTRODUCTORY.

SELDOM have we known of one who has lived much beyond the average age of man, leading an irreproachable life and manifesting such a love of truth, justice, and regard for others, as our late beloved friend. Whether engaged in teaching, rural occupations, or store labors, he was always desirous of supporting the testimonies of the religious Society to which he belonged, yet was he liberal toward all of other denominations holding sound evangelical doctrine. At home and in the social circle, all who enjoyed his friendship found in him such urbanity of manner and sympathetic feeling as to consider him truly as a Christian gentleman. His conversation, based upon long experience, was attractive and improving, showing his lively interest in all moral or religious reforms, extending even beyond our own land, among the "dark places of the earth."

During his residence at 3728 Hamilton Street, in this city, a period of more than five years, he was still actively engaged in urging the cause of temperance, by his ready pen and intercourse with others. To this end he wrote various short essays for some of the public papers, expressed in clear and forcible terms. Some of his best productions in verse were in his latest

days. Copies of a few of these are inserted in this publication, as instances of his ardent feelings and sound judgment in the cause of Prohibition, Women's Rights, the duty of the nation to the emancipated slaves, international peace and arbitration, and more than all the love of the Saviour, ever dearest to his heart.

He was a regular and punctual attender of the meetings of Friends, occasionally speaking briefly and acceptably in the ministry. But his whole life seemed to be a continual ministration to the comfort of others and their progress in virtue and religion.

J. C.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

My grandfather, Francis Taylor, was born in England, in the Parish of Staines, near London. His father's name was Richard, and his mother's, Mary. He had an older brother named Richard who married in England, who was reported to have died, leaving a very large estate, which, as he had no issue, escheated to the Crown, or at least was held in the Court of Chancery for lawful claimants. My grandfather having removed to the United States, or rather the American Colonies as they were at that time, married Eve Fisher, a native of Holland, and they settled in Chester County, Pa., where all their ten children were born. Some of them, viz., Richard, Mary, Jacob, Elizabeth, Esther, Francis, Sarah, George, and Christianna, lived to considerably past middle age, all of whom I knew after I was grown up, and frequently visited Elizabeth, whose husband was Thomas Batten, of Brandywine township, Chester County; Mary, whose husband was John Valentine,

whose latter days were spent in Sadsbury, Chester County, where he died; Francis, whose home was in Lancaster County. Esther married Joseph Dunbar; they resided in Shearman's Valley, west of the Susquehanna, above Harrisburg. Richard and Sarah removed to Columbiana County, Ohio, with their families, and George to Mercer County, Pa., and Christianna with her husband, John McConnell, to Butler County, a few miles from the residence of Uncle George. All of these removals and settlements in permanent homes were during my early minority. All of the above-named families who resided west of the Susquehanna, I visited in the summer of 1829, going by way of New York, Rochester, Lockport, Buffalo, Canada, Niagara Falls, then to Buffalo again and to Erie by steamer, and thence by stage-coach and on foot through the unfenced woods before break of day to the house of my uncle, George Taylor, where I visited the McConnells, and after purchasing a horse of my Uncle George, rode into Ohio and visited all my relations there, about forty first cousins on both sides. Having finished my visits in Ohio and western and middle Pennsylvania, I rode home.

Jacob Taylor was my father. He was born on the 27th of Eleventh Month, 1772, and married Elizabeth Richards in 1801 in Radnor, Delaware County, where I was born on the 14th of Third Month, 1803. My

parents had six other children, viz., Elizabeth, Mary, Thomas B., Joanna R., Ruthanna, and Jacob, Jr., who all lived to be married and many years after.

My mother was the youngest daughter of David and Elizabeth Richards, and was born on the 4th of Eighth Month, 1776. Her father was descended from John Richards, a native of Wales, who came over to Pennsylvania with William Penn, and took up a tract of land in Radnor. Her mother was the granddaughter of Elizabeth Megee, who, with her husband and family (except one son who preceded them), emigrated from Ireland, first to Maryland and then soon after to Carlisle, Pa. The son, who had come to New Jersey, gave to his mother in Ireland such glowing accounts of this land, that she persuaded her husband to come and bring his family to America. They were well-to-do Protestants, so that their neighbors said they did not know what more Betty Megee need want, except it be a coach and six. My mother had three brothers and two sisters, all of whom I knew well, viz., Ann, Davis, Hannah, Jonathan, and Jacob. Her eldest brother, John, died before he was of age. He was dearly loved of his mother. I have heard my dear grandmother often speak of him and of his good qualities. She told me that she grieved after him very much and was so desirous to know if he was happy, that one night she