

**BRIEF MEMORIALS OF JEAN FRÉDÉRIC
OBERLIN, PASTOR OF WALDBACH, IN ALSACE;
AND OF AUGUSTE BARON DE STAEL-
HOLSTEIN; TWO DISTINGUISHED ORNAMENTS
OF THE FRENCH PROTESTANT CHURCH; WITH
AN INTRODUCTORY SKETCH OF THE HISTORY
OF CHRISTIANITY IN FRANCE, FROM THE P**

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Brief memorials of Jean Frédéric Oberlin, pastor of Waldbach, in Alsace; and of Auguste Baron de Stael-Holstein; two distinguished ornaments of the French protestant church; with an introductory sketch of the history of Christianity in France, from the p by Thomas Sims

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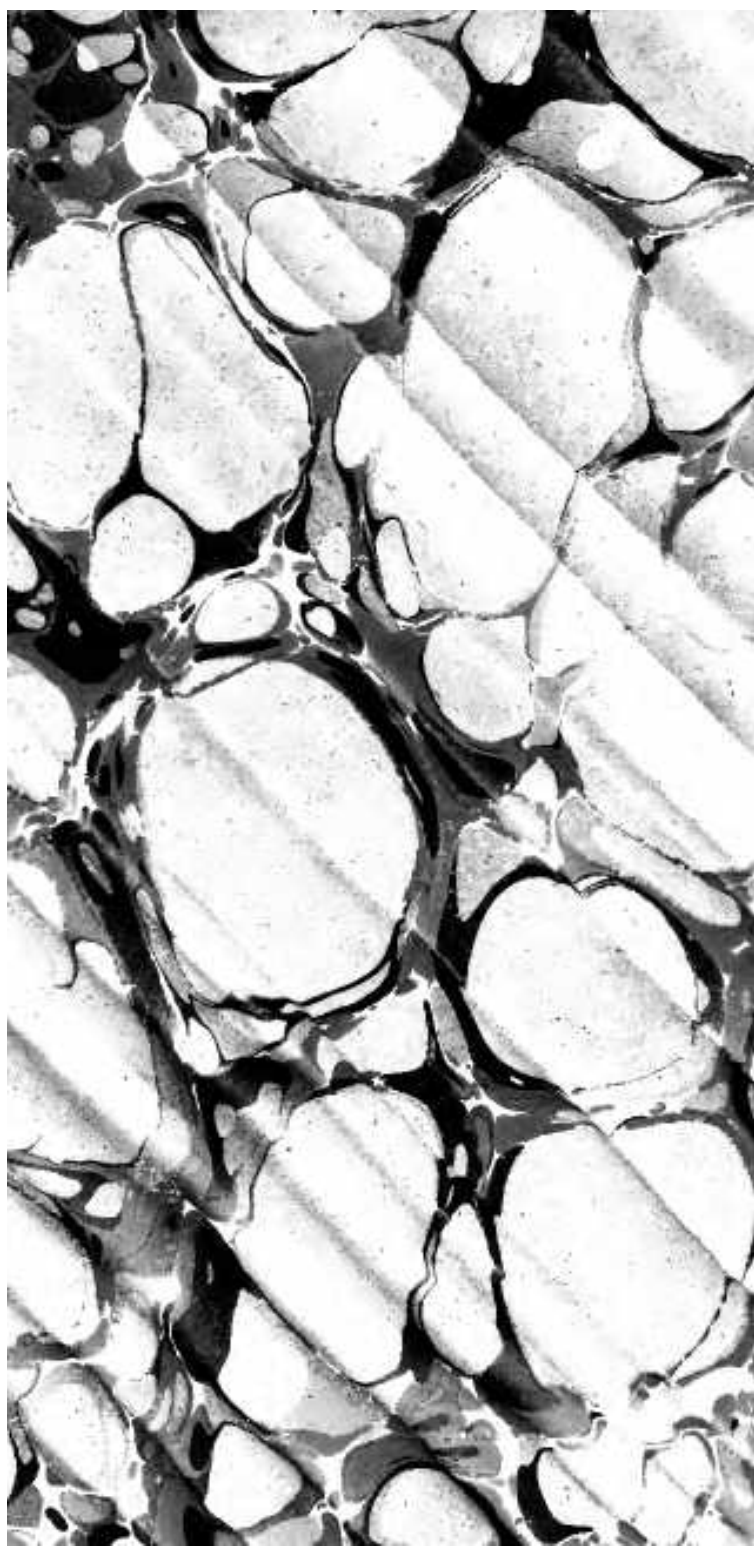
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THOMAS SIMS

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JEAN FRÉDÉRIC OBERLIN.

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INTRODUCTORY SKETCH
OF THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN FRANCE, FROM THE
PRIMITIVE AGES TO THE PRESENT DAY.

BY THE
REV. THOMAS SIMS, M. A.

*Author of "Christian Records"—"Sermons partly illustration of the
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PREFACE.

England and France have been, for many ages, not only rivals, but, with occasional intervals of repose, enemies set in array. Their statesmen have opposed each other in the cabinet, with the zeal and subtilty usual amongst political antagonists. Their heroes have met on the plain, and displayed the valour as well as the skill of accomplished combatants. Such hostility, attended as it has ever been with far-spread evils, and scenes of inexpressible calamity, cannot, under any result, but awaken many painful associations. But there is a rivalry, neither tarnished by the arts of refined policy, nor stained by the gore of battle-fields—the rivalry in acts of humanity—the contest of Christian philanthropists, who strive to surpass each other in “doing good.”

Amongst such characters, Jean Frédéric Oberlin, a Lutheran clergyman, and the late

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Baron de Staël, are justly entitled to distinction for their unwearied consecration of the faculties, both of mind and body, to the alleviation of human suffering, and the diffusion of religious knowledge amongst the poor: and it is partly with a view to do justice to persons of such undoubted excellence in a foreign country, but chiefly in order to stimulate persons at home to renewed efforts, and to point out a few paths of beneficence as yet scarcely trodden, that I have undertaken the grateful task of compiling these brief memorials.

The biography of individuals, whose benevolence included so wide a sphere, will necessarily comprise a succinct view of the general state of Christianity in France at the present moment; and the Historical Sketch prefixed, will, it is hoped, put the reader in possession of the principal features of religion in France, in ancient as well as modern days.

When on a journey to the Valleys of Piedmont, in the year 1823, in company with two

other gentlemen,* I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with the venerable pastor Oberlin; nor can I easily forget the Christian affection with which he first met and accosted my friends and myself, when, led by his grandson, on account of the dimness of his sight, the aged Pastor stopped us for a few moments, and addressed us in the court before we entered his house. A noble simplicity was at once conspicuous in his person, his address, his words, and the sentiments he uttered; and it was, of course, very delightful to see and to hear one, whose long life had been graced by a series of benevolent exertions, and had been equally distinguished for patience, zeal, self-denial, and generous sympathy.

Even during his life-time, scattered accounts of his extraordinary labours had found their way into various publications in England, France, and Germany. Since his decease, still more complete notices relative to his philanthropic efforts have appeared in different languages. That in the "Chris-

* William Plenderleath and Durbin Brice, Esqrs.