

**A MEMOIR OF
REV. BENNET TYLER**

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A Memoir of Rev. Bennet Tyler by Nahum Gale

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NAHUM GALE

**A MEMOIR OF
REV. BENNET TYLER**



Bennet Tyler

Engraved by J. H. Smith

A

M E M O I R

OF

REV. BENNET TYLER, D.D.,

**LATE PRESIDENT AND PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY IN
THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF CONNECTICUT.**

BY

REV. NAHUM GALE, D.D.

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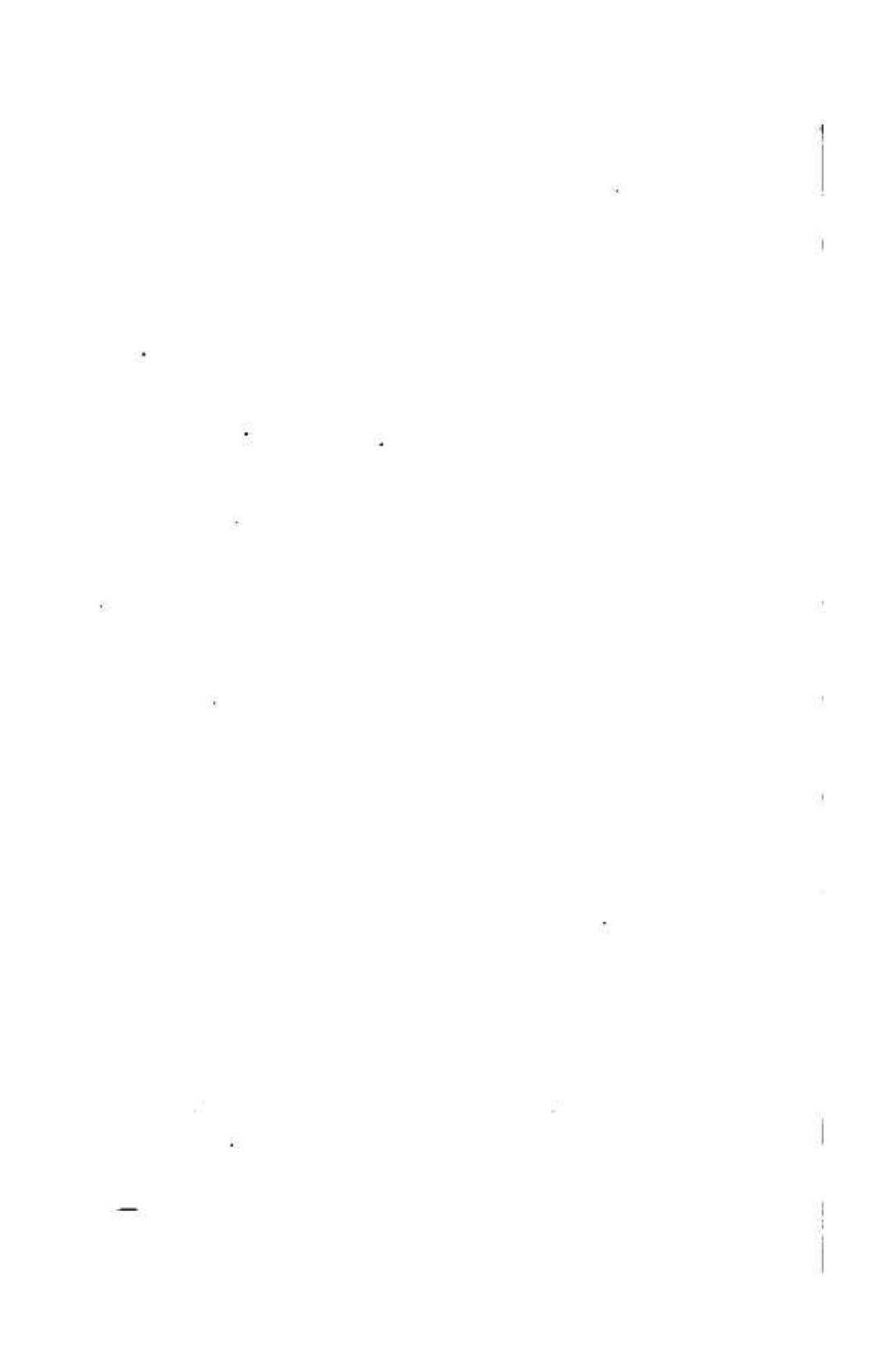
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MEMOIR.



MEMOIR.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY LIFE, COLLEGIATE AND THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.

1783 — 1807.

THE ancestors of Bennet Tyler, both on his father's and his mother's side, belonged to the substantial yeomanry of Connecticut. Though they could boast of no family distinction according to the world's estimation, they had the nobility of a connection with the "household of faith." His grandfather, Daniel Tyler, removed from Branford to Middlebury, then a part of Woodbury, in 1743. James Tyler, the father of Bennet, married Anne Hungerford, of Watertown. He lived, from early years, an exemplary Christian, and died at the age of fifty-nine, leaving unbroken a circle of five children, four sons and one daughter. The youngest of this circle was Bennet, born at Middlebury, July 10, 1783.

Few incidents worthy of notice occurred in his early life. When four years of age he had a very narrow escape from death. He was climbing a cart wheel; the oxen started, he fell, and the wheel passed over him; he, doubtless, would have been instantly crushed had he not fallen by the side of a stone, which broke the force of the wheel.

In view of this providence he has remarked, — and who

may not say the same in relation to some hair-breadth escape in early life? — “Why was I thus signally spared, when so many children are cut down by the stroke of death? Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight.”

In the religious education of the subject of this memoir, there was nothing out of the ordinary course in Puritan families of that day. He had the consecration of early baptism, the Sabbath, public worship, the “church in the house,” with its altar of prayer, bringing daily blessings to the household. That “form of sound words,” the Assembly’s Catechism, was recited every Sabbath evening. A mother’s pious instruction fell upon the child’s fresh sensibilities “as the small rain upon the tender herb.” Serious thoughts of death and of eternity crossed that youthful mind as it began to see beyond the world of sense. Struggles with conscience had even then begun to show a depraved nature, and transient religious impressions evinced that the service of Christ was not the chosen portion of the soul. Yet the truths of the Bible were believed, and by their restraining power kept his youthful feet from every path of vice or immorality.

His advantages for early education were limited to the common school, a mile and a half distant from his father’s house. He began to attend this school at six years of age; but when old enough to be of service on the farm, his term of study was restricted to the winter. At school, though ambitious to excel, and having the reputation of being a good scholar, he made no great attainments in learning. Webster’s Spelling Book and Daboll’s Arithmetic were his chief text books. English grammar and geography were then “higher branches,” not generally introduced in the common schools. Unfavorable as were these circumstances to intellectual stimulant and culture,