

**REPORTS OF THE UNITED
GERMAN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS IN
NORTH AMERICA, SPECIALLY IN
PENNSYLVANIA; VOL. 1**

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VARIOUS

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HALLE REPORTS.

NEW EDITION,

WITH EXTENSIVE

HISTORICAL, CRITICAL AND LITERARY ANNOTATIONS,

AND

NUMEROUS DOCUMENTS,

COPIED FROM THE MANUSCRIPTS IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE FRANCKE INSTITUTIONS AT HALLE.

BY

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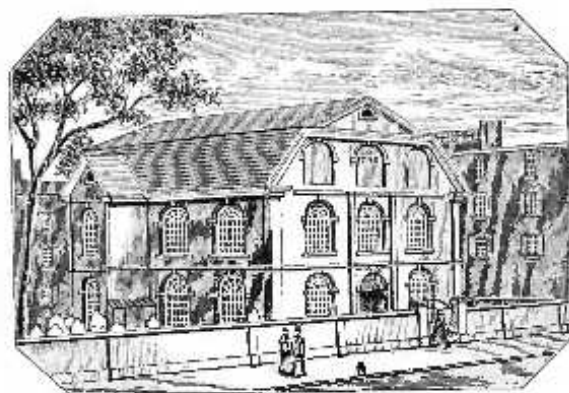
NOTE BY THE TRANSLATOR

The aim of the translator has been to adhere faithfully to the original, and yet to present its statements in plain English. Variations may be observed, here and there, in the orthography of certain proper names; these may be attributed to the nature of the case, and involve a matter which is not fully settled yet. The numbers on the margin of the original REPORT and the several Continuations indicate the pages of the first German edition, published at Halle in 1787. The titles of German works, often referred to in the Notes and Appendices, are given in the original German, for the reason that these works, generally, do not exist in the English language.

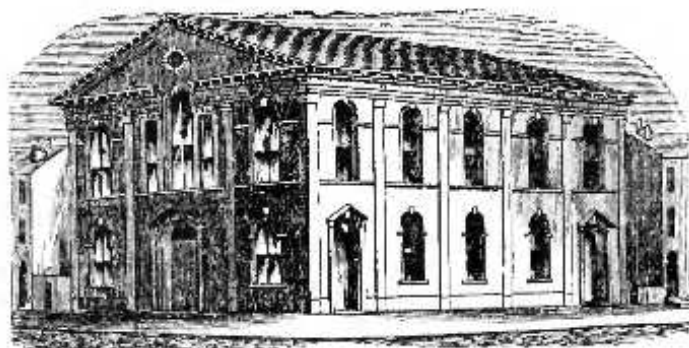
The light thrown upon the whole subject by Rev. Dr. Mann in his Notes and Appendices, as found in the new edition, has an extraordinary value of its own, and will enable the reader to discover, in the original Reports, an interest and a rare value which he might otherwise be slow to detect.

C. W. SCHAEFFER, D.D.

Philadelphia, June, 1882.



Ev. Luth. St. Michael's Church, Corner of Fifth and Cherry Streets,
Philadelphia, Pa., A. D. 1713.



Ev. Luth. Zion Church, Corner of Fourth and Cherry Streets,
Philadelphia, Pa., A. D. 1766.

P R E F A C E.

KIND READER:

IT is well known that the German Evangelical Lutheran congregations in America have become quite numerous and strong, since the beginning of the present century.¹ Their temporal wants, 'tis true, were generally supplied; but those Germans who did not forsake their religion upon leaving their native land, soon discovered, that it was a great disadvantage to them and to their children, that there was, in most places, a total lack of Christian pastors, or that the care of souls had to be committed to the charge of persons who, without a regular call and ordination, had obtruded themselves into the office of Christian teacher, and that, chiefly for the purpose of making a living. These circumstances constrained many of the Germans earnestly to implore of their friends in Europe, that they would send them teachers, men who would take to heart the work of recovering lost sheep and leading them in the way of salvation. As these petitions reached us and many other places² already in the year 1733, the history of the pastors who were sent from Germany to America may, in fact, be regarded as having begun more than fifty years ago. It is not my object now, however, to record that history from the beginning down to the present time. It will be found complete in the first volume,³ that closes with the sixteenth continuation and begins with the year 1742. It was in this year that Dr. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg,⁴ who yet lives and is at this time the venerable Senior of the German Evangelical Ministerium of North America, the first regularly called and ordained pastor sent out by us, happily arrived in Philadelphia, and was greeted, by many, with a hearty welcome.

This first pastor who, from the very beginning of his labors till his advanced years, adorned as they are with glory and with honor, displayed such an extraordinary activity, was followed by divers assistant pastors, whom we sent out from time to time as the extension of the work and the necessities of the congregations demanded. To mention their several names in this place would be too diffuse, and, indeed, it is not necessary because everything important connected with their commission by us, with their arrival in America and their pastoral labors there, is sufficiently presented in due order, in the several portions of

this volume. Some of them entered into their rest, long ago; as the pastors BRUNNHOLZ, HANDSCHUH, SCHAUM and HEINZELMANN; but their memory is blessed until this day. The other old pastors, whom, as far as we know, the Lord still sustains in life, and who, for the most part have been laboring faithfully for more than twenty years already, as the pastors VOIGT, KRUG, C. G. SCHULZE, HELMUTH and SCHMIDT, to whom we have to add pastor KUNZE, since the year 1770, are often mentioned, and with deserved honor, in the several continuations. A blessing must ever abide upon their names, because they displayed such a noble zeal in following the example of their worthy SENIOR, and discharged their official duties with all fidelity. Of all this we have most gratifying testimony from men of acknowledged learning and worth, who have themselves, for years, been the occupants of high official positions. To this fact we propose to refer hereafter.

The number of pastors already spoken of as being called and sent out by us, may possibly seem to be somewhat large; but for the necessities of the congregations in America, scattered as they are here and there, very few of them being strong enough to support, each, its own pastor, even that number has been found to be insufficient. It has repeatedly happened, and sometimes indeed, when we could not, at once, extend the desired help, that faithful pastors were earnestly sought for, after the people had learnt, by sad experience, what a great difference there was between such pastors and men who, without being called and trained for the pastoral work, boldly thrust themselves into the office. From the very beginning of this century, and even until the present day, it has been the misfortune of Pennsylvania, that many men who had never studied at all, or who had never had any thorough instruction in Christianity and science, or who, even having once occupied the pastoral office in Germany, were deposed and thrust out for their bad conduct, resorted to that fine country, and by flattering speeches and insinuating ways imposed upon private persons and even whole congregations, and so stole into the office of pastor. It is easy to see what a miserable service must be rendered to souls by men who seek only their own profit, and who, as soon as greater gains invite them elsewhere, at once forsake the congregation they had professed to serve.

Such hirelings as these have spread great disorder in several congregations, until at last these churches themselves have expressed the ardent wish to be supplied with pastors properly trained and tried and worthy of confidence. As it is not possible always, at once, to find men suited to meet such demand, great relief has arisen from the fact

that the pastors in America have, at times, taken under their instruction young men of good character and of fair promise, and then, after several years of such training, having first submitted them to a regular examination by the Synod, have, for a specified time, placed them in charge of such congregations as required their services. Whenever these men have been found, upon trial, to be competent to occupy the positions assigned to them, they have been entrusted with the full charge of their congregations, as regular pastors. In this way, the number of regularly ordained Evangelical Lutheran ministers in America has been considerably increased.

I have now before me a copy of the "Kirchen-Agende," published in Philadelphia last year, in which are recorded the names of those who, at that time, were members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. It may be useful if I present them here. In number they amount to twenty-four, and are as follows, viz.: HENRY MELCHIOR MUELLENBERG, D.D. and Senior of the Ministerium, NICOLAS KURZ, SR., WILLIAM KURZ, JR., LUDWIG VOIGT, JOHN A. KRUG, CHRISTOPHER J. SCHULZE, GEORGE BAGUR, JUST. CHR. HENRY HELMUTH, D.D., JOHN F. SCHMIDT, JOHN C. KUNZE, D.D., M. HENRY MUELLENBERG, CARL F. WILDBAHN, JACOB V. BUSZKIRK, JOHN FRIDERICK, CHRISTIAN STREIT, JOHN G. JUNG, CONRAD ROELLER, JACOB GOERING, DANIEL SCHROETER, DANIEL LEHMANN, HENRY MOELLER, FREDERICK ERNST, FREDERICK VAL. MELSZHEIMER and DANIEL KURZ.

Last year already JOHN FR. WEINLAND was added to the foregoing, of whose commission, together with his arrival in America and his present activities, I offer a report, in this place. He was born in Romhild and from 1769 till 1772 was engaged in the study of Theology at the Royal Prussian Frederick's University, in this city. During all this time he commended himself by his diligence and his earnest Christian example, whilst his faithful labors among the youth of the Orphan Home established here, were not without good fruits. At that time already, my predecessor, who now rests in the Lord, Rev. Dr. Freylinghausen,⁵ had decided that the call to serve the Church in America might, with great propriety, be directed to him. An infirm state of health however, the lingering effect of a severe fever from which he had but recently recovered, rendered it impossible for him, at that time, to undertake so long a journey. So, after finishing his academical studies, Mr. Weinland went back to his native home,⁶ waiting for the leadings of Divine Providence; meanwhile seeking to make himself useful as private instructor and by frequent preaching of the word.