A SKETCH OF ELDER DANIEL HIX, WITH THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN DARTMOUTH, MASS., FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS

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A sketch of Elder Daniel Hix, with the history of the First Christian church in Dartmouth, Mass., for one hundred years by S. M. Andres

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S. M. ANDRES

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PREFACE.

The following pages were written to supply a local want, and to preserve the records of the First Christian Church of Dartmouth in a permanent form. It is evident such a book will be useful not only to the church but to all desirous of reviewing the lessons of the past; and perhaps no apology is required, beyond regrets that the work has been done in such an imperfect manner. This, however, from a pressure of other duties, was unavoidable. The book lays no claim to literary excellence, and goes forth with the desire that it may be profitable, if not faultless as a scholarly production.

Some years ago the propriety of such a work was seen, but few materials could then be found. Recently the diary of Elder Daniel Hix, his list of baptisms, and the church records of the old Baptist organization, were obtained from Mrs. Rachel Davis of Westport, to whom the thanks of writer and readers are due.

I am under obligations to Gilbert Miller, clerk of the church, for information found in the later portion of the work. Indebtedness is also thankfully acknowledged to General Ebenezer W. Peirce, Rev. O. A. Roberts, Rev. I. C. Goff, Rev. Moses How, Rev. B. S. Batchelor, Rev. George N. Kelton, Jesse W. Nichols, Thomas Cottle, Mrs. William Allen, Mrs. Judith Whithead and others, for particular incidents, correction of lists of church members, &c. Some of the church documents, and names in most cases, have been copied literally; family records have been consulted, and much pains taken to verify any partial or doubtful dates: it is likely, however, that among so many names some mistakes may be seen, which it is hoped will be pardoned. Contributions have also been levied upon the Memoirs of Elders Smith, Shaw, and Fernald, besides Backus's Church History, Bliss' History of Rehoboth, and Ricketson's History of New Bedford.

I also desire here to express thanks to Mr. B. F. H. Reed, for aid in revising the work, proof reading, &c., which has enabled me to fulfill my promise to subscribers; and if the book is in any degree helpful in promoting piety, the object in view will have been attained.

S. M. A.

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