A FAMILIAR CONVERSATIONAL HISTORY OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCHES OF NEW-YORK

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ROBERT CARTER

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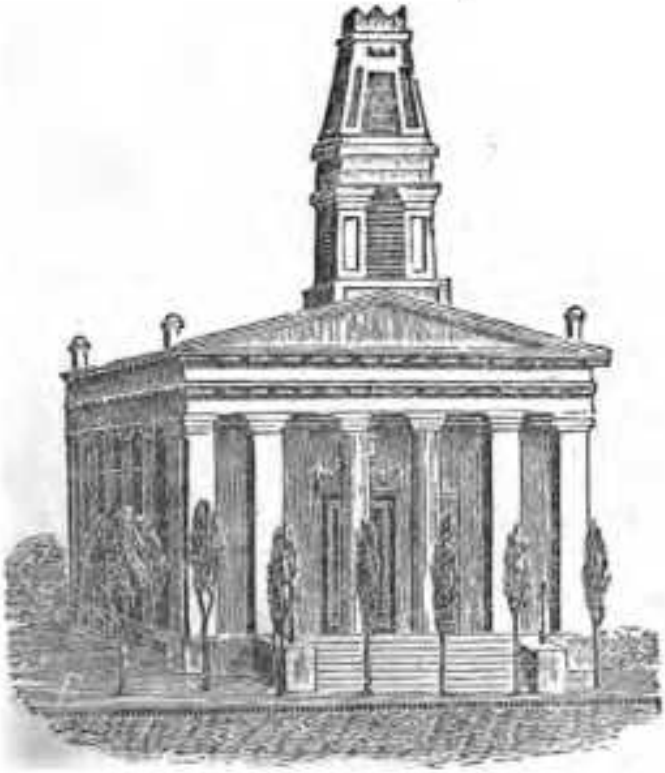

WEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CARMINE-STREET, N. Y.

Mrs Mary Seibel.

A

FAMILIAR CONVERSATIONAL HISTORY

OF THE

EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

OF

NEW-YORK.

NEW-YORK:

ROBERT CARTER,

58 Canal street.

1838.

TO THE

RECTOR OF ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, NEW-YORK,

THE HISTORIAN, SCHOLAR, AND DIVINE;

THIS LITTLE VOLUME

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY HIS HUMBLE FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
INCIDENTAL HISTORY,	7
The Morals of our City Predecessors,	49
Colonial Slavery.—Negro Plot,	70
The Primitive Indian Inhabitants of our Island,	79
The Church in the Fort,	91
The Reformed Dutch Church,	98
The Episcopal Church,	109
The French Church,	130
The Quakers,	138
The Lutheran Church,	145
The Jews,	155
The Presbyterian Church,	163
The Moravians,	187
The Baptists,	195
The Methodists,	200
The Reformed Presbyterian Church,	214
List of all the Churches in the City, alphabetically arranged.	217

THE HISTORY

OF THE

CHURCHES OF NEW-YORK.

CHAPTER FIRST.

INCIDENTAL HISTORY OF THE CHURCHES, WHILE THE CITY WAS UNDER FOREIGN GOVERNORS.

[*The Interlocutors are, an* UNCLE, *and his two Nephews,* HENRY *and* JOHN.]

Uncle. Well, Henry, did you make out to get a view of the ruins of the old church to-day, or was the appearance of things in Garden-street so altered by the fire, that you could hardly find your way?

Henry. Oh no, sir; we succeeded in finding the object of our search, although the great fire has indeed made astonishing changes in that part of the city. John and I, after having gone around the whole ruins left of the fire, and clambering over one continued heap of rubbish, from South to Broad streets, at last found ourselves standing before the bare and blackened walls, of what so lately was the Garden-street

Church. But, uncle, did I understand you, this morning, to say, that that was the spot where the first church ever built in New-York city stood?

John. Perhaps *you* did, Henry; but *I* understood uncle to make a distinction between the first churches built in this city. If I recollect aright, he said that the Garden-street Church was the *third* built within the precincts of the city, but the *first* one that was erected by the will and contributions of the people, independently of the government.

Uncle. You are right, John; the government, very soon after the settlement of the colony here, caused a chapel for divine worship, to be built within the walls of the fort; which you may note down as the *first* church in New-York; the second was built by Peter Stuyvesant on his farm, or "Bowery" about the year 1660; and, then, not many years after this, the people procured a license to build a church in Garden-street, which you see was the *third* in the city.

Henry. But was it called Garden-street along there in those early days?

Uncle. No. There was not much of a street there then, when the church was first built; it was merely a lane on which the church stood, which ran up back of the parsonage-garden, where the minister lived, and from this came the name, in after days, of *Garden*-street.

John. But you are not done, I hope, uncle?