

**MEMOIRS OF THE
REV. NOAH
WORCESTER, D. D.**

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Memoirs of the Rev. Noah Worcester, D. D. by Noah Worcester & Henry Ware & Samuel Worcester

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NOAH WORCESTER & HENRY WARE & SAMUEL WORCESTER

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OF THE

REV. NOAH WORCESTER, D. D.

BY THE

REV. HENRY WARE, JR., D. D.

WITH A

PREFACE, NOTES, AND A CONCLUDING CHAPTER,

By SAMUEL WORCESTER.



BOSTON:

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1844.

P R E F A C E .

In the year 1821 the Rev. Joseph Tuckerman, D. D., requested my father to write Memoirs of his own life, and about the same time I communicated to him a similar request from his children. It was with great reluctance that he consented to make the effort; but he commenced the work in June 1823, in a series of Letters addressed to Dr. Tuckerman, the last of which is dated Jan. 26, 1832. When I asked him, from time to time, what progress he had made, he always said that this work was very unpleasant to him, and that he could not do it well. His time was much occupied in writing on other subjects which he thought more important, and he added nothing to the Memoir in the last five and a half years of his life.

Many years before his death he expressed a wish that the manuscripts which he might leave at the time of his death, should fall into my hands; and he desired that Dr. Channing, Dr. Tuckerman, and Dr. Ware, Jr., should

advise and assist me in making selections for publication. I requested him to leave a memorandum of his wishes on this subject, to which he assented. At a later period I requested him to leave very explicit directions in respect to his manuscripts; and also to specify which of them he thought most important to have published, and which of his printed works he thought most useful to be reprinted. This last request was made because I thought it possible that the public might desire to have a uniform edition of his most important writings, together with his Autobiography. He seemed pleased with my suggestions, and said he would endeavor to comply with them.

I mentioned to my father two reasons for making these requests: those whom he named as my advisers might be unable to assist me; and my views on several religious doctrines were so different from his own, that it might be difficult to satisfy others that I acted impartially, and fulfilled my duty to him.

Immediately after my father's death, Oct. 31, 1837, I took possession of all his papers, and examined them very carefully; and, to my great regret, no directions, and no notice of my requests could be found. I was thus left under the necessity of acting according to what I could remember to have been requested by him, or assented to in answer to my suggestions. I made known my father's desire that Drs. Channing, Tuckerman, and Ware, should give me advice and assistance, and I gave them a full view of the MSS. which he had left. They treated me with

PREFACE.

great kindness and justice, and examined the Memoirs and several other MSS.

Not only these gentlemen and myself, but all the relatives of my father to whom I could show his Autobiography, were agreed in the decision that it ought not to be published as the MEMOIRS OF DR. WORCESTER. It does, indeed, record the principal historical facts belonging to a suitable Memoir. It also furnishes many other useful materials; but it does not present his character and works as others saw them and ought to see them, — it does not give any fair and adequate view of the real usefulness of his labors, nor of the estimation in which they were held by the intelligent and virtuous of his own times.

It was the earnest desire of Dr. Channing, Dr. Tuckerman, and many other friends of my father, that Dr. Ware should write his Memoirs; but the feeble state of Dr. Ware's health, and his numerous and arduous labors, rendered it impossible for him to undertake the work at so early a period as was desirable. After he consented to perform it, he was delayed by sickness and by unforeseen labors; and it was not till the autumn of 1842, that he was able to devote much attention to it. It is with pain that I remember the anxiety which was caused him by this delay. He often expressed sorrow that he had consented to write the Memoirs, and wished that I would employ some other person; but I knew not how to find any one of equal qualifications; and I constantly desired him to feel at ease on the subject, and not labor upon it till he had health and leisure.

He had indeed a strong wish to write the *Memoirs of Dr. Worcester*; and I am certain that no fault should be imputed to him on account of his delaying and partially failing to perform the work.

Dr. Tuckerman agreed to examine all my father's Manuscripts, select the best, and prepare them for publication. In this he was to have some assistance from Dr. Channing. Dr. Tuckerman's health failed before he performed any part of this labor. His death and that of Dr. Channing, left the whole work for Dr. Ware and myself. He also has gone home before the work is completed; and the duty of finishing it devolves upon me, when my health has become too feeble to perform it well. All those whom my father named as my advisers and assistants, have left me, to become his companions.

When I visited Dr. Ware in Nov. 1842, it was agreed that I should make such inquiries of the booksellers, as would help us to decide how many volumes should be published. We proposed a selection from the printed works of my father, and one or two volumes from his Manuscripts, in addition to the *Memoirs*. The state of the book-market was such at that time, that it was deemed improper to publish any part of these works; and the advice given to Dr. Ware was, that the *Memoirs* should be finished, and that we should wait for a more favorable time for publishing. This removed from his mind the feeling that it was necessary to do the work now, and he permitted other duties to take its place. This accounts for his not completing the

Memoirs previous to April 1843, when his health failed so much that he seems to have added nothing to this work. After his death in September, Mrs. Ware kindly sent me all the papers which she found relating to the Memoirs.

It appears that Dr. Ware designed to have the work consist of eight Chapters. Five Chapters seem to be completed, with the exception of a few facts, and the last labor of correcting the composition. I do not find any paper headed as Chapter VI., nor anything that I am certain was intended for it; but I have put in this place what seemed most suitable.

I find the beginning of Chapter VII., and such things as I have arranged under that head. For Chapter VIII. I find only a few fragments. He did not attempt to write it, and has left only a few scattered remarks.

It seems to me and to others that the most important part of the work is done, that it is valuable, and should not be lost. It is indeed a very delicate and difficult task, to prepare these papers for publication; and I should be wholly unwilling to undertake it, were not the relatives of Dr. Ware so competent and so ready to assist me. The reader will find that where I have made changes, they are made in brackets; and that where I have added Notes, they are given as mine. I have omitted very few passages which Dr. Ware wrote. His account of the family of Noah Worcester, Esq., in the first Chapter, was very imperfect; I have therefore omitted it, and inserted a statement in brackets.

Dr. Ware intended that the last Chapter should give an account of my father's last days, his sickness, and his death; and also a review of his labors, and his character. It is necessary that I should write this Chapter; and I can give the facts which are required, more easily than any other person. I can also add some things which the reader may wish to know, but which might not be easily said by another. But the general view of my father's character and labors, with which Dr. Ware intended to close the Memoirs, must be omitted. The reader will regret that Dr. Ware did not write it; but his regret will be less than he anticipates, when he finds how fully Dr. Worcester's labors are described, and how justly his character is delineated, in the Chapters which are completed.

It may be expected that I should give a more particular account of the Manuscripts left by my father, than is contained in the following Memoirs. Dr. Ware did not read all of them; but, relying partly on Dr. Tuckerman and myself, he selected and examined those which seemed to be most important. It may be well to name those which he set apart as the parcel which he had examined and *retained*, as what would probably go wholly or partially, into the volumes which he proposed to publish.

1. "The Messiah's Kingdom not of this world." This is particularly mentioned in the fifth Chapter of the Memoirs and the Note following.

2. "Appeals to the Bible in Search of Truth." It is written in numbers, and treats of a great variety of sub-