

**A SUCCESSFUL LIFE.
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ELIASHIB
ADAMS, BORN AT CANTERBURY,
CONN., JUNE 6TH, 1778; DIED AT
BANGOR, MAINE, AUGUST 28TH, 1855**

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A Successful Life. Autobiography of Eliashib Adams, Born at Canterbury, Conn., June 6th, 1778; Died at Bangor, Maine, August 28th, 1855 by Eliashib Adams

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ELIASHIB ADAMS

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Eliashib Adams

BANGOR, MARCH 13. 1855.

J. W. B. BAKER & CO. BANGOR

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A SUCCESSFUL LIFE.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

OF

ELIASHIB ADAMS,

BORN AT CANTERBURY, CONN., JUNE 6TH, 1773;

DIED AT BANGOR, MAINE, AUGUST 28TH, 1855.

BANGOR:

PRINTED BY BENJAMIN A. BURR.

1871.

NOTE.

To G. E. A., J. C. A., and A. C. A.

MY DEAR BROTHERS:

At last, silencing if not subduing all doubts, scruples, and terrors of book-making, I have decided to give these precious "Reminiscences" to the printer.

It is true the author had no such plan. Two or three weeks before he left us for his heavenly home, placing in my hand the book in which we had seen him writing, occasionally, during the year, he said, "I have thought of burning this, but conclude on the whole I am willing my children should see it." He did not know what a life he had portrayed; a life not varied by startling incident, nor illustrated by great worldly ambitions and successes, but influenced and controlled by the truth of God—full of the faith and patience of the saints.

Our eyes, which for so many years looked reverently upon the living man, can doubtless see more in these pages than could those of a stranger; yet it seems to me no one, with an earnest mind, could read them without receiving an impulse to throw off the yoke of selfish maxims, and adopt, as the rule of life, the law of God—the old commandment and the new. However this may be, neither we nor our children, nor our children's children can

afford to lose our father's partial record of "the way in which God had in mercy led him for more than eighty years."

And so, at last I have said to myself, "not many men attain to the number of his years. Not many of those who do, lead through all vicissitudes, to the end, an upright, godly life. Not many of these leave any written testimony for the gratification and benefit of those who come after them. The manuscript was left with me. I will do what I can to preserve it. I will print it"—not wholly, for some pages would better continue in their original privacy; not absolutely without change, for the arrangement of some paragraphs is altered, and, with regard to a single circumstance, outside the range of personal experience, a mistake is corrected.

You know we never asked a testimonial from any one, but it seems right and pleasant that the spontaneous tribute from some who knew him should accompany the "Reminiscences." Professor Shepard's two sermons, so characteristic in their style, are certainly worth preserving in their original connection. One hitherto unwritten word I am inclined to record here; a word which he who uttered it on a certain public occasion, was justly sure would find a response in the hearts of all who heard him. Having alluded to "one who has left us," he added this only—"I am not going to pronounce a eulogy. It will be long before the name of *Eliashib Adams* will be less than eulogy."

E. L. C.

BANGOR, Dec. 30, 1870.

BANGOR, March, 1854.

Reminiscences of Eliashib Adams the fourth, born in Canterbury, Conn., June 6, 1773, the fifth from Henry Adams, of Braintree, Mass., and the sixth from Miles Standish, whose great grand-daughter married Eliashib Adams, son of Edward, son of Henry.


ERRATA.

Page 64, for 1828 read 1825.

Page 66. It having been suggested that a mistake occurs in the list of names on page 66, I would say—it appears from records that Mr. John Barker, while he was a leader in the formation of the *Central Congregational Society*, was not, for some forgotten reason, one of the twelve who constituted the *Central Church* at its organization, but came in by letter two weeks later. Mr. Henry S. Brown also then appears for the first time. Instead of these two, the names of Richard Thurston and S. D. Thurston should be inserted.

E. L. C.

Page 68, for 1792 read 1786, and for second read third.



MY DEAR CHILDREN:—

I have never written a book, and have no qualifications for the undertaking which would promise success, but as one of your number has desired me to record what I have learned of my ancestors, and to write something of an autobiography, I have concluded to attempt it. I have very few records to guide me, and must depend principally on memory, which at my age must be greatly impaired. I will endeavour to give the plain, unvarnished facts according to the best of my knowledge, and recollection of the relation given me in early life by my greatly honoured father.

I shall commence with Henry Adams, the first of our ancestors who settled in this country, and follow the descent through the line of Edward, one of Henry's sons, to my father, together with a brief account of my father's family and the way that God has in great mercy led me for more than eighty years.

Your affectionate father,

ELIASHIB ADAMS.

BANGOR, March 23, 1854.

REMINISCENCES.

Henry Adams, our Puritan ancestor, with his family, came to this country from England, and settled in Braintree, now called Quincy, Massachusetts, in the year 1630. I know not whether he was considered a godly man, but from the fact that he was so early a settler, there is no doubt he came for conscience sake. It is said that he had seven sons, most or all of whom came with him, and their posterity has now become very numerous. One of the sons of Henry was called Edward, one of whose sons was named Eliashib, the first of the name within my knowledge, since the High Priest. From him we have descended. Eliashib, son of Edward, married the great grand-daughter of Miles Standish, which I learned, not only by tradition, but by a deed of land which I have read, given by Miles Standish, of Preston, Conn., grand-son to the renowned Captain, "to his well beloved son-in-law, Eliashib Adams." Eliashib the first settled in Bristol, Mass. I do not know of his having more than one son. Him he called after his own name. Eliashib the second married a Miss Tracy, of Preston, where he resided till the time of his death, which was A. D. 1734. He left one only son, my father, who was called after his name, and four daughters, all of