CHAMBERSBURG IN THE COLONY AND THE REVOLUTION: A SKETCH

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Chambersburg in the Colony and the Revolution: A Sketch by Lewis H. Garrard

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A Sketch.

BY

LEWIS H. GARRARD,

NEWBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENSISTLVANIA, AND OF THE HISTORICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF OHIO.

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PREFACE.

HISTORY possesses a charm and a satisfaction in its gleanings from the annals of communities and families. These bring to light the personal minutiæ that fascinatingly blend with the dry detail of events —but which to the general historian are inaccessible or unnoticed (unless arranged by others)—and elaborate points heretofore obscure, yet of weight, as showing the development of sentiments shaping the future policy of the State. Thus viewed, humbler writers are the servitors of the public interest, and their circumscribed, and it may be partial, labors assume more than a mere transient, local value.

A few months since, the writer was requested to prepare for private circulation, a memoir of a descendant of the persons to whom this sketch chiefly relates. Wishing to give, as prefatory to that memoir, a succinct account of her predecessors—who

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PREFACE.

are identified with the progress of the Colony and the contest for Independence—such facts were variously collated as have swelled the expected few pages to the dimensions of the present little volume. Had the original intention been for the Society, other characters would have been introduced, and a more comprehensive range of research taken. This explanation, it is hoped, will be sufficient reason for its exclusively personal bearing.

When near its completion, it was suggested that its presentation to the Society would be acceptable. The manuscript was then submitted to the Trustees, who recommended it as worthy the Society's sanction. From their hands, with a few emendations necessary to its change from a private to a public garb, and some definitive notes on the aboriginal names of streams, it went to press.

The principal works here consulted, are the Colonial Records and Archives of Pennsylvania; Gordon's History of Pennsylvania; Rupp's History of Cumberland and other counties; the files of the Pennsylvania Gazette from 1745 to 1769 inclusive; Colonel Nicola's MS. list of Officers of the Revolution; the Order Books of Colonel James Chambers, PREFACE.

from July 26th, 1778, to August 5th, 1780; and Rev. Alfred Nevin's work, entitled Churches in the Valley.

To these — to the friendly attentions of Judge George Chambers and Mr. Thomas Chambers—to the library of the Historical Society, and the kindness of his fellow-members of the Society, Mr. Samuel Hazard, Mr. John Jordan, Jr., Mr. Henry C. Baird, and, in an especial and grateful manner, to Mr. Townsend Ward, the writer is indebted for aid in dispelling the mists which have accumulated around the subjects herein treated of in the past one hundred and thirty years.

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