

[Billingshurst, Thomas]

Our affectionate and venerable father in Israel, Rev. Thomas Billingshurst, is no more. He departed this life, at the residence of his son-in-law Mr. Edward Beers, in the town of Pittsford, on the 20th ult., aged 86 years.—Br. Billingshurst was received into the fellowship of the General or Arminian Baptists, in Ditchling, Sussex county, England, where and with whom he commenced the ministry of the Gospel as they understood it, at the early age of seventeen years. He was ordained an elder, and had the charge of several societies up to the time of leaving the land of his nativity for the happy shores and productive soil of North America.

He landed in the city of New York, January 29th, 1795. He had been in this country about five years when, to his inexpressible joy, he saw the glorious light of truth extending its benign and saving influence to save all our race.—This unchanging truth our beloved friend most faithfully preached about 20 years, without fee or pecuniary reward.

He was the first preacher of the Abrahamic faith in this vicinity, and formed the first society in this place. He believed in, and administered the ordinances of baptism and eucharist to the members of his charge. He was faithful to be at his appointments. He was the last member of his father's family. Few men were more kind in their dispositions or more benevolent in their lives. He was eminently distinguished for his virtues, and for his zealous services to friends and religious opposers.

When his declining health and weight of years pressed the infirmity of age upon him, he retired from the ministry, but has stood as a lasting monument of the grace and mercy of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, until, like a shock of corn fully ripe, the great Husbandman removed him to his sacred garner in heaven. At the powerful disposal of God, he bade adieu to his friends and the shores of time, for the glorious fields of endless bliss in a boundless eternity.

The text for his funeral was selected by himself. It is found in I Cor. xv:53-55. The consolations of the precious promises of God were delivered to the surviving friends and neighbors, by the writer.

S. [Rev. Stephen] Miles

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