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"Biographical Sketch of Caspar Morris, M.D." AS 1994



Or hast thou roamed where, with their kindred dust,
Ashes of generations past were laid,
And seen the storied urn, the speaking bust;
Which, silent now, their solemn trust betrayed,
No longer warn the world what havoc Death has made!

To while away the tedium and monotony of the long sea voyage he undertook the careful study and acquisition of Greek, with the assistance only of a grammar and lexicon, his principal text-book being the Greek New Testament. I can vouch for the information thus gained having been thorough and accurate, and useful to him in after years in training his children. At the same time his spiritual nature was deeply awakened. Always a thoughtful studious boy, though by no means a recluse, his parents' teachings and prayers, and the influence of what he had seen of his grandfather Hollingsworth's life (he had been his patient and untiring nurse for many months through the latter's failing health) bore fruit in his entire dedication of himself to that Master who took upon Himself our infirmities and bare our weaknesses. He proceeded with the ship to Calcutta, where he was a frequent guest at the house of the Rev. Dr. F. A. Goode, and Archdeacon (afterward Bishop) Corrie; and was baptized by Rev. Mr. Wilson, Dr. Corrie's assistant. Of these eminent servants of God, and their kindness to him, he always spoke with the warmest affection. The return voyage was made also uneventfully, and he arrived early in June, 1828.

On November 11, 1829, he married, in Baltimore, Anne, daughter of James Cheston, a merchant of that city, largely engaged in the milling business and the shipment of flour to South America, and importation of coffee. Her mother was Mary A., daughter of Samuel Hollingsworth, a brother of



Levi; they were thus second cousins, and descended from Mr. Henry Cornish, a merchant, and at one time High Sheriff of London, who was executed by order of one of the associates of the infamous Judge Jeffreys, for alleged complicity in the Monmouth plot; and whose daughter was married to Henry Hollingsworth, and came to this country. Henry Hollingsworth assisted as surveyor in the plotting of the city of Philadelphia. They settled near the head of Elk River, and their descendants are numerous.

Immediately on his return from India, he was appointed one of the physicians of the Philadelphia Dispensary. He had intended settling in the neighborhood of Seventh and Arch Streets, near St. James' Episcopal Church, with which he had connected himself. But a poor woman coming from the neighborhood of the brick-yards beyond Broad and Chestnut, carrying her babe suffering from cholera infantum, under the rays of a hot July sun, to the Fifth Street Dispensary, so aroused his sympathies for the mass of poor in that vicinity, who had no good physician, that he gave up what seemed to be a very pleasant opening, and established himself on Broad Street, two doors above Chestnut; moving thence on his marriage to a small house on Chestnut, next door west of the United States Mint, and two years after to a larger one on the south side of Chestnut, below Broad, where he resided until 1847, when he purchased 1428 Chestnut, and resided there until 1870; after his return from Europe, at 1033 Spruce Street, until his death.

The improvement which followed subsequently made this the best part of the city. Very soon a movement was started to erect a large Episcopal church in the vicinity. The first meetings for this purpose were held in his parlor; and from the efforts thus put forth sprang the Church of the Epiphany,