

## Samuel Langdon (1723-1797), Harvard 1740

Minister at Portsmouth, NH, 1745-1774; President of Harvard College, 1774-1780; minister at Hampton Falls, NH, 1781-1797

1764 October 24 (Wednesday). At Mr. *Conants* meet with Dr. Langdon of Portsmouth who rides for his Health, and therefore is our Company.

1764 October 25 (Thursday). Being so near to my Kinsman Bradshaws, I make them a Visit and breakfast with them. Am joined by Dr. Langdon again. Call at Mr. *Paysons* of Walpole, but we hasten to Medfield, and the rest of our Company coming to us at Mr. Townsends, we all dined there -- Mr. Townsend himself being gone to Barrington. P.M. we come to Sherbourn, and after a short stay at Mr. Locks and parting with Dr. Langdon there, we put on for Framingham, where despairing of getting home, and having Special Business at Mr. William Browns, I turn there, whilst my good Brethren tend homewards.

1766 June 9 (Monday). Read Dr. *Langdon* against *Sandeman*.<sup>1</sup>

1766 July 17 (Thursday). Mr. Moore and I rode back to Boston.... Dr. *Langdon* preached the Lecture on 1 *Pet.* 2.25.

1770 July 18 (Wednesday). My grand son, *Ebenezer*, is with Mr. *Barrett* and behaves decently. Commencement is enlivened with News that the Custom-Acts being repealed. Mr. President *Locke* gave thanks publicly -- yet it blew over as premature. Breakfast at the Presidents -- dined in the Hall. Mr. Gardner of Stow returned Thanks. The Exercises of the Forenoon had been much diversified, and were entertaining: especially the forensic Disputation -- the Dialogue in *Chaldee* that in Greek was delivered more distinctly than heretofore. At Eve I was at the Presidents where were Dr. Langdon of Portsmouth, Dr. Stiles of Newport, and Mr. Samuel Moody.

1774 October 4 (Tuesday). From Dedham to Mr. *Gordons* at Roxbury. He presented me with above forty Books -- a Number of them bound, and a Number in boards, printed by the Society for promoting *Religious* Knowledge. Mr. *Gordon* is one of them. He goes to an Overseers meeting at Cambridge to receive Dr. Langdons Answer to their Invitation to be President.

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<sup>1</sup>Samuel Langdon, *An impartial examination of Mr. Robert Sandeman's Letters on Theron and Aspasio, containing, I. Some general remarks on the spirit and leading notions of the author of those Letters. II. A particular consideration of the character of the Pharisees, and of Jesus, as drawn by Mr. Sandeman-- Remarks upon his conversion of Jonathan the Jew-- The conversion of Cornelius the Gentile as a contrast to Jonathan's. III. The principal sentiments in the Letters collected into order, distinctly examined, and shown in several instances to be inconsistent with one another, and with the sacred oracles, and the whole to be an unhappy mixture of truth with absurdity and falsehood* (Portsmouth, in New-Hampshire, N.E. Printed, by Daniel & Robert Fowle, M,DCC,LXV. [1765]); Evans 10035.

1775 April 20 (Thursday). Dr. *Langdon* calls to see me in his Return from *North Kingston* and dines here.

1775 May 31 (Wednesday). Rev. Dr. *Langdon* preached before the Congress at *Watertown*, on Isa. 1.26. A large Collection of Ministers. Our Convention (as our Dining was also) at *Coollidge's* Tavern on the South side of the Bridge. Dr. *Langdon* was chose Moderator. The Treasurer, Dr. Eliot, was not present: the Affairs of the Moneys, the Distribution of the Collections, and all the Accounts of the Funds, were deferred to another Time. The Congress having Shewn us great Respect, in providing for us, their President Dr. *Joseph Warrin* dining with us etc., the Convention chose a Committee to draw up an Address to them, and it was Sent by them. They were Dr. *Cooper*, Mr. [C?]hute, *Williams* of *Sandwich*, and *Bridge* of *Chelmsford*. Mr. *Cooke* was confirmed Preacher for the next Year. Dr. *Langdon* was chose his Second.

1775 June 1 (Thursday). The Convention by the kind indulgence of the Congress, were favoured with the Meeting House, but that we might the less incommode them in their important Business, our Meeting was at 8 o'Clock in the morning.... I hastened to the Camp, where a Number of the *Westborough* People were in Tents. I was also at Capt. *Wheelock's* Chamber, where were divers of the Officers of his Company besides, and several *Westborough* Neighbours. Was at Dr. *Langdon's* -- and thence I went to *Head Quarters* and saw Mr. Secretary *Ward*.

1775 November 1 (Wednesday). Rose early and sat out for *Concord*, to hear Dr. *Langdon's* *Dudleian Lecture*.<sup>2</sup> When I got to Mr. *Gershom Biglows* [the] Sunbeams first appeared: At Coll. Weeks at 8 o'Clock. [Prayed?] with his Sick Daughter in law -- extreme [torn] the temper and they have lately [buried two] Child[ren] [torn] [same.] I got into *Concord* about [torn] *Minots* [torn] to meeting at [torn]. A fine Anthem for a conclusion. Dined with the Doctor at his House. Where as I had conceived there was to be a public Dinner. Dr. *Winthrop* and his Lady, Mr. *Lawrence*, Mr. *Bridge* etc. dined there. After Dinner I headed a paper for Subscriptions and subscribed for two Books.

1776 February 28 (Wednesday). Mr. *Kendal* has a large subscription (the Introduction wrote by Dr. *Langdon*) for his going to preach at [Caughnawaga?]. General *Washington* begins it with 42/ -- it is followed with many Officers and others; so that it amounts to full 30£ Lawful Money. I gave him Somewhat.

1776 October 1 (Tuesday). Viewed the Chambers appointed for my son [Elias]. *Hastings* there and they rode to *Waltham* and brought the Chest and Table which *Stephen Hall* took care to get brought there. Dined with Dr. *Langdon*.

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<sup>2</sup>Samuel Langdon (1723-1797), *The Co-Incidence of Natural with Revealed Religion: A Sermon at the Annual Lecture Instituted in Harvard College by the Last Will and Testament of the Honorable Paul Dudley, D.D., President of Harvard College* (Boston: Printed by Samuel Hall, 1776); Evans 14822.

1776 October 30 (Wednesday). *Breck* goes to Boston -- but by the Way of Concord and Cambridge. I sent by him to Dr. *Langdon* "the Master Key to Popery":<sup>3</sup> and a Letter to Mr. *Moore* to the Care of Col. *White*, Representative for Rochester.

1777 February 17 (Monday). P.M. Mr. *Bradshaw* returns in my Sleigh from Cambridge. Brings *Elias's* Quarter Bills; and from Dr. *Langdon* Dr. *Witherspoons* sermon the General Fast last May.<sup>4</sup>

1777 April 7 (Monday). By Mr. *Bradshaw* I sent a Letter to *Elias*, and to Dr. *Langdon* his Dr. *Witherspoon*.

1779 March 17 (Wednesday). I wrote to President *Langdon* to excuse *Elias's* tardiness. And delivered *Elias* 100 Dollars.

1780 September 1 (Friday). Capt. *Goddard* of *Sutton* calls at *Breck's* Shop and relates, That the Scholars at College (from whence he was come) had so generally signed a petition that Pres. *Langdon* might be dismissed, that he himself had asked a Dismission and that it was granted him. Whence this has arisen, I know not.

1780 September 20 (Wednesday). Mr. *Cushing* last evening brought me from Mr. *Moore*, *Shuckford's* Condition vol. 1. He also, having been with various Gentlemen in his Journey, discovers to me some of the probable Reasons of the Dismission of Pres. *Langdon*.

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<sup>3</sup>Antonio Gavin (fl. 1726), *A master-key to popery: in five parts. Part I. Containing a discovery of the most secret practices of the secular and regular Romish priests in their auricular confession. Part II. A true copy of the Pope's yearly bull of indulgencies and pardon of sins, to all those that serve in the war against the enemies of the Romish religion. The explanation of the bull, with some remarks upon it. Part III. An account of their masses, privileg'd altars, transubstantiation, and purgatory, and of the means the priests make use of to delude the people. Part. IV. Of the inquisitors, and their practices in several instances. Part V. Of their prayers, adoration of images, and relicks, &c.* By D. Antonio Gavin, born and educated in Spain, some years secular priest in the Church of Rome, and since 1715, minister of the Church of England. "Third edition, carefully corrected." [Newport, R.I.] London, printed: Newport, Rhode-Island: reprinted and sold by Solomon Southwick, in Queen-Street, 1773. First published in 1724, the *Master-Key* appeared in a 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1725; a 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 1726.

<sup>4</sup>John Witherspoon (1723-1794), *The dominion of Providence over the passions of men. A sermon preached at Princeton, on the 17th of May, 1776. Being the general fast appointed by the Congress through the United Colonies. To which is added, an address to the natives of Scotland residing in America* (Philadelphia: Printed and sold by R. Aitken, printer and bookseller, opposite the London Coffee-House, Front-Street, M.DCC.LXXVI. [1776]); Evans 15224.