



HISTORY

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Church

IN

AMERICA:

WITH SKETCHES OF ALL HER MINISTRY, CONGREGATIONS,
MISSIONS, INSTITUTIONS, PUBLICATIONS, Etc.,
AND EMBELLISHED WITH OVER
FIFTY PORTRAITS AND
ENGRAVINGS.

BY

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BALTIMORE, MD.

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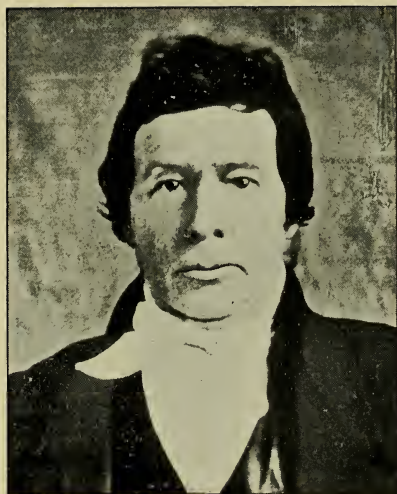
UNDERTAKEN with the approval of the Synod of the Reformed
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JOHN BLACK, D. D.:

Son of John and Margaret (McKibbin) Black, was born in Ahoghill, County Antrim, Ireland, October 2, 1768. He received the rudiments of a classical education in the schools of his native country, and graduated from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, in 1790. He returned to Ireland where he engaged in teaching, and also began the study of theology. He came to America in the fall of 1797, as an exile for liberty at the time of the Irish insurrection. He was employed for some time as a teacher of the classics near the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and subsequently in connection with the University of Pennsylvania. He resumed his theological studies, and was licensed by the Reformed Presbytery, at Coldenham, Orange County, New York, June 24, 1799. Being assigned by this court to labor in Western Pennsylvania, he soon afterwards gathered the Ohio congregation, centering in Pittsburgh, and including all the societies of Covenanters west of the Allegheny mountains. He was ordained by the Reformed Presbytery, and installed pastor of this extensive congregation, December 18, 1800. In 1806, the congregation was divided into three parts, and he remained pastor of the portion in and around the city of Pittsburgh, which soon became a large and influential charge. He also was engaged as a classical teacher, and, in 1820, was elected Professor of Latin and Greek in the Western University of Pennsylvania, and resigned in 1832, when he visited Europe. He was President of Duquesne College one year. At the



JOHN BLACK, D. D.

division of the Church in August, 1833, he became identified with the New School branch of the Covenanter Church. He remained pastor of a majority of his former congregation until his death, at his residence in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 25, 1849. He was a remarkably proficient scholar, especially in the languages, and spent most of his life in teaching. He was identified with almost all the literary and charitable institutions of his adopted city, and was a zealous advocate of every reform. He was the first Covenanter minister settled west of the Allegheny mountains, and the pioneer missionary in the new West. During the suspension of the Theological Seminary after 1828, he taught a class in theology in connection with his other duties. He was a great man. His preaching talents were of a high order. He possessed a lively imagination and dwelt largely in allegory, sometimes enrapturing his audience with descriptions of Scripture figures and scenery. He was a ready and forcible extemporaneous speaker on all subjects, and never refused an invitation to preach. His life was too busy with collegiate and ministerial duties to effect much as an author, yet he published some valuable articles in the newspapers and magazines of the Church in his day. Among his publications are: "Church Fellowship," 1819, pp. 109; "The Bible against Slavery," 1839, pp. 36. "The Baptist Controversy," 1846, pp. 52. "The Duration of the Mediatorial Dominion," 1848, pp. 32. The "Directory of Worship" is from his pen, and he wrote the Latin Introduction to Rabbi Leeser's issue of the Hebrew

Bible. He married Miss Elizabeth Watson, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1802. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Washington College in 1824. He was Moderator of the Reformed Presbytery in 1801, and previous to 1833, the stated Clerk of Synod for many years. He was Moderator of the General Synod in 1837.

JOHN BLACK, JR.:

Son of Rev. Dr. John and Elizabeth (Watson) Black, was born in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 9, 1806. He received his preparatory course of literary training in the Pittsburgh Academy under Dr. Robert Bruce, and graduated from the Western University of Pennsylvania in 1825. He studied theology in the Philadelphia Seminary, and also under the direction of his distinguished father, and was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, April 22, 1828. His trial discourses were the last he delivered, for at that time he was greatly reduced by consumption, from which disease he died at the house of his uncle, the Rev. Dr. S. B. Wylie, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1828. He was unmarried. He was a large and exceedingly muscular man, and possessed a commanding appearance. His scholarly attainments and natural endowments gave ample promise that, had he been spared, he would have become a powerful preacher and an able divine.

JAMES ALEXANDER BLACK:

Son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Bell) Black, was born near Dromore, County Down, Ireland, * * * He came with his parents to America in 1841, and settled in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he received