

Presented to
E. A. Alderman, Esq.

A SKETCH OF

By *SW* THE *Reid*

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF THE

REV. DAVID CALDWELL, D.D.

NEAR SIXTY YEARS PASTOR OF THE CHURCHES
OF BUFFALO AND ALAMANCE.

INCLUDING

TWO OF HIS SERMONS; SOME ACCOUNT OF THE REGULATION,
TOGETHER WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY TRANSACTIONS AND
INCIDENTS IN WHICH HE WAS CONCERNED; AND A VERY BRIEF
NOTICE OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MORAL CONDITION OF
NORTH-CAROLINA WHILE IN ITS COLONIAL STATE.

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GREENSBOROUGH, N. C.

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their thoughts when they went there. An aged and venerable servant of Christ, mentioned to the writer not long since, that he recollected ten, he being himself one of the number, who professed religion while in school and became preachers; and said that he knew about as many more who professed religion in the school after he left, and took the same course.

It would be unpardonable not to pay a passing tribute of respect here to the memory of Mrs. Caldwell, who, for good sense and ardent piety, had few if any equals, and certainly no superiors, at that time and in this region of country. In every respect she was an ornament to her sex and a credit to the station which she occupied as the head of a family and the wife of a man who was not only devoted to the service of the church, but was eminently useful in his sphere of life. Her intelligence, prudence, and kind and conciliating manners were such as to secure the respect and confidence of the young men in the school, while her concern for their future welfare prompted her to use every means, and to improve every opportunity, for turning their attention to their personal salvation; and her assiduity and success in this matter were such as to give rise and currency to the remark over the country that "Dr. Caldwell made the *scholars*, but Mrs. Caldwell made the *preachers*." The remark might be to some extent true; and the fact, if it was one, might be rationally and satisfactorily accounted for, without any disparagement of his piety, or implying any doubt of his zeal on this subject; for, apart from the consideration that his time and attention were so much occupied with other things that he could not make the same direct efforts in this way, which, in other circumstances, he might have made, we all know how difficult it is for a teacher, while engaged from morning till night, and day after day, in the literary and scientific instruction of his pupils, and in exercising authority and discipline over them, to maintain that kind of religious influence, which, humanly speaking, is necessary to their conversion. It is not impossible, as might be shown by a reference to many examples, especially at that day, of whom Dr. Caldwell must be regarded as one, notwithstanding the common remark above mentioned; nor did those who knew them both understand it as literally true, but made it or

used it to express their high opinion of her piety and zeal;—yet it was to him, and to the whole church, so far as known, a cause of gratitude which ought not to be passed over in silence, that he had an assistant in this work who was so competent and so faithful. Without dwelling on this, however, at present, or undertaking to eulogize one whose record is on high, it is certain that many young men who went there with no other wish or thought than that of being prepared to reap the rewards or wear the honors of this world, were converted to the Lord before they left, and became in due time devoted and useful ministers of the gospel, several of whom ascribed their awakening and conversion to her instrumentality. Whenever any of them became concerned about their salvation, whether impressed by some dispensation of Providence, or awakened under the ordinary means of grace, the resort was to Mrs. Caldwell in preference to any body else; and those who were truly pious and had their attention turned to the gospel ministry, found that they were increased in faith, advanced in christian knowledge, and encouraged to persevere in their toilsome course of preparation for usefulness, by her conversation and her example as a christian. The aged minister whose name has been already mentioned, observed to the writer not long since, that although he believes he was a christian before he went there, and was aiming at the ministry, yet in his circumstances his trials and discouragements were so great that he was sometimes on the point of giving up all hope of ever attaining the object of his wishes, but by her advice and encouragement, he was kept along, and that she was of more service to him than all the ministers in the Orange Presbytery. All who were pious when they went, or who became so while there, have always spoken of her with the highest veneration, and have borne a uniform testimony to her uncommon intelligence on the subject of religion, including doctrines, precepts, experience, &c.; her devotional spirit, her cheerful piety, her humble zeal, her confidence in God; and since she has gone to reap the rewards of piety in another world, she will be had in long remembrance here on earth.

Thus in every way his school was a nursery for the church, or for the gospel ministry; and while the whole country is deep-