



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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early education, studied the classics under the Rev. Hugh Walkinshaw, and graduated from the Western University of Pennsylvania in 1842. He studied theology in the Allegheny and Cincinnati Seminaries, and was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, April 13, 1846. He was ordained by the Lakes Presbytery, and installed pastor of the united congregations of Beech Woods, Preble County, Ohio, and Garrison, Fayette County, Indiana, October 6, 1847, and resigned this charge, October 10, 1865. He missionated in the West for two years, principally in the station which became the congregation of Winchester, Jefferson County, Kansas, over which he was installed pastor, November 7, 1868, and was released, October 18, 1876. He was installed pastor of the congregation of Sylvania, Dade County, Missouri, May 9, 1878, where he is in charge. He was thrice married. First to Miss Matilda Cannon, of Greensburgh, Pennsylvania, June 28, 1847; second, to Miss Mary Milligan, of Fayetteville, Indiana, March 29, 1853; and third, to Miss Belle Torrence, of Northwood, Ohio, August 12, 1857.

ROBERT JAMES DODDS, D. D. :

Son of Archibald and Margaret (Davison) Dodds, was born near Freeport, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, August 29, 1824. Possessed from his youth with integrity of character and amiability of disposition he was dedicated to God for the work of the ministry. At an early age he began his classical studies under the direction of his pastor, the Rev. Hugh Walkinshaw, and made such rapid progress and proficiency in all the departments of literature taught



ROBERT J. DODDS, D. D.

in a College, that he was recommended as sufficiently advanced to begin the study of theology in the spring of 1844. He studied theology in the Allegheny and Cincinnati Seminaries, and was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, June 21, 1848. At the meeting of Synod in 1847, the Mission of Hayti was organized, and he was chosen as a missionary for that foreign field, for which purpose, he was ordained *sine titulo* by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, November 24, 1848. The Mission, however, was soon afterwards abandoned, he was not sent out, and he preached in the vacancies for a few years. He was installed pastor of the Rehoboth congregation, Stanton, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1852. He travelled extensively in this field, and was exposed to many inconveniences; yet by his missionary spirit and zeal for the cause, he built up a flourishing congregation of many branches. At the meeting of Synod in 1856, the Syrian Mission was established and he was unanimously chosen as one of the Missionaries. Accepting the appointment, he was released from the congregation, May 24, 1856. With the Rev. Joseph Beattie, their families and others, he sailed for Syria, October 16, 1856. He first settled in Damascus, where he learned the Arabic language, and in October, 1857, removed to Zahleh, a town at the foot of Mount Lebanon. In May, 1858, he was compelled to abandon the work in this place on account of the threats and persecution of the bigoted priesthood. Making a tour of exploration through Northern Syria, as far as Antioch, he passed through Latakia, and, being favorably impressed with its loca-

tion, began to perfect arrangements for its occupation. In the autumn of 1859, he removed thither, followed by Dr. Beattie and others, where suitable buildings were secured, and where he labored for eight years with good success. An unexpected opening occurred in Aleppo, and, the Mission deeming it advisable to enter in and possess it, Dr. Dodds was appointed to this field in May, 1867. Here he remained constantly busied with the proper work of the Mission until his death. During the summer of 1870, he visited the Mission in Latakia, and while there suffered an attack of fever. During a subsequent journey to Idlib, he contracted a severe cold which adhered to him. In the beginning of December following, he suffered from a slight hemorrhage of the lungs, intensified by typhoid fever, from which he died, at his home in Aleppo, Syria, December 11, 1870. He was twice married. First to Miss Amanda Cannon, of Greensburgh, Pennsylvania, January 2, 1849; and second to Miss Letitia M. Dodds, of Valencia, Pennsylvania, August 12, 1856. As a preacher, his sermons were rich in Scriptural truth and illustration. He was not a popular orator owing to a hesitancy in his speech, and he was more spiritual than ornate; more thoughtful than rhetorical; more anxious about conviction than elegance of style. He was admirably adapted with every qualification for a successful Missionary. He was a good classical scholar, and made such proficiency in the study of the Arabic tongue that he was able to preach a sermon in that language in eighteen months after beginning the study of it. He was a remarkably cheerful man, uniform

in his feelings and sympathetic in his disposition. His intellectual character was marked with keen and vigorous reasoning powers, a retentive memory, and the ability to concentrate his ideas. Among his earlier publications is, "A Reply to Morton on Psalmody," 1851, pp. 140. His writings are principally letters to the Foreign Mission Board and are published in the Church magazines. He translated the Shorter Catechism into the Arabic language, and was engaged in writing and translating other works for the use of the Mission. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Monmouth College in 1870. He was Moderator of the Synod of 1866.

THOMAS DONNELLY :

Son of Thomas and Nancy (Moore) Donnelly, was born near Donegal, County Donegal, Ireland, January 13, 1772.* In early life he evinced a strong desire for an education, and after passing through the accustomed studies in the schools of his native County, he entered the University of Glasgow, Scotland, in the fall of 1788, where he remained two years. He came to America in the spring of 1791, and settled in the Chester District, South Carolina. The following year he entered Dickinson College, where he graduated in 1794, and returned to South Carolina, where he was engaged in teaching. He studied theology under the direction of the Rev. William King, and, in 1798, under the care of the Reformed Presbytery, and was licensed by that court, at Coldenham, Orange County, New York, June 24, 1799. He was assigned to labor in South Carolina,

*Sketch by Mr. Thomas Smith, Bloomington, Ind., in Sprague's Annals.