

HISTORY

—OF—

William Jewell College,

Liberty, Clay County, Missouri.

COMPILED AT THE REQUEST OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

—BY—

JAMES G. CLARK, L. L. D.

PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS.

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religious and educational work of his City and State. May he long remain among us to enjoy the reaping of the harvest fruitage, with the sowing of which he has had so much to do.

REV. ROBERT POLLOK KERR, D. D.

Was born in Greensboro, Ala., July 19th, 1850. His father, John Poole Kerr, was a native of Scotland, and his mother, Miss Sarah Howard Webb Kerr, of North Carolina.

In 1868 the family moved to Clay county, Mo., and young Kerr entered William Jewell College, as a student in the course in arts. During his career as a student, he was distinguished for the earnestness and industry with which he pursued his studies, as well as for his high character and his lofty aspirations. He finished his course at William Jewell and graduated as A. B. in June, 1871, and at once entered the Union Theological Seminary at Hampden-Sidney, Va. Here he completed the three years' course in two years, and in June, 1873, received his diploma in theology. In September, 1873, he married a lovely and accomplished lady, Miss Ellen Y. Webb, of Nashville, Tenn., and the union has in every respect been a most happy and congenial one.

Mr. Kerr's first pastorate was at Lexington, Mo., to which church he was called in 1874. His labors

here were very successful, for he united the two Presbyterian churches which had been divided upon war issues, and removed a large and depressing debt which had well nigh paralyzed the energies of the church; and when he found the winters of Missouri too hard for his health and was forced to go to a warmer climate, he left the church in excellent condition for the reception of his successor, Rev. G. L. Leyburn, D. D.

After successful pastorates in Thomasville and Savannah, Ga., and Petersburg, Va., he was called, in 1884, to the First Presbyterian church of Richmond, Va., where he has been ever since, although he has received most enticing and remunerative calls to Albany, Brooklyn, Louisville and New York City. At the First church, Mr. Kerr is the successor of a long line of the most distinguished ministers of the Presbyterian Church, and he has not suffered in comparison with any of his predecessors. Mr. Kerr is accounted an excellent preacher, preaches entirely without manuscript, and attracts large audiences to all his services. His *forte*, however, is in pastoral work, in which he has few equals in any church, and his success in building up his church until it lacks only ten of being the largest Presbyterian church in Virginia, and is growing more rapidly than any other in the State, is the best evidence that the work of the Lord is prospering in his hands.

Although abounding in the labor of preparation of his sermons and the pastoral care of so large a congregation, Mr. Kerr, has also done much literary work, and his books have all met a large and ready

sale. They are as follows: "Presbyterianism for the People"—1883; "The History of Presbyterianism"—1886; "Voice of God in History"—1890; "Hymns of the Ages"—1891; "Bible Baptism"—1892; "The Lord of Holy Light"—1892. In addition to these volumes, Mr. Kerr has now two other volumes in the press, to be issued early in 1893.

The literary and scholarly labors of Mr. Kerr were recognized in 1886 by Washington and Lee University, at Lexington, Va., which conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In 1885 Dr. Kerr was voted a year's leave of absence with payment of full salary, and with his wife as his *compagnon de voyage*, he spent a delightful and profitable year in foreign travel and study. In 1890, with a most congenial party of traveling companions, he made a rapid tour of Europe, and visited Egypt and the Holy Land. Upon his return he delivered to large and delighted audiences in Richmond a series of Sunday evening lectures upon his travels in Palestine, which he afterwards expanded into the volume just published, "The Lord of Holy Light."

Dr. Kerr is greatly beloved by his people, who would be unwilling to exchange him for any other minister in the land.

SAMUEL C. MAJOR,

Although having no *official* connection with William Jewell College, except that he was for a number of