

COVENANTER MINISTERS

1930-1963

of the

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF NORTH AMERICA

This volume is a successor to Thompson's *Sketches of the Ministers*, published in 1930. It contains supplemental sketches of ministers who were living in 1930 and of those who were called into service later. Some of these have entered into rest, while others have either retired or continue their ministry. The appendix includes a short list of those who left the communion of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. The latter pages are composed of accounts of institutions and projects of the church and include lists of missionaries who served in the period from 1930-1963. Pictures of moderators and of our institutions are given. For historical reference there are contained herein lists of Presbyteries and of Congregations, with dates of organization and disorganization during this same period.

By

THE REV. ALVIN W. SMITH, D. D.
Pastor of Union Congregation
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ance Committee, Board of Pensions, and the Committee on Stewardship.

THOMAS ALEXANDER McELWAIN

T. A. McElwain, whose biographical sketch appears in Thompson's **Sketches of the Ministers** up to the year 1930, when that volume was published, was then living at Rose Point, Pennsylvania, where he had made his home since 1908, preaching as opportunity and strength afforded. He was called home to be with his Lord on February 22, 1932, after a brief illness.

Mr. McElwain was pre-eminently a man of prayer. He believed firmly in its importance, and had power with God in prayer. He was loyal — loyal to the Bible as God's revealed will; loyal to the Covenanter Church and her God-given testimony for the world; loyal above all to Jesus Christ as his Friend, his Savior, and his Lord.

ANDREW JAMES McFARLAND, D. D.

A. J. McFarland, whose biographical sketch appears in Thompson's **Sketches of the Ministers** up to the year 1930, when that volume was published, was at that time laboring as a missionary in Latakia, Syria. He continued his service there until the year 1938, when failing health led him back to his homeland. From 1940 to 1944 he served as Stated Supply of the Hemet, California congregation. He then retired from the active ministry and spent the remaining years of his life at Santa Ana, California.

In June, 1897, he was united in marriage with Isabel H. Edgar who preceded him in death in February, 1938. In July, 1940 he was united in marriage with Mrs. Margaret Willson.

Mr. McFarland's life was characterized by humility and

consecration that makes men great before God and before men. His life was spent to the full in the Master's service. He went to join that heavenly host on December 12, 1952.

ARMOUR JAMES McFARLAND, D. D.

A. J. McFarland, whose biographical sketch appears in Thompson's **Sketches of the Ministers**, was, in 1930, the year of that book's publication, serving as pastor of our Superior and Beulah, Nebraska congregations. He had been installed there on September 6, 1928. After several years he was released from this charge on November 21, 1935, and on the same day was installed pastor of Quinter, Kansas congregation. There he served faithfully for another seven years. God blessed his labors in his pastorates.

The Lord added to his family. In addition to his son William Joseph, whose name is mentioned in the previous sketch, there were given two other sons: Armour James and Robert Hutcheson, both ministerial members of Synod.

In 1942 he entered upon a new phase of his ministry which he continued until his death in 1962. "In 1942 the women of the New York Presbyterial petitioned the Synod to send out 'specially qualified speakers who shall consistently carry this doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ in relation to civil government to the people of the nation.'" Thirty-three congregations joined with these women in that petition.

In accordance with that petition, the Synod of 1942 chose A. J. McFarland to do that work. His was the only name considered. He accepted this choice as the call of the Lord. He resigned from his pastorate at Quinter and entered upon this new work on September 1, 1942. For twenty years he pursued this nation-wide service and was used of the Lord to publicize the Christian Amendment in a larger way than it had been done before.

Under his leadership the inter-denominational Christian