

SKETCHES OF THE MINISTERS

Of the

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF NORTH AMERICA

From 1888 to 1930

With supplemental sketches of ministers living in 1888 whose records were carried forward in Glasgow's History up to that date; together with sketches of the institutions, missions and organizations of the Church, and lists of missionaries who have served the Church during this period; containing also 42 portraits of Moderators of Synod besides the cuts of the institutions of the Church; also lists of Presbyteries and Congregations together with the dates of organization and disorganization of the same during the period covered by this volume.



By

THE REV. OWEN F. THOMPSON

Pastor of the Blanchard Congregation

Blanchard, Iowa

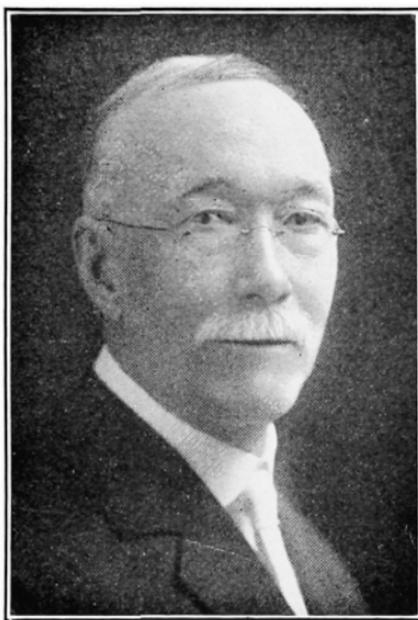
THE material for this volume was gathered, prepared and published under the appointment and direction of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America and in accordance with resolutions passed by Synod in 1921 in the Eighth Street Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and again in 1929 at Winona Lake, Indiana.

WILLIAM MCFARLAND

WILLIAM MCFARLAND, whose biographical sketch appears in Glasgow's History, was, at the time of the publishing of that volume in the year 1888, pastor of the Lisbon congregation, Flackville, New York. He had been installed pastor in that congregation on May 11, 1871. He continued in this charge until May 29, 1900, when he was released by Rochester Presbytery. Following this he was a laborer in the field for 14 years, preaching, lecturing and missionating. For seven years following this he spent six months each year as stated supply in Lisbon again. Since that time he has preached and labored as his strength would allow, keeping the vision of his youth though his years have gone five beyond the four score. Fifty-eight years have passed since his ordination to the Gospel Ministry. This period is at present divided into two equal parts. Twenty-nine years were spent in the pastorate of Lisbon and twenty-nine years following that have been spent in the field or as stated supply, during which time he has visited all but ten of the congregations east of the Rockies. Few living men can look back upon that length of service under ordination—but every child of God can look forward, not to 58 years, but to an endless eternity of service for the King and before His Face. If Time's opportunities are precious how are we to measure what Eternity offers? Mr. McFarland makes his home in Syracuse, New York. He does not have strength for much physical labor, but his strength of soul is greater than ever and he both abides the Lord's time of going and also looks forward with anticipation to the better things ahead.

JAMES C. MCFEETERS, D. D.

JAMES C. MCFEETERS, whose biographical sketch is carried forward to the year 1888 in Glasgow's History, was in that year pastor of Manchester, Parnassus and Brookland



THE REV. JAMES C. McFEETERS, D. D.
Elected Moderator of Synod in the year 1894
In the Second Philadelphia R. P. Church
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

congregations, having been installed over the first two in 1874 and the latter in 1886. He was also at that time President of the Board of Trustees of Geneva College. He was released from these charges on December 18, 1888, and installed pastor of the Second Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Reformed Presbyterian congregation January 17, 1889, where he remained for more than 32 years. He was released from this charge February 1, 1921. From that time until the very day of his death he gave himself unstintingly to the Church at large, preaching in the weak and needy congregations, bringing them the ripe and spiritual and uplifting influences of his presence and the power of his earnest messages delivered from the very depths of his soul. Many of the congregations throughout the Church will remember the weeks or months spent among them by this venerable, zealous and godly servant of the Kingdom. His interest in the Kindom was both broad and deep. Shortly after moving to Philadelphia he was elected to membership in the Foreign Mission Board and his interest in this great department of the Church never grew slack. He gave the same loving service as a member of the Jewish Mission Board. Also the College claimed his best for he was at some time both a member of the Board of Trustees and of the Board of Corporators of Geneva College. Many committees also felt his influence and inspiration. In fact, one of his chief assets was his vision and enthusiasm and optimism. As a writer he was well known to the Church and also to many outside his own Church. He is the author of a number of books, among which are: "The Covenanters in America," "Sketches of the Covenanters," "The New Heaven and the New Earth," and "America in the Coming Crisis." He was also a writer of some beautiful poems. It was his life-long desire to die while in active service and

this desire was granted by the Great Captain. He was taken suddenly ill, at the home of his niece in Hetherton, Michigan, where he had been ministering for some weeks, and after a brief sickness was called to see the realities of those visions that had filled his soul and lifted up his whole being so often while on earth. He passed from earth to Heaven Monday, December 24, 1928, at the age of 81 years. He was blessed with a veritable host of friends for he had the heart of love. How rich Heaven will be for him. He received many honors, among which was the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Westminster College. He was elected Moderator of Synod in the Second Church, Philadelphia, in 1894. He had been ordained to the Gospel Ministry in 1874. This made his service as an ordained Minister of the Gospel cover a period of 54 years. Long, we call it as he spoke to us from his more than half a century experience. Short, he calls it as he stands just within the circle of Eternity and looks forward into the ages that have no end. We should live today as though Eternity depended on it—for it does!

JAMES STEWART McGAW, D. D.

JAMES S. McGAW, son of James and Mary (Ellison) McGaw, was born October 14, 1872, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His father and mother were both of Belfast, Ireland. He united with the Allegheny Reformed Presbyterian congregation in 1885, at the age of 13 years, under the pastorate of the Rev. J. R. J. Milligan, D. D. He attended the Grades and High School of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, then entered Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, graduating from this institution in 1895. In the fall