



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

W. MELANCTHON GLASGOW,
BALTIMORE, MD.

BALTIMORE:
HILL & HARVEY, PUBLISHERS.
1888.

UNDERTAKEN with the approval of the Synod of the Reformed
Presbyterian Church in America, and by a resolution passed in its
session at Newburgh, New York, June 8, 1887.

COPYRIGHTED BY
W. M. GLASGOW,
1888.

PRESS OF
FIDDIS, BEATTY & Co.,
BALTIMORE, MD.

chiefest joy in silent meditation with his Saviour. While he was well-read in theology and the Puritan Divines, yet he had no taste for general reading and avoided public life. His discourses were carefully written and committed to memory before delivery. He was an acceptable speaker, but by no means eloquent.

ALEXANDER MCLEOD, D. D.:

Son of Rev. Niel and Margaret (McLean) McLeod, was born at Ardcrisinish, in the Isle of Mull, Scotland, June 12, 1774.* His father was a distinguished minister of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, whose parish embraced the famous Island of Iona, where Columba preached the pure gospel more than twelve centuries before him. The subject of this sketch, from his earliest years, evinced an earnest desire to be a preacher of the gospel. Being deprived of both his pious parents in early life, he was cast largely upon his own resources. He received the elements of an excellent classical education in his native Mull, and pursued them further in the parish school of Bracadila, in the Isle of Skye. At the age of eighteen he resolved to push his fortune in the New World, and came to America by the way of Liverpool, England, in the spring of 1792. Soon after his arrival in the city of New York, he ascended the Hudson to Albany, thence to Schenectady, New York, where, in the fall, he was employed as a teacher of Greek among a society of his own people. At the establishment of Union College, he became a student, and graduated with honor in 1798. Having connected with the Covenanter Church at Princetown, New York,

* Sprague's Annals. Memoir by Dr. S. B. Wylie.



ALEXANDER McLEOD, D. D.

under the eminent Rev. James McKinney, he studied theology under his direction, and was licensed by the Reformed Presbytery, at Coldenham, New York, June 24, 1799. In the fall of 1800, he was called to the pastorate of Coldenham and New York, but he declined to accept it on the plea that there were slave-holders among those who signed his call. The matter was taken before the Presbytery, which court enacted, without a dissenting voice, that "no slaveholder should be allowed the communion of the Church." After this deliverance he accepted the calls, and was ordained and installed pastor of the united congregations of Coldenham, Orange County, and New York City, New York, July 6, 1801. He was released from the Coldenham branch, September 8, 1803, and devoted his labors to the rapidly growing congregation in New York City. He soon became known for his remarkable powers as a writer and preacher, and took his place in the front rank of the scholars and preachers of his day. He was called by several denominations, and sought after by different institutions of learning, but he declined all these honors to remain among the devoted flock of his own gathering. In 1816, he went to Washington to aid in the organization of the American Colonization Society, and wrote its constitution. In 1824, he suffered from inflammation of the lungs, which was caused by exposure amid his manifold toils and excessive duties. In 1830, he visited Europe for his health, and returned much improved. During his absence he was elected Professor of Theology, and editor of a monthly magazine about to be established by the Covenanter Church. He accepted these

appointments, heard classes in theology, and edited the *American Christian Expositor*, until his death. He died of heart disease, at his residence in New York City, New York, February 17, 1833. He married Miss Maria A. Agnew, of New York City, New York, September 16, 1805. He was possessed of superior mental endowments, the gifts of a learned man, and the graces of an eloquent preacher. He was a profound theologian, a distinguished metaphysician, and a clear logician. He was a lucid expositor of divine truth; close in his definitions, clear in his explanations, vigorous in his arguments, and practical in his applications. In labors he was abundant. Three discourses every Sabbath, an evening lecture every week, and the accustomed catechetical duties and pastoral visits occupied his time. He loved to preach, and he possessed the power to enchain the attention of an audience, and to bring conviction to the heart. He was the efficient patron, if not the originator, of various charitable institutions, and had no small honor in connection with the American Colonization Society, the New York Society for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, and the American Society for Ameliorating the Condition of the Jews. He was a profuse writer, and as an author the following are among his publications extant: "Negro Slavery Unjustifiable," 1802. "Messiah, Governor of the Nations of the Earth," 1803. "Ecclesiastical Catechism," 1807, twelve editions. "Lectures upon the Prophecies of the Revelation," 1814, four editions. "View of the Late War," 1815, two editions. "The Life and Power of True Godliness," 1816, six editions. He also wrote

“Reformation Principles Exhibited,” and most of the “Historical Part of the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony,” and the “Book of Discipline.” He edited the *American Christian Expositor*, a monthly, two volumes, 1830—1832. He contributed largely to the *Christian Magazine*, *Evangelical Witness*, *Evangelical Guardian and Review*, and other religious magazines and papers. He edited the “Larger Catechism with Proofs,” the first book stereotyped in America. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Middleburg College in 1809. He was Moderator of the Synod of 1814.

JOHN NIEL MCLEOD, D. D.:

Son of Rev. Dr. Alexander and Maria A. (Agnew) McLeod, was born in the city of New York, New York, October 11, 1806. He received a careful religious training in the home of his distinguished parents, a liberal education in the classical school of Mr. John Borland, and graduated from Columbia College in 1826. He studied theology in the Philadelphia Seminary, and was licensed by the Northern Presbytery, August 4, 1828. He was ordained by the same Presbytery, installed pastor of the united congregations of Galway, Saratoga County, and Broad Albin, Fulton County, New York, December 29, 1829, and resigned this charge, June 19, 1832. He was installed pastor, as his father's successor, of the First congregation of New York City, New York, January 14, 1833. At the division of the Church in August, 1833, he became identified with the New School branch of the Covenant Church, and remained pastor of a portion of his former flock, until his death, of paralysis of the