



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.

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his parents removed to Harper, Logan County, Ohio, and he was the first student to enter Geneva College at its organization, from which institution he graduated in 1855. The next year he began the study of theology in the Associate Seminary at Xenia, Ohio, the following three years pursuing his course in the Allegheny Seminary, and was licensed by the Lakes Presbytery, April 18, 1860. He was ordained by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, and installed pastor of the Oil Creek congregation, Titusville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania, December 19, 1861, where he remained in charge until his death. This field of labor was very extensive, and he was constantly exposed to all kinds of weather. Here he labored diligently for his Master, until prostrated by pneumonia, followed by a malignant typhoid fever, from which he died, at his home near Titusville, Pennsylvania, March 31, 1875. He married Miss Agnes Wright, of Titusville, Pennsylvania, January 22, 1863. He was an earnest, instructive and evangelical preacher of the gospel. He was especially distinguished for his conscientiousness, humility, and piety. He was not an eloquent preacher, but he gave a sound and interesting presentation of divine truth, and was firm in his attachment to the principles of the Church. His reserved and timid disposition prevented him from holding a prominent position in the Church.

JAMES REID :

Was born in the parish of Shotts, Scotland, August 12, 1750.* He received the rudiments of an education

* *Reformed Presbyterian*, Vol. 3, p. 187.

in the schools of his native parish, and graduated from Edinburgh College in 1776. He studied theology in the Seminary of Stirling, Scotland, and was licensed by the Reformed Presbytery of Scotland, April 27, 1780. He was ordained by the same court, and installed pastor of the united congregations of Wigtown and Kirkcudbright, Scotland, July 10, 1783. It was during this period that the few faithful Covenanters in America were deprived of all their ministry by defection, and made urgent application to the Reformed Presbytery of Scotland for ministerial assistance. After much serious deliberation, Mr. Reid accepted the appointment to visit America, and left Scotland, August 4, 1789. He visited all the Covenanter societies from New York to the Carolinas, organized many congregations, and dispensed the sacraments. He returned to Scotland, July 16, 1790. He resumed his labors with renewed diligence among his flock, which was soon afterwards reduced by the Stranraer society being organized into a separate congregation, and he continued in charge of Newton-Stewart, Whithorn and Castle Douglas. In 1825, in consequence of a decision of the Synod to erase the particular mention of the Auchensaugh renovation of the Covenants from the terms of communion, he regarded it a departure from the Testimony, and withdrew, with a few followers, from the communion of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and maintained a separate standing. In the spring of 1828, he removed to the city of Glasgow, Scotland, where he resided with his daughter, Mrs. Stewart, continued to preach to a few people until old age caused his strength to fail, and

where he died of a severe illness, November 4, 1837. He married Miss Helen Bland, of Anworth, Scotland, December 26, 1786. He was a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and of faith. Notwithstanding the checkered career of his life, and the unfavorable circumstances for study, he was an acceptable and edifying preacher, and did not fail to raise his voice against personal and national evils. He was distinguished for his gravity of deportment, kindness of manner, and regularity in the performance of religious duties. During his last days his eyesight failed him, yet he desired to have his books beside him, from which others read to him, imparting subjects for meditation and prayer. Among his publications extant are: "The Lives of the Westminster Divines," in two volumes. "The Divinity of Christ," 1792, pp. 60. "The Incarnation," 1794, pp. 68.

JOHN REILLY:

Was born in Ballibay, County Monaghan, Ireland, August 7, 1780.* He came to America in October, 1797, and settled in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he prosecuted his studies for becoming a teacher. In due time he entered upon his chosen vocation in Darby and Frankford, near Philadelphia. He was ordained a ruling elder in Dr. Wylie's congregation, August 5, 1801, and continued in this office until he entered upon the work of the ministry. Being deemed qualified, he entered upon the study of theology under the Rev. Dr. S. B. Wylie, and was licensed by the Middle Presbytery, May 24, 1809. He preached with great acceptance throughout the vacancies, and also in

*Sprague's Annals.