

Why I Am Glad
to be
A Covenanter Minister



BY
FOURTEEN SUCCESSFUL MINISTERS



The Forward Movement
of the
Reformed Presbyterian Church

Thou hast given a banner to them that
fear thee, that it may be displayed because
of the truth. —(Psalms 60:4.)



"The torch of truth from Scotia's hand,
Banner Blue, our Banner Blue!
Falls at our feet a burning brand;
Banner Blue, our Banner Blue!
We catch it up at His command,
Its flame will light up every land;
Christ's Crown and Cov'nant firm shall
stand;
Banner Blue, our Banner Blue!"

DEDICATION

This little booklet is dedicated to
THE YOUNG MANHOOD

of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. It is by fourteen successful ministers who have rendered and are still rendering valuable service in the Kingdom of God. They have found great joy in preaching the eternal riches of Jesus Christ. It has been to them a peculiar satisfaction to serve in the **Covenanter** ministry. They give to us here a few of their reasons. They would have given more if space had allowed.

There are very many others who would have been as willing and able to record their reasons as these, and we are sorry that we could not include them all. But these will represent many departments of the Church's service and various avenues through which her work is being done.

We take entire responsibility for presenting the likenesses of these ministers of Christ. While the articles were freely given, it was only by persistent solicitation that some of the pictures were secured at all.

This publication is sent on its way with the prayer that it may commend this same ministry to the young men who are yet uncertain as to where God calls them to serve.



REV. T. M. SLATER, D. D.
Montclair, New Jersey.

Commissioned by Christ to preach, March 20, 1894.
Pastor at Boyina, New York, 1897-1904.
Pastor at Seattle, Washington, 1904-1921.
Became pastor at Montclair in 1921.
Moderator of Synod, 1921.

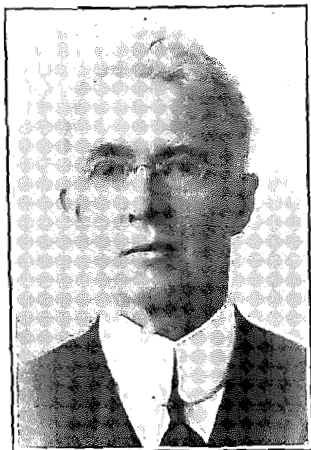
HAS TASTED THE JOYS OF IT

"Glad" is the right word. I was not always so, but having tasted that the Lord is gracious, I could never tell all it now means to serve a church in which I preach unchallenged the efficacy of Christ's blood to give peace, and the reality of His indwelling for power.

I am sure, too, that working with Christians who hold the truth we do no such questions as secrecy, purity of worship, Christ's Kingship, the Sabbath, and sinful amusements, helps to keep me truer to Christ, affords sweeter fellowships, and makes my work easier and more fruitful in the Covenanter church than is possible elsewhere.

Who would not be glad to serve a church whose past we have no need to live down—which many who leave the faith seem willing to live upon—but to which we have the inspiring and eternal challenge to live up? In a very peculiar way God has entrusted us with the only cure for death-stricken nations. Have we not then supremely the very message for our times, and a commission angels might covet?

Our cause is sure to win. "I appeal to time," flung back Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons, after the defeat of a measure for which he had long labored. We will win, not because of what we are, but who Christ is. I am glad to stand with Him, if need be in present defeat, well assured that time will vindicate our faith.



REV. J. MILLIGAN WYLIE, D. D.
Kansas City, Mo.

Has held pastorates at New Castle, Pa.; Denver, Colo.; Evans, Colo.; Greeley, Colo., and Kansas City, Mo., where he is now in charge.

Synodical Missionary for Colorado and West, from 1888 to 1890.

Mission Secretary in Chicago, 1896-1899.

National Reform Secretary for a few months.

Moderator of Synod, 1895.

A FULL SALVATION FOR INDIVIDUALS AND NATIONS

At Chateau Thierry a patrol of ten men occupying a knoll one hundred yards in advance of their line halted the shock troops Germany had chosen to battle their way into Paris. Although the assault was renewed upon the entire line, the heroic defense marked the beginning of the retreat which continued until the enemy was driven across the Rhine.

I am glad to be one of the outpost to meet the advance of the foe. It is a joy to be in a tempest of fire when one dwells in the secret place of the Most High.

The conflict centers about the sovereignty of Christ. Our position as a church makes us the center of the attack. A calm and courageous defense will at once honor our Leader and Commander, and will secure to us the noblest development. The proclamation we make pledges a "full salvation" for both individuals and nations.

We are not alone. The noblest heroes of the past provide instruction and encouragement; a great host made up from the many companies of Christ's followers are hastening to the front; and above all is our Omnipotent Lord Jesus Christ, who is "the same yesterday and today, yea and forever."

It is an auspicious time to be a Covenant minister.



REV. A. I. ROBB, D. D.
Returned Missionary to China.

Pastor, Boyima, New York, 1894-1895.

Commissioned to China, November 1, 1895, where he has labored for the past twenty-seven years.

Moderator of Synod, 1913.

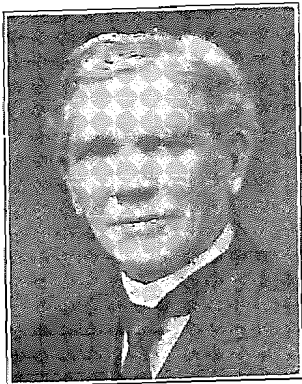
THE SUPREME SATISFACTION OF DOING CHRIST'S WILL

Personal testimony is asked for in the caption. Because it is asked for, and with a view to helping others, I venture to give my word.

I am glad to be a Covenanter minister because I believe that is what Christ called me to be. I did not want to be a minister. Neither did I want to be a missionary, and China was not my choice of a field. But on the day that I knelt in the presence of the Master, and with definite purpose gave myself to Him, something came into my life that has always held me to the feeling that I must do His will rather than please myself.

That there has often been pitiable failure and disobedience, He knows is sadly true. Yet, by His grace, the purpose to do His will has controlled some of the great decisions of life. I regret that I have always had to be drafted. It must be grand to be a volunteer in heart, as some that I know have been. Yet even the drafted man can testify that for the call to the ministry, the call to the mission field, and the call to China he is glad.

I have never advised anyone to be either a minister or a missionary. I have even told those dearest to me to be neither if God will let them off. But I cannot say less than this. Do not dare to call yourself by the holy name of Christian and be disobedient to your own "heavenly vision" of God's will for you.



PROF. R. C. WYLIE, D. D., LL. D.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Teacher of Theology, Church History, Homiletics and Pastoral Theology in the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Has held pastorates in Hopkinton, Iowa; Ray, Indiana, and Wilkinsburg, Pa.

Served two years as Secretary of the National Reform Association.

Author of "Sabbath Laws in the United States," "The Collapse of Christless Civilization," etc.

Elected to professorship in the Seminary, 1916.

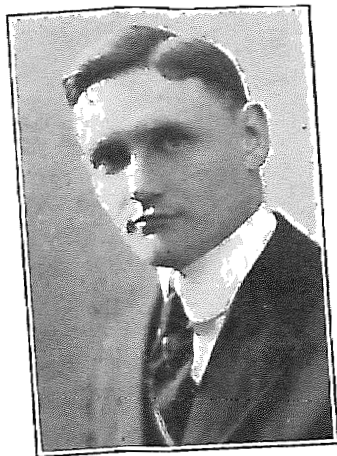
PIONEERS IN CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The historical record of the Reformed Presbyterian Church sets forth the reasons why I am thankful the Lord has given me a place in its ministry. First, its record for orthodoxy. It maintains the doctrine of the plenary inspiration, infallibility and authority of the Scriptures. They are authoritative in every realm of life. Heresy trials are almost unknown among us.

Second, its record for the freedom of its pulpit. Accepting the whole Bible as inspired and authoritative, this church believes that it should all be preached. This means that we have a freedom bounded only by the revealed will of God to preach truth and condemn error. Every good cause may be advocated in the Covenanter pulpit and every evil cause opposed.

Third, its record for great undertakings. We do not stop with personal evangelism, but push on to the goal which all inspired prophets and apostles have ever kept in view, namely, the subjugation of all social, industrial, and political institutions to Christ the reigning King.

Fourth, its record for achievement. Covenanters were pioneers in the cause of civil and religious liberty. The question, Who were the first to advocate the principle that no one should suffer civil disabilities for religious convictions is to be decided in favor of Presbyterians, but those Presbyterians were Covenanters. The achievements of this church are written large in the history of moral reforms, in the maintenance of righteous laws, and in the propagation of the principles of Christian civil government.



REV. J. BOYD TWEED,
Pastor First Reformed Presbyterian
Church, Beaver Falls, Pa.

Member of Board of Trustees of Geneva College.
Began the present pastorate, 1913.

AN APPEAL TO THE HEROIC

There are at least three reasons why I am glad to be a Covenanter minister.

1. The Covenanter **message** is a saving message. It holds the key to the redemption of this world. It is the most rational, the most comprehensive, and the most scriptural interpretation of the Gospel known today. It comes nearest to meeting all the problems of life, and is the only interpretation sufficiently broad in its scope to save the whole world. The Covenanter minister preaches a gospel for the salvation of the whole man in all of his relationships. His ideal is a Christ-centered life.

2. The Covenanter **pulpit** is a free pulpit. The breadth of the Church's confession makes it a forum for the fearless discussion of sin regardless of the form it may assume. The Covenanter minister may preach against all the prevalent sins of the age and still feel that he stands on a pulpit which supports him; he may proclaim all the fundamentals of the Gospel, untrammelled by the conventions of the age.

3. The Covenanter **appeal** is an appeal to the heroic. It calls for faith, courage, conviction and love. In less peaceful times it led men and women, young men and maidens, to the dungeon, the stake and the scaffold. Today it invites to self-denial, to sacrificial service. It says to those who are in search of new worlds to conquer: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

No ministry to which one may aspire will return larger dividends in lasting achievements for the advancement of the Kingdom.



REV. SAMUEL EDGAR
Returned Missionary to Syria.

Pastor at La Junta, Colo., 1904-1907.

Missionary in Latakia, Syria, 1907-1921.

Served under the Red Cross in Syria during the period of the war.

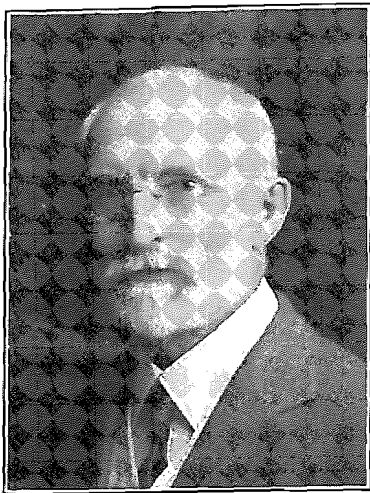
AN UNTRAMMELED PULPIT

1. Some time after the call had been made out for us, in what became later our first charge, we received a letter of congratulations and Christian greetings. In the letter was the following sentence, as unique as it is true: "We offer you an untrammeled pulpit." We have never forgotten these words, and in all our ministry we have found them to be true in any Covenanter Church. The high privilege of declaring "The whole counsel of God" is our inherent right and we find no muzzles on Covenanter pulpits.

2. We rejoice because of the **complete-ness of our Church's message**. Ours is no fiddle of one string, but a harmony and unison resulting from the life in Christ developed on every side until we are "complete in Him." His message is for the believer in every relationship of life. Saved men, sanctified homes, clean communities and nations honoring Christ as King—this is the plan of the Gospel and the ideal of the Church we delight to serve.

3. We rejoice also in her **Missionary Program**. As after Jerusalem came Samaria, so after establishment comes extension, and with a joy and unabated zeal we carry the message to the Jew and the Black Man; across the seas to Syria and China, that we may make known His redeeming love to all peoples. This Spirit of the Master has permeated our whole Church until today we are in the front ranks with gifts and workers.

The inspiration that comes from the lives of our pioneers who opened Syria and China and the zeal of our people today for the extension of the Kingdom thrills us and we seek the power of the Spirit for entire surrender that we may glorify Him who is our Master and Head.



REV. W. J. COLEMAN, D. D.

**Pastor Allegheny Reformed Presbyterian
Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.**

Has held pastorates at Monongahela, Pa., and
Utica, Ohio.

Has been in the present pastorate since 1892.

For thirty years a member of Witness Committee,
and for twenty-seven years its chairman.

Member of Central Board of Missions.

Delegate to Pan Presbyterian Council, 1889.

National Reform Lecturer, 1881-1886.

Professor in Geneva College, 1887-1892.

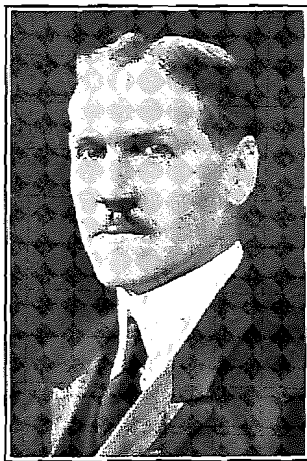
Moderator of Synod, 1905.

The father of four sons, all of whom entered the
Covenanter ministry.

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF TRUTH

I am glad to be a Covenanter minister because I believe with all my heart in the principles of the Covenanter Church. I am glad to serve the Covenanter Church because I love it, and despite its faults and failings, believe it to be nearer what the Lord wants than any other. I am glad to preach a Calvinistic creed which is thoroughly evangelistic, which believes in the Bible, in the atonement that satisfies divine justice and salvation by grace to every one that believeth. I am glad that Covenanter preaching insists on repentance, regeneration and an exemplary life through the power of the indwelling Spirit. And I rejoice in preaching the universal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring justice, love and peace in all the earth, a message that gives me a forward look on every problem that rises in human life.

In the pulpit the Covenanter minister has freedom to speak against every evil and in favor of every good cause without making enemies, and in his pastoral work the privilege of friendly relationship with the best of people, a people willing to do all they can for Christ and His cause.



REV. FINDLEY M. WILSON, D. D.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Pastor, Third Church of the Covenanters, Philadelphia, Pa.

Has held pastorates at North Union, Pa., and Youngstown, Ohio; Parnassus, Pa.; Winchester, Kansas.

He was installed in his present charge in 1912.

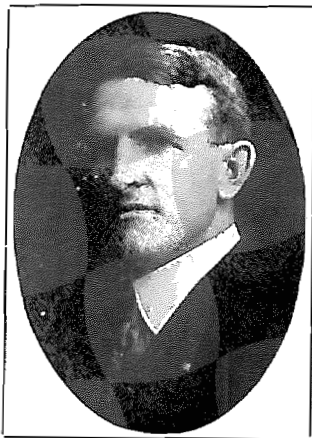
He holds the position of Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, to which he was chosen in 1915.

Moderator of Synod, 1919.

DEDICATED BY GODLY PARENTS

Without doubt I am in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ because my godly parents dedicated me to it almost from my birth. I can say with David: "Thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear Thy name." (Psalm 65:5.) There were other sons in our family, any one of whom could have just as well qualified for the ministry, but in some way my parents set me aside for this work. Looking back over the path, I like to feel that they were led of the Lord. And it is my profound conviction that God's calling and leadership for children are almost always exercised through parents. For parents who had the piety and courage to dedicate their son to the ministry, I praise God. I had many a struggle and time when I would have turned back, but the devotion of the home folks never wavered.

The work is the grandest on earth: To publish salvation to men, and the sovereignty of our Lord over this whole wide world. The calling is the most joyful on earth: "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Delightful is the life of ministering to a Covenantant congregation equally devoted and loyal to the great testimony committed to our trust.



REV. A. A. JOHNSTON, M. A.
President of Geneva College,
Beaver Falls, Pa.

A.B. Geneva College.

A.M. Princeton University.

B.D. Princeton; University of Edinburgh; University of Pennsylvania.

Pastor at Walton, New York, 1910-1916.

Professor of History in Geneva College, 1916-1920.

Called to the Presidency of Geneva, 1921.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN SOLVING WORLD PROBLEMS

The glory of the Covenanter ministry lies in this: That in a peculiar sense it has declared boldly the message of the sovereignty of God, not only in natural laws and business, but in that sphere from which God has been so long banished, the sphere of Politics. Bishop Creighton used to say that, "Christianity beautifies many an individual character, it pales in society, it is wholly absent in international relationships." The whole theory with which the World War was begun was that religion is altogether outside politics. Higher than the State, there is no authority or law. Not Government, or Justice, or Right, but might determines the natural relationship of States. All the honors and wickedness or the struggle may be taken as an example of what may happen when God is shut out. It is the skepticism of nations working out to its logical consummation. It is the unique glory of the Covenanter ministry, its end and aim to give to Jesus Christ His rightful place in the Council of Nations and to humbly gain for Him acknowledgment as King of Kings in national life and written constitution.



REV. J. C. McFEETERS, D. D.
Parnassus, Pa.

Held pastorates at Parnassus, Pa., and Philadelphia, Pa. Was pastor of Second Philadelphia for thirty two years, closing his work there, February 1, 1922.

Member of Board of Foreign Missions.

Moderator of Synod, 1894.

AN UNLIMITED FIELD FOR PREACHING CHRIST

Because the Covenanter Church affords an unlimited field for preaching Christ in all His offices, and doing His work in all its phases: here the minister can find room and employment for his abilities, and a loyal people behind him.

Because our Covenant is a solemn oath, binding the minister to preach the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as revealed through Jesus Christ; a guard and an incentive.

Because we inherit inestimable blessings, for which our fathers contracted, when they signed the Covenant for themselves and their posterity; a rich legacy not to be despised.

Because our Covenant lines us up with the martyrs of Jesus, who sacrificed their lives for a pure church and a crowned Saviour; the battle is still on and we are needed at the front.

Because I am confident the Covenanter Church has a distinct mission among the churches, upholding and emphasizing truths much neglected; retiring would be ignominious in us and injurious to all.

Because I am persuaded the Covenanter Church is beloved of God for the fathers' sakes, and for her own sake; nor will He withdraw His favor until her mission be crowned with success, and Jesus be crowned with the world's allegiance.

For these and other reasons, I thank my Lord Jesus Christ, with all my heart, for putting me into the ministry of the Covenanter Church; and that, notwithstanding my unworthiness, infirmities and failures, He has most graciously kept me in His service these forty-eight years.



REV. JAMES S. MCGAW, D. D.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

General Secretary, National Reform Association.

He held pastorates in Beulah, Nebraska, and Sharon, Iowa, congregation from 1899 to 1910.

He was elected to his present position in 1910.

APPLIES KINGDOM PRINCIPLES TO HUMANITY'S PROBLEMS

The greatest discovery of this wonder-working century will be the vital relationship of the Kingdom of God to everyday life.

The greatest church will train and enlist her membership to bring the whole of society under the direct rule of Christ.

The greatest preacher will best know how to apply Kingdom principles to humanity's problems.

Too long the Kingdom has hung in the spiritual sky like a distant, hazy mirage. It is rapidly coming down to earth.

World cataclysm has forced the consideration of the conversion of nations and their institutions to Christ.

Pulpit, platform and press are presenting glimmers of this, but they lack clear definition and practical program.

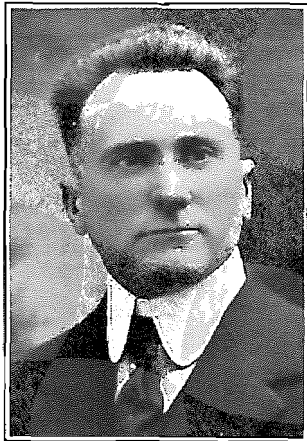
To date, there is but one systematic theology containing a comprehensive statement of the kingly office of Christ.

The Covenanter Church is not only an urgent necessity, but her supreme opportunity has arrived.

She is the only church which has specialized on the rights of Jesus Christ as governor among the nations and bound her membership by solemn covenant to cooperate with Christian men of every name to this great end.

Her College and Theological Seminary are the only institutions in America which furnish a special course in Christian political philosophy.

Her history is our heritage; her full gospel, our equipment; her orthodoxy, our passport among genuine Christians; her sacrificial zeal, our inspiration; her high optimism, our encouragement; her fellowship, our comfort.



REV. J. D. EDGAR,
Pastor at Olathe, Kansas.

Three years a missionary in Cyprus.
Pastor at Stafford, Kansas, 1912-1918.
Began present pastorate, January 21, 1918.
Synodical Young People's Secretary, 1916-1921.

THE MESSAGE FOR THE TIMES

Glad to be a minister
In the Covenanter Church?
Indeed I am; and why not be?
'Tis a church of sterling worth.

Do it again? Why, certainly.
There is no service better
Than work for Jesus in a church
That never minced the matter,

Of doing this and shunning that
If Jesus gives command.
It honors Jesus and His Word
Above all in the land.

She is a church which holds the truth—
The whole truth of the Word
In worship, life and polity—
Her sure and only sword.

Her Christ is prophet, priest and king,
As such I always preach Him.
Neglected doctrine of His Kingship
Is the message for the time—

Just such a message as we need,
'Twill save us from disaster.
'Twill solve our nation's great equations
And bring Christ's Kingdom faster.

And so, although a smaller church,
Her service little sung,
I choose to be her minister
And help her battle wrong.



REV. E. K. PATTON
Winchester, Kansas

Pastor in East End, Pittsburgh, Pa., from June, 1914, to October, 1919.

He was installed over the Winchester charge, January 31, 1920.

SEEKS TO ESTABLISH FULLY CHRIST'S KINGDOM

The pioneer spirit has always attended Covenanter history.

Her aim has been to establish Christ's Kingdom on earth.

Even under martyrdom her members were true to Christ.

Covenanters are as one family.

Our church possesses a zeal for righteousness.

Visions of world conquest in Christ's name lead her on.

Evangelistic methods are once more attracting our attention.

Now is her opportunity and she sees it.

All her churches are strategically located.

Never before has her message been heeded, as it is today.

The fundamental qualities of leadership are hers.

Every member a consecrated and efficient Christian is her aim.

Reformation for the Nations is part of her doctrine.

Covenanter communities are Kingdom Experimental Stations.

Her aim has not been to save herself, but to save the world.

Union of Church on the basis of Bible Religion is in her Covenant.

Righteousness as the nation's greatest asset is her teaching.

Covenant relation to God means Salvation and success for all.

Herein lie my reasons for being glad I am a Covenanter minister.

By REV. ROBERT PARK, Pastor,
Parnassus, Pa.

THE STRONG BOND OF BROTHERLY LOVE.

Among a number of reasons why I am glad to be a Covenanter Minister there are three reasons that stand out pre-eminently.

First, because of the strong bond of brotherly love that obtains among the Covenanter people and that is manifested especially toward the Covenanter minister. No homes have a warmer welcome or show a more kindly Christian hospitality toward anyone than do the Covenanter homes toward their ministers.

Second, because of the freedom of speech that is accorded the Covenanter minister in the Covenanter pulpit. The Covenanter Church stands for the whole body of revealed truth. Her ministers are never muzzled from exposing any sin or expounding any truth. What saith the Word of God? Proclaim it.

Third, because of the similarity between the ministerial experience of the Covenanter minister and the ministerial experience of Jesus. Jesus said, "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also." The faithful Covenanter minister has true and devoted friends—friends who love the truth. And he will find many such friends outside of his own church among the spiritually minded of the other churches. But from the worldly and unbelieving he will have to face unpopularity and opposition. Enjoying these blessings and enduring these hardships in common with Christ, what better assurance can one have that one has the commendation of Christ upon one's ministry?

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God! — 2 Corinthians 5:20.