



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.

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BY

W. MELANCTHON GLASGOW,  
BALTIMORE, MD.

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UNDERTAKEN with the approval of the Synod of the Reformed  
Presbyterian Church in America, and by a resolution passed in its  
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and successfully. He was a public spirited man. He was a Director of the Newburgh Bible Society, a Manager of the Home of the Friendless, and prominent in the local National Reform and Temperance movements. Among his publications are a "Centennial Sermon," preached at Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh, 1876, pp. 20. "A History of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Newburgh, and a Characteristic sketch of Dr. James R. Willson," 1885, pp. 10. He was Moderator of the Synod of 1886.

JOHN FLEMING CARSON :

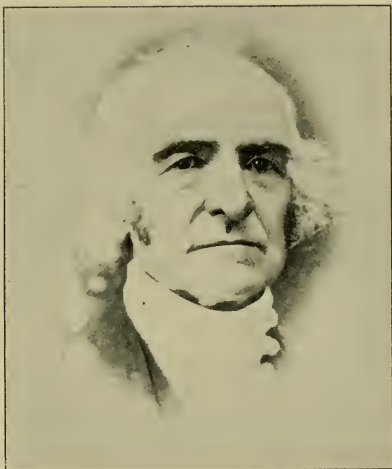
Son of William and Margaret (Fleming) Carson, was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 28, 1860. He received his early education in the public schools and in the West Philadelphia Academy, and completed a special classical course in the University of Pennsylvania. He studied theology in the Allegheny Seminary, and was licensed by the Philadelphia Presbytery, April 28, 1884. He was ordained by the New York Presbytery, and installed pastor of the congregation of Brooklyn, New York, May 20, 1885, where he is in charge. He married Miss Rebecca McKnight, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 9, 1886.

JAMES CHRISTIE, D. D. :

Son of Major James and Mary (Weygand) Christie, was born in the city of New York, New York, February 20, 1786.\* His father was a distinguished Revolutionary officer, and his mother a saintly woman abounding in deeds of charity. They were exemplary members of the Associate Reformed Church, with which

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\* Sketch by Rev. John Forsythe, D. D., Newburgh, N. Y.



JAMES CHRISTIE, D. D.

he also connected in early life under the pastoral care of the Rev. John M. Mason, D. D. He received a careful religious training in the home, a thorough literary education in the best schools of the city, and graduated from Columbia College in 1806. He became a prosperous merchant in New York City, and soon afterwards connected with the Dutch Reformed Church. In 1812, he abandoned commercial life and resolved to devote himself to the work of the gospel ministry. In the autumn of 1812, he began the study of theology in the Seminary of the Associate Reformed Church in New York, under Dr. John M. Mason, as a student of the Dutch Reformed Church, and was licensed by the Classis of New York, April 13, 1815. He was ordained by the Classis of Washington, and installed pastor of the congregation of Union Village (now Greenwich), Washington County, New York, November 18, 1816. In the spring of 1818, he connected with the Associate Reformed Church, and was installed pastor of the congregation of Newburgh, New York, September 6, 1818. While laboring in this charge he became intimately associated with the Rev. James R. Willson, D. D., whose influence and arguments produced a change in his former views, and he acceded to the communion of the Covenanter Church, being received by the Northern Presbytery, October 12, 1821. He was installed pastor of the congregation of Albany, New York, June 12, 1822. Here he founded the Albany Grammar School, which soon became a flourishing classical institution. He resigned the Albany congregation, May 17, 1830, and devoted himself to teaching, and preached frequently

in Troy and Lansingburgh, New York. In the controversy of 1833, he was in the hottest of the battle, and stood firm and unyielding to the Covenanted cause which he had espoused. He was installed pastor of the First congregation of New York City, New York, November 16, 1836, and resigned this important charge October 15, 1856, and accepted the chair of Systematic Theology in the Allegheny Seminary, where he continued with great acceptance for two years. He was deposed from the ministerial office and privileges in the Covenanter Church, on a charge of immorality, by the New York Presbytery, November 3, 1858. He removed to Brooklyn, New York, and was afterwards restored to private membership in the Dutch Reformed Church, and where he died, November 17, 1863. He married Miss Margaret Nicholson, of New York City, in 1807. He was a profound theologian, a proficient linguist, a thorough scientist, and an impressive evangelical preacher of the gospel. He was acknowledged as a scholar and theologian on both sides of the Atlantic. He was a prominent minister of the Church, deeply interested in all her schemes and missionary operations, and held many responsible positions, which he discharged with ability and satisfaction. He published "Strictures upon Dr. Maso's Treatise for Sacramental Communion on Catholic Principles," 1821, pp. 212, which was afterwards republished in Europe with a commendatory preface by Dr. McCrie, the biographer of John Knox. He was also the author of many scientific and theological articles published in the reviews and magazines of his day. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity

by Jefferson College in 1855. He was Moderator of the Synods of 1828 and 1849.

ALEXANDER CLARKE, D. D.:

Son of William and Elizabeth (Craig) Clarke, was born near Kilrea, County Londonderry, Ireland, July 16, 1793.\* His parents were pious Covenanters and he early embraced the principles of that Church, and defended them successfully in several debates. After passing through the accustomed rudimentary studies in the classical school of Mr. Ferris, he entered Belfast College, and graduated from Glasgow University, Scotland, in 1819. He was chosen by the Synod of Ireland to go as a missionary to the North American British Provinces, and for this purpose, after having studied theology privately and at Paisley, Scotland, was licensed and ordained, May 24, 1827. He arrived in St. John, New Brunswick, August 23, 1827, and, after some explorations, in the following November, selected Amherst, Nova Scotia, as the centre of missionary operations. He travelled extensively through all parts of the Maritime Provinces, and established some fifteen mission stations. In 1831, he was joined by the Rev. William Sommerville, and they were instrumental in bringing many souls to a saving knowledge of Christ and to accept the principles of the Covenanter Church. Desiring the liberty and privileges of citizenship in Nova Scotia, Mr. Clarke, and all the congregations he represented, became identified with the New School branch of the Covenanter Church, October 14, 1847, and were united to the General Synod of the

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\* Items furnished by the Rev. Nevin Woodside, Pittsburgh, Pa.