



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

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JOHN WALKINSHAW DILL :

Son of Richard and Esther (White) Dill, was born near Kittanning, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, September 19, 1846. He received his early education in the common schools, completed the course in the Dayton Union Academy in 1868, and graduated from Westminster College in 1871. He taught in the Academy of Lumber City, Pennsylvania, one year. He studied theology in the Allegheny Seminary, was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, April 14, 1875, and labored in Minnesota two years under appointment of the Central Board of Missions. He was ordained by the Iowa Presbytery, March 20, 1878, and installed pastor of the congregation of Elliota, Fillmore County, Minnesota, April 26, 1878, and resigned this charge, May 25, 1881. He was installed pastor of Lind Grove congregation, Mediapolis, Des Moines County, Iowa, July 6, 1881, and was released September 19, 1887. He accepted the Assistant Principalship of Knox Academy, Selma, Alabama, October 10, 1887, and became Principal, January 1, 1888, where he is engaged in teaching. He married Miss Maggie J. Getty, of Kossuth, Iowa, January 1, 1880.

ALEXANDER DOBBIN :

Son of John Dobbin, a pious sailor, was born in the city of Londonderry, Ireland, February 4, 1742.* His parentage was Scotch, and, imbued with the religious spirit of the ancestors, early directed his mind towards the Christian ministry. He studied the classics in his native city, and in due time entered the University of

* Sprague's Annals. Dr. J. A. Chancellor, Belfast, Ireland.

Glasgow, Scotland, where he graduated in 1771. He attended the theological lectures also in Glasgow, and resumed his studies privately under the direction of the ministers in Ireland, and was licensed by the Reformed Presbytery of Ireland, July 6, 1772. He was ordained *sine titulo* by the same court, at Conlig, near Newtownards, County Down, Ireland, August 20, 1772, as a missionary to the Covenanters in America. In company with the Rev. Matthew Linn, he sailed from Londonderry and landed in New Castle, Delaware, December 13, 1773. He, with Revs. John Cuthbertson and Matthew Linn, constituted the Reformed Presbytery of America, at Paxtang, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, March 10, 1774, at which time he was assigned to labor in the Rock Creek (Gettysburg) congregation, Adams County, Pennsylvania. He was among the first and most desirous of the ministers to countenance the union of the Associate and Covenanter bodies, and took a prominent part in the conferences which resulted in the formation of the Associate Reformed Church, November 1, 1782. He continued in charge of the Rock Creek congregation, or as many as went with him, and was also installed for half-time in the Marsh Creek congregation, September 9, 1785, and thus divided his time and continued his labor until his death. In October, 1808, while on his way to Gettysburg to preach, he ruptured a blood vessel by coughing, and was unable to fill his appointment. His disease settled into a quick consumption, from which he died, at his home in Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania, June 1, 1809, and was buried in the Marsh Creek graveyard. He was twice

married. First to Miss Isabella Gamble, of County Down, Ireland, July, 1772; and second, to Mrs. Mary (Irvin) Agnew, of Adams County, Pennsylvania, in 1801. He was an interesting and instructive preacher of the extemporaneous style. He was a distinguished linguist, especially in Hebrew, and established in his own house the first classical school west of the Susquehanna river. More than sixty of his pupils became professional men, and not less than twenty-five entered the ministry. Before the establishment of the Theological Seminary of the Associate Reformed Church, he was the preceptor for many years, and his services were of great value. He was remarkably punctual at Church courts, where his opinion was regarded, and he was honored with the Moderatorship several times. He was a small man, with a bright black eye, a large pointed nose, and was by no means imposing in his appearance. He possessed a strong and sonorous voice, and his gestures in the pulpit were not always the most graceful. He dressed in knee pants and wore the wig. He was a very social man, cheerful in his disposition, and his countenance continually wore a smile. He adapted himself to all company, and his intercourse was much enjoyed for his wit and good humor.

JOSIAH DODDS:

Son of John and Elizabeth (McKee) Dodds, was born in Ballibay, County Monaghan, Ireland, March 3, 1819. His parents came to America the following year and settled near Lucesco, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and, in 1829, removed to Butler County, in the vicinity of Bakerstown. Here he received his