



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,  
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## JAMES FARIS:

Son of James and Mary A. (Becket) Faris, was born near Chester, Chester District, South Carolina, May 15, 1791.\* His father died when he was very young, and he was brought up by his aunt, Mrs. Agnes Smith. He received a liberal common school education, which prepared him for teaching, and by this means he prepared himself for college, and graduated from South Carolina College, Columbia, in 1816. He immediately afterwards assumed the position of Principal of the Academy of Pendleton, South Carolina, a flourishing classical school patronized by John C. Calhoun, and in which several congressmen and eminent legislators were educated. He resigned the school in June, 1822, and devoted himself to the study of theology, under the direction of the Rev. Thomas Donnelly, and was licensed by the Southern Presbytery, January 21, 1824. He attended one session in the Philadelphia Seminary, and made an extended preaching tour through the South and West. He was ordained by the Western Presbytery, and installed pastor of the congregation of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, November 22, 1827, where he continued to labor until his death, from a stroke of paralysis, May 20, 1855. He married Miss Nancy Smith, of Chester, South Carolina, April 29, 1823. He was a plain, didactic preacher, a logical reasoner, and a sound theologian. He made no pretense at oratory, and was unaffected in his pulpit manners. He was an excellent scholar and especially proficient in mathematics. He was born a reformer, and knew the evils

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\* Principal items from his son, the Rev. D. S. Faris, Sparta, Illinois.

of slavery from observation. He endeavored to have the Legislature of South Carolina pass a law by which benevolent slaveholders might free their slaves; but in this he failed, and removed from the South that his family might be free from the contaminating influence of the accursed institution of human slavery. His house was the home of the anti-slavery lecturer, and for many years an important station upon the "Underground Railroad." He was advanced in his views upon all reforms, and took an early stand upon temperance. He was a devout and pious man, peculiarly fond of religious conversation, thoroughly devoted to the principles of the Church and the work of the ministry. In order that he might glean in his Father's vineyard, he sacrificed the fame and remuneration of the scholar and teacher, and also gave four sons to the same work of preaching the gospel of Christ.

#### JOHN CALVIN KNOX FARIS:

Son of James and Nancy (Smith) Faris, was born in Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, April 11, 1833. He received his early education in the common schools, and under the direction of his father, graduating from the University of Indiana in 1853, and engaged in teaching. He studied theology in the Allegheny Seminary, and was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, April 18, 1859. He attended the Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio, one session, and preached generally throughout the Church. He was appointed a Missionary to Natchez, Mississippi, February 16, 1864, where he remained in charge of the Freedmen's Mission for over a year. He was