

HISTORY

OF THE

San Francisco Theological Seminary

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE U. S. A.

AND ITS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

BY

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VACAVILLE:  
REPORTER PUBLISHING COMPANY.  
1907.

## Robert Mackenzie, D. D., LL. D.

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To be able "to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you," to defend the Christian religion from the assaults of its enemies, and to do all he can to send the gospel to the whole world, are essentials in the life and work of the minister. To prepare men for this we have in our Seminary the chair of "Apologetics and Missions." The first and only occupant of this chair is Professor Robert Mackenzie, D. D., LL. D.

Dr. Mackenzie was born November 5, 1845, in Cromarty, Scotland. He came to America, and was married April 9, 1873, to Miss Lydia Ann McLeod of Romeo, Mich. He took a three years' special course in the Chicago University, during which time he was confidential clerk in a lawyer's office in Chicago. He graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1873, and was ordained in April of the same year by the Presbytery of Ottawa, Ill.

He was pastor at Elgin, Ill., for one year; Decatur, Ill., 1874-76; Lafayette, Ind., 1876-79; Stockton, Cal., 1879-80; Howard Church, San Francisco, 1880-86; First Church, San Francisco, 1886-1901; and of Rutgers Church, New York, 1901.

He is the author of "The Loom of Providence," a book of sermons, and has had published numerous other

sermons and addresses. He is an eloquent and persuasive speaker. He has been President of the College Board of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America since 1904, and became a member of the General Assembly's "Committee on Union With Other Churches" in 1905. He received the degree of D. D. from Centre University, Ky., 1883, and LL. D. from the University of Wooster, Ohio, 1905.

Dr. Mackenzie in his work has been specially successful in gaining the confidence and help of influential men. One of these was Mr. Alexander Montgomery, who through the influence of Dr. Mackenzie was led to present the Seminary with a check for a quarter of a million dollars, December 3, 1889, and to make other donations thereafter. On the above date Dr. Mackenzie was nominated by Mr. Montgomery, and elected by the Directors of the Seminary, as Professor of Apologetics and Missions. He discharged the duties of his chair with marked ability, while at the same time he continued as pastor of the First Church in San Francisco. He removed to New York in 1901 to become pastor of one of the leading churches in the city, and still resides there.