

HISTORY  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN  
SOUTH CAROLINA,

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PREPARED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

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BY REV. GEO. HOWE, D. D.

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## P R E F A C E .

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In the year 1849, the Synod of South Carolina adopted a scheme for securing a History of the Church covered by their jurisdiction. The scheme was elaborate, embracing many particulars: and it was the pleasure of Synod to appoint the present writer their Historiographer.

The office involved an amount of labor and consumption of time, in the preparation of the first volume; of which he did not have the least conception, although the scheme, as marked out, was not fully accomplished. The History was to be brought down to 1850, the middle of this Century. In 1870 the first volume was issued, bringing the work down to the year 1800. The volume which is now issued, has been prepared at such intervals as could be secured in vacation, when the author was relieved from his ordinary official duties. As the whole of an ordinary generation has passed away since the year 1850, the year to which his appointment extended, it has been the desire of the author to bring the History down more nearly to the present time, and he had, to some extent, received the materials for doing so. But during the past Summer his health began seriously to fail him, and his most judicious friends advised him to stop at the original limit of 1850, saying that it was the proper place to stop: that the History of the Church through our late civil war, and the efforts it put forth in those days of supreme trial and since, deserve a fuller treatment than he could now give it. To this advice he has yielded, and although this did not occur until the work showed manifest allusions in several instances to a later period, he removed from the remainder of his manuscript all such references, except those which could not well be erased. Some of the materials furnished from the Churches are brief. Others far more extended, which, in some instances, have been greatly abbreviated, and in others more amply given. The author is fully conscious of the many defects of his work, and submits the result of his labors to that indulgence of his brethren which it so greatly needs.

The migration of our own Presbyterian people to the South and Southwest has been great, as these pages will show, carrying their institutions with them. The last Census, that of 1880, proves that this expansion has been true of our population in general: that 50,195 of the residents in Georgia were born in South Carolina; that 35,764 of the

residents of Alabama were born here ; that 18,522 of the inhabitants of Florida ; 31,157 of those of Mississippi ; 2,637 of those of Missouri ; 16,121 of those of North Carolina ; 11,698 of those of Tennessee ; 22,124 of those of Texas ; 15,107 of those of Arkansas, were natives of this State ; while, at the same time, 42,182 of the residents of South Carolina were born elsewhere than within its own bounds, many of them in foreign lands. The Presbyterian Church of this portion of our land, though exceeded in numbers by some other denominations, has always been an influential one, and it is hoped, that for soundness of doctrine, and the promotion of knowledge and education among our people, its influence may never be less.

## ADDENDUM.

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The lamented author of this work was summoned to the eternal world when he had almost finished the present volume, only the index remaining to be completed. In the judgment of his friends, it is deemed proper to append a brief biographical notice of himself to the account given by his hand of deceased ministers who had been connected with the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia. It will be the office of some future historian to expand the record of a life which, for over half a century, was devoted to theological education, and made an indelible impress upon more than five hundred candidates for the Gospel Ministry.

The Rev. George Howe, D.D., LL.D., was born at Dedham, Massachusetts, November 6th, 1802. His father, William Howe, was the son of Thomas Howe, of Dorchester, who was lineally descended from one of the pilgrim fathers who landed at Plymouth Rock. His mother, Mary, was the daughter of Major George Gould, a revolutionary officer who served under Washington when he occupied Dorchester Heights, and Rachel Dwight, the daughter of Samuel Dwight, of Sutton, a woman of great energy, fortitude, perseverance and piety, who lived to be over ninety years of age. When twelve years old, he removed with his father to Holmesburg, Pennsylvania, where he attended the school of Mr Scofield. His teacher having gone to Philadelphia, he followed him. There he was hopefully converted under the ministry of Dr. James Patterson, and joined the First Presbyterian Church of the Northern Liberties, of which Dr. Patterson was pastor. He was prepared for college by the Rev. Thomas Biggs, of Frankford, near Philadelphia; was graduated at Middlebury College, Vermont, in 1822, and at Andover Theological Seminary, where he took a full course, in 1825. Having been appointed Abbot scholar, he studied for more than a year on that foundation. He then became Phillips Professor of Sacred Theology in Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, in which relation he continued until 1830, when his health failing him he came to the South. In the Fall of 1831, he was, by the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, elected Professor of Biblical Literature in the Theological Seminary at Columbia, S. C. In October, 1836, when he was thirty-four years of age, he received a call, signed by Thomas H. Skinner, Knowles Taylor and Ichabod S. Spencer, to the Professorship of Sacred Literature in Union Theological Seminary, New York. He was also

at different times solicited by several important churches to become their pastor. All these calls he declined, and devoted his learning and his energies to the maintenance of the institution with which he had cast his lot. To it he adhered with a love which was as affecting as it was enduring, through all its financial difficulties, until the summons came which terminated his labors on earth.

In November, 1881, the Alumni of the Seminary held a semi-centennial commemoration of his connexion with it, when he received the congratulations of his former pupils. He lived to see, with great joy, the re-opening of the institution after a suspension of its exercises for two years, occasioned by the failure of its funds.

On Sabbath, April 1st, 1883, after having for the last time partaken of the Lord's Supper, and while riding homeward, he was thrown from his carriage and one of his legs was fractured. He lingered, expressing his trust in the Saviour, and offering most touching prayers for his beloved Seminary, until Sabbath, April 15th, when, without a struggle or groan, in the eighty-first year of his age, he fell asleep in Jesus. His funeral service was held at the Presbyterian Church, amidst the tears of his brethren and numerous friends, and his venerable form was committed to its last resting-place in the cemetery of that church.

Dr. Howe was twice married. His first wife was Mary Bushnell, the daughter of the Rev. Jedediah Bushnell, whom he characterized as a man of singular piety and wisdom. She died a little more than a year after her marriage and was buried where his own remains now sleep. His second wife was Mrs. Sarah Ann McConnell, the daughter of Andrew Walthour of Walthourville, Liberty County, Georgia. This lovely saint, who had blessed him with her devoted affection and little less than angelic ministrations during life, and nursed him with tenderest assiduity in his last illness, bade him farewell in the hope of a not distant meeting in the paradise of God.

Dr. Howe's learning was extensive. He was deeply versed in Oriental literature and intimately acquainted with the controversies in regard to the Sacred Text. He was a godly man, an eminent exemplar of the attractive graces of Christianity; when at the full bent of his noble faculties, was a powerful preacher; and as a man and citizen was esteemed and loved by a community in intercourse with which he had lived for half a century. Almost his whole ecclesiastical life was passed in connexion with the Synod of South Carolina and the Charleston Presbytery. His death is sincerely lamented by these bodies, and by the whole Southern Presbyterian Church of which he was a distinguished ornament.

J. L. G.