



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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"The Perpetuity of the Gospel." "Redeeming the Time."
"The Historical Position of the Covenanter Church."
"Life and Times of John Knox." "The Supremacy of
the Bible." "Memoir of the Rev. William Sommer-
ville." He was Moderator of the Irish Synod in 1880.
DAVID STEELE, D. D.:

Son of David and Sarah (Gailey) Steele, was born in Upper Creevaugh, County Donegal, Ireland, November 2, 1803.* He received his early education in the private and night schools of the vicinity, and labored upon the farm until his sixteenth year. In 1820, he entered the Academy of Londonderry, where he pursued the regular course of study for three years. He came to America in 1824, settled in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, where he was engaged as a clerk in his uncle's store, and also prosecuted his classical studies. In the spring of 1825, he was engaged as a teacher in the Academy of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, and the next year entered the Western University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1827. He studied theology under the direction of the Rev. Dr. John Black at Pittsburgh, and was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, April 8, 1830. He was ordained by the Ohio Presbytery, installed pastor of the congregation of Brush Creek, Adams County, Ohio, June 6, 1831, where he continued as pastor for nine years. He withdrew, with a few followers, from the Covenanter Church, and organized the Reformed Presbytery, June 24, 1840. He remained in Adams County, Ohio, and preached to a few adherents until 1859, when he removed to Hill Prairie,

* Autobiography and Reminiscences, 1883.

Illinois. In October, 1866, he removed to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he was engaged in preaching to a small congregation of his people and established a theological school. In 1885, he removed to Galesburgh, Illinois, and in the fall of 1886, returned to Philadelphia, where he died of old age and from the effects of a slight stroke of paralysis, June 29, 1887. He married Miss Eliza Johnston, of Chillicothe, Ohio, May 4, 1831. He was a learned and powerful preacher of the gospel, an adept in ancient languages, and an independent thinker. He held that the members of the Covenanter Church had departed from the attainments of the Reformation, especially in the matter of "voluntary associations." He spent the most of his life visiting the isolated families adhering to him, and censured the Church of his fathers for defection. It is regretted that he spent, what might have been a most useful life, in an isolated Church connection. He was a great controversialist, and manifested inflexibility of character. He died in the belief that the principles which he held and propagated would one day triumph in the earth. He edited the *Contending Witness*, a bi-monthly, published at Xenia, Ohio, for many years. He also edited the *Reformation Advocate*, which was subsequently known as the *Original Covenanter*, from March, 1874, until 1884. Among his other publications are: "Supplement to Act, Declaration and Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church," 1858. "The Two Witnesses," 1859. "Notes on the Apocalypse," 1870. "Reminiscences: Historical and Biographical," 1883. Previous to 1840, he was largely connected with

the literary and theological institutions of the Church, and was stated Clerk of Synod for several years. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by the Western University of Pennsylvania in 1884.

SAMUEL STERRETT:

Son of Joseph and Ann (Morrison) Sterrett, was born near Norwich, Muskingum County, Ohio, March 11, 1817. In early life he commenced the elementary classics under the direction of his pastor, the Rev. Robert Wallace, and entered upon a regular course of study in Franklin College, where he graduated in 1840. He studied theology in the Allegheny and Cincinnati Seminaries, his course being interrupted by impaired health, and was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, April 14, 1847. He was ordained by the same Presbytery, and installed pastor of the united congregations of Little Beaver, Pennsylvania, and Poland and North Jackson, Ohio, June 21, 1848. In 1860, the charge was divided, and he remained pastor of Poland and North Jackson, Ohio, until his resignation, October 7, 1867. He was installed pastor of the congregation of Cedarville, Green County, Ohio, May 16, 1868, where he died very suddenly, from an affection of the stomach, October 20, 1871. He married twice. First to Miss Elizabeth Kernohan, of Londonderry, Ohio, October 14, 1845; and second, to Miss Elizabeth McGeorge, of New Galilee, Pennsylvania, May 21, 1860. He was not an attractive speaker, but a sound theologian, and one remarkably versed in the doctrines of the Bible. He excelled in pastoral work, where his kind and amiable disposition won many to an attendance upon