



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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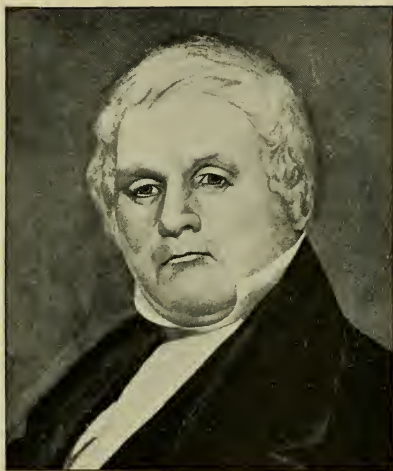
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position, frequently brought odium upon himself. His rare powers, profound humility, independence of thought, convictions of right, affectionate sympathy and Christian philanthropy, marked him as one of the noblest servants of Christ. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Union College in 1841, and that of Doctor of Laws by Miami University in 1864.

GILBERT MCMASTER, M. D., D. D.:

Son of James and Mary (Crawford) McMaster, was born in Saintfield, County Down, Ireland, February 13, 1778.* He received every opportunity of acquiring an education in his native land, came with his parents to America in 1791, and settled in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. He pursued a liberal course of study in the Franklin Academy, under the superintendence of the celebrated James Ross, LL. D. In 1798, he was engaged as a teacher in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, and soon afterwards entered Jefferson Academy at Canonsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he finished the course in 1802, just before the establishment of Jefferson College. He then began the study of medicine, finished the course in 1805, and settled as a physician in Mercer, Pennsylvania. In 1807, Drs. Alexander McLeod and S. B. Wylie sought an interview with him at Pittsburgh, and informed him that the Presbytery of which they were members had resolved to exercise their authority in persuading him to yield his scruples and enter upon the work of the ministry. In this case he recognized the voice of Providence, and he obeyed. Having studied theology a year or so under

* Sprague's Annals. *Presbyterian Historical Almanac*, Vol. 5, p. 387.



GILBERT McMASTER, D. D.

the Rev. John McMillan, of Canonsburgh, and having read extensively the best theological writers, he was, after a close examination, licensed by the Reformed Presbytery, October 7, 1807. He was ordained by the Northern Committee of the same court, and installed pastor of the united congregations of Galway and Duaneburgh, New York, August 8, 1808. He was released from the Galway branch, May 10, 1818, and devoted his whole time to Duaneburgh, which became a flourishing congregation. At the division of the Church in August, 1833, he became identified with the New School branch of the Covenanter Church, and remained pastor of the majority of his former congregation, until his resignation April 17, 1840. He was installed pastor of the congregation of Princeton, Gibson County, Indiana, May 5, 1840, and resigned this charge on account of ill health, March 31, 1846. From this time until his death he lived with his son, the Rev. Dr. E. D. McMaster, at Oxford, Ohio, and in 1849, in New Albany, Indiana, where he died, March 17, 1854, and was buried in the old family graveyard near Xenia, Ohio. He married Miss Jane Brown, of Canonsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 13, 1803. As a preacher he was distinguished for the clearness of his method, the fullness of his expositions, the soundness of his doctrine, and the appropriateness of his application. He had a dignified and commanding appearance, but his speaking was not animated, and his style of delivery often faulty. He required the close and protracted attention of his audience, but he richly rewarded them for their patience. The cast of

his intellectual character disposed him to delight in general and comprehensive principles, and the bearing of these upon the great interests of man and the kingdom of Christ, rather than in minute details. His ideas of the Church were broad and catholic. He was a man of great magnanimity, at once genial and generous, and he held a position of prominence in the Church to which he was attached. He was a learned and voluminous writer upon various subjects. Among his most valuable publications extant are the following: "Duty of Nations," 1810. "An Essay in Defence of some Fundamental Doctrines of Christianity," 1815, an octavo volume. "The Shorter Catechism Analyzed, with Proofs," 1815, three editions. "An Apology for the Book of Psalms, in Five Letters," 1818, four editions. "The Moral Character of Civil Government: Considered with Reference to the Political Institutions of the United States, in Four Letters," 1832. "A Brief Inquiry into the Civil Relations of Reformed Presbyterians according to their Judicative Acts," 1833. "Speech in Illustration of a Report on the Doctrine of Civil Government," 1835. "Thoughts on the Union of the Church," 1846. "The Upright Man in Life and Death," a sermon at the funeral of the Rev. Dr. S. B. Wylie, 1852. He published many other articles of minor importance in the magazines and papers of his day. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Union College in 1828. He was Moderator of the Synods of 1811 and 1827, and of the General Synod of 1851.