

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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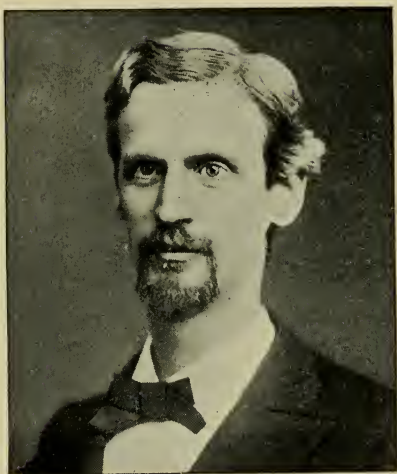
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DAVID BURT WILLSON, M. D.:

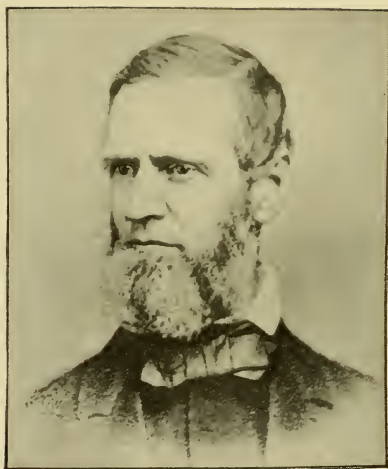
Son of Rev. Dr. James M. and Rebecca (Burt) Willson, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 27, 1842. He received his early education in the public schools, and the Classical Institute of Rev. Dr. J. W. Faires, of his native city, graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in 1860. He studied medicine in the Jefferson Medical College, graduating in 1863, and for two years was a surgeon in the army. He studied theology in the Allegheny Seminary, and was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, April 15, 1868. He was ordained by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, installed pastor of the congregation of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, November 29, 1870, and resigned this charge, October 13, 1875, accepting the chair of Biblical Literature in the Allegheny Theological Seminary, which he now occupies. He was twice married. First to Miss Martha J. Grier, of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, August 16, 1873; and second, to Miss Mary R. Galbraith, of Valencia, Pennsylvania, August 14, 1883. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from Jefferson Medical College in 1863. He has been an editor of the *Reformed Presbyterian and Covenanter* since 1874, a member of the Central Board of Missions, and Clerk of Synod for several years. He was Moderator of the Synod of 1887.

JAMES MCLEOD WILLSON, D. D.:

Son of Rev. Dr. James R. and Jane (Roberts) Willson, was born at "the forks of the Yough," near Elizabeth, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, November 17, 1809. From childhood he was apt in the acquisi-



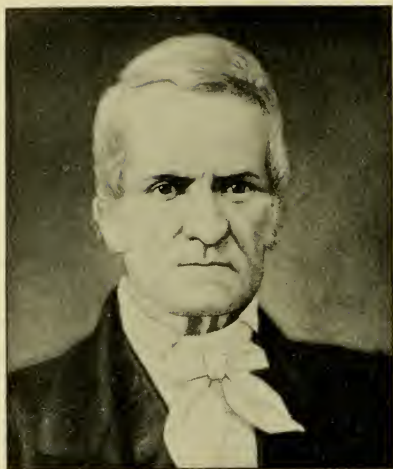
DAVID B. WILLSON.



JAMES M. WILLSON, D. D.

tion of learning and most diligent in his studies, his godly parents, who were uncompromising in their attachments to the principles of the Covenanter Church, being disposed to educate him for the ministry. He received instructions in the classics under his reputed father, who was Principal of the Academy of Bedford, Pennsylvania, and also attended classical schools taught by his father in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Newburgh, New York. In due time he entered the senior class and graduated from Union College in 1829. He taught for some time in the Academy of Belair, Maryland, also in Schodack, New York, and was Principal of the High School in Troy, New York. He studied theology under the direction of his father, and was licensed by the Southern Presbytery, June 5, 1834. He was ordained by the same Presbytery, and installed pastor of the First congregation of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 27, 1834. He was elected Professor of Theology in the Allegheny Seminary, May 31, 1859, which office he filled with great acceptance for three successive sessions while retaining his pastoral charge in Philadelphia. These accumulated labors, requiring a separation from his congregation for six months in the year, were too onerous, and he resigned the congregation, October 28, 1862. He removed to the city of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, where he continued to devote himself to the proper work of the Seminary until his death. He had long been a subject to headache, and the nervous energy and locomotion of his left side were impaired. This affliction was followed by a syncopal attack, terminating in a serious hypertrophy,

from which he died, at his residence in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, August 31, 1866, and he was buried in the Monument Cemetery at Philadelphia. He married Miss Rebecca Burt, of Schenectady, New York, April 30, 1833. He was a clear, logical, and eminently instructive preacher, but not an attractive speaker. His discourses were always profoundly thought out, and generally doctrinal, argumentative, and practical. He was a faithful and kind pastor, and his strict disciplinary reproofs were in plainness of speech, though not calculated to offend. His great power was in debate, and he was a moulder of opinions upon the floor of Synod. He always took an important part in the discussions agitating the Church, and was almost invincible in an argument. He was the representative of the deacon question, and strongly discussed such questions as slavery, voluntary associations, temperance, and the issues of the war of the rebellion. His complete knowledge of the history and principles of the Covenanter Church, together with his proficient scholarship and ripe experience, eminently fitted him for the position which he held in the Theological Seminary. Co-incident with his indefatigable labors as pastor and professor, he edited the *Covenanter* from 1845 until its consolidation with the *Reformed Presbyterian* in 1863, and was an editor of the joint publication until his death. Through this medium he fearlessly battled for truth and righteousness against all opposition. Besides his able editorial work, he emitted the following publications: "The Deacon," 1841, pp. 76. "Bible Magistracy," 1842, pp. 122. "A Treatise on Psalmody," 1848, pp.



JAMES R. WILLSON, D. D.

42. "Civil Government," 1853, pp. 162. "Social Religious Covenanting," 1856, pp. 36. "Witnessing," 1861, pp. 31, and other pamphlets of minor import. Being a public spirited man he was connected with all the Mission Boards, and literary and benevolent institutions. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Westminster College in 1865. He was Moderator of the Synod of 1859.

JAMES RENWICK WILLSON, D. D.:

Son of Zaccheus and Mary (McConnell) Willson, was born at "the forks of the Yough," near Elizabeth, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, April 9, 1780. His ancestors were sturdy Covenanters who came to America in 1713, and settled in the Cumberland Valley in Eastern Pennsylvania. In 1769, the family removed to "the forks of the Yough." His father was a farmer, in which occupation he also engaged until his twenty-first year. In 1795, he connected with the Associate Reformed Church, but transferred his membership to the Covenanter Church in 1798. In 1801, he entered Jefferson Academy, and graduated with first honors from Jefferson College in 1805. His theological studies were pursued during his last collegiate year at Canonsburgh, Pennsylvania, under the direction of the Rev. Dr. John McMillan, also two years under the care of the Rev. Dr. Alexander McLeod, of New York, and he was licensed by the Middle Committee of the Reformed Presbytery, June 9, 1807. In 1809, he became Principal of the Academy of Bedford, Pennsylvania. In 1815, he took charge of a classical school in Philadelphia, and also established a Mission in "the Neck," where his