



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.

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BY

W. MELANCTHON GLASGOW,  
BALTIMORE, MD.

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JOHN B. JOHNSTON, D. D.

## JOHN BLACK JOHNSTON, D. D.:

Son of Nathan and Mary (Black) Johnston, was born near Clarksburgh, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, March 13, 1802. His parents were consistent members of the Seceder Church. They removed to Hopedale, Harrison County, Ohio, in 1805, where they connected with the Covenanter Church under the ministry of the Rev. Robert Wallace, and were prominent members in the Greenfield congregation, now extinct. He received his early training in the schools of this vicinity, and, in 1823, began his classical studies in Jefferson College, and graduated from Franklin College in 1829. He studied theology under the direction of the Rev. John Black, D. D., of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, October 3, 1832. He was ordained by the Ohio Presbytery, and installed pastor of the Miami congregation, Northwood, Logan County, Ohio, June 10, 1834. In 1841, he opened a classical school in his own house, which grew into Geneva College in 1848. In 1851, he also founded the Geneva Female Seminary, and erected the buildings for both these institutions. He was Principal of the College from 1848 to 1850, and Professor of Theology from 1852 until 1856. He resigned all his charges, and connected with the United Presbyterian Church, being received by the Sidney Presbytery, November 10, 1858. He was installed pastor of the congregation of St. Clairsville, Ohio, May 17, 1859, where he continued to labor until impaired health caused him to resign the charge, June 9, 1874. In 1870, he was appointed Postmaster at St. Clairsville, and resigned

this office in 1881. His health gradually declined until his death, at his home in St. Clairsville, Ohio, October 24, 1882. He was twice married. His first wife was Miss Sarah Bruce, of New Athens, Ohio, April 29, 1828; and his second, Miss Elizabeth Boyd, of Cherokee, Ohio, November 2, 1841. He was a man of marked ability, of indomitable courage, and unceasing in his efforts to establish Christian education within the reach of all. He was a profound theologian, an apt teacher, and a proficient scholar. As a preacher of the gospel, a writer in the magazines, a lecturer on reforms, a public debater, and member of Church courts, he was deservedly in high repute, and discharged many important offices with acceptance. He was a fearless advocate of the cause of the slave, and was a distinguished conductor on the "Underground Railroad." He was not only a pioneer in the establishment of the literary institution of the Church, but in the work of the Foreign Mission as well. In 1846, he was sent to Hayti by Synod, to explore that Island as a probable field for missionary operations, and was prominently connected with work in this direction. He was piously attached to the principles of the Covenanter Church, and only left her communion on account of internal dissensions which frequently mar the fellowship of brethren. He never fully abandoned the Covenanted cause, and was held in high esteem by the Church in which he closed his earthly career. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Franklin College in 1869. Among his many able and valuable publications are "The Signs of the

Times," 1858, pp. 27. "Psalmody," 1868, pp. 172. "The Prayer Meeting," 1870, pp. 260. He was Moderator of the Synod of 1845.

#### JOSIAH MELANCTHON JOHNSTON :

Son of James H. and Mary (Hemphill) Johnston, was born near New Alexandria, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, September 12, 1830. His parents were exemplary members of the Covenanter Church, from whom he received the best of religious instruction. After receiving the rudiments of a liberal education, he entered Geneva College, where he graduated in 1854. He studied theology in the Associate Reformed Seminary, and also in the Covenanter Seminary of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, and was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, April 21, 1858. He was ordained by the Rochester Presbytery, and installed pastor of the congregation of Syracuse, New York, May 13, 1859. He was appointed by Synod, September 9, 1865, to take charge of the Freedmen's Mission in Natchez, Mississippi. He resigned the Syracuse congregation and the Natchez Mission, August 17, 1866, and became Principal of the Mission School in Washington, District of Columbia. Here he taught and preached among the colored people until his resignation, May 27, 1870. He was installed pastor of the congregation of Parnassus, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, June 15, 1871, and resigned January 3, 1873. He connected with the United Presbyterian Church, and was installed pastor of the Central congregation of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, January 10, 1873, and resigned, June 16, 1874. He was installed pastor of the Fifth congregation of