



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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father of the united congregations of Horton and Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, October 16, 1861. He was released from the Cornwallis branch in 1862, and soon afterwards built a church in Wolfville, where he preached for many years. In 1866, he was also chosen Inspector of Schools for Kings County, Nova Scotia, and resigned all these charges, November 13, 1873, and came to the States. He was stated supply at Cincinnati, Ohio, one year, and to the Second congregation of New York City for six months. He was installed pastor of the Second congregation of New York City, December 14, 1875, where he is in charge. He married Miss Elizabeth Chipman, of Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, September 13, 1865. He is Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, Assistant Clerk of Synod, and, since January, 1887, editor of the *Herald of Mission News*.

WILLIAM SOMMERVILLE:

Son of William and Jane (Kirk) Sommerville, was born in Ballyroney, County Down, Ireland, July 1, 1800.* He began the study of the classics with Rev. John Stewart, and continued them under the direction of Rev. David McKee, graduating with honor from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, in 1820. He soon afterwards began the study of theology in the Seminary of Paisley, Scotland, and was licensed by the Southern Presbytery, Ireland, December 5, 1826. He was ordained *sine titulo* by the Southern Presbytery, Ireland, May 31, 1831, as a Missionary to the British North American Provinces, and sailed for St. John,

* Memoir by Rev. A. M. Stavelly, 1878.

New Brunswick, August 16, 1831. After visiting different parts of the Maritime Provinces, he finally settled in the beautiful and fertile Cornwallis Valley, in Nova Scotia. Here his labors were devoted to Presbyterians generally, until other laborers came into the field, and then the lines were drawn more closely and soon confined to the Covenanter societies. The Presbyterians of Grand Pre agreed to sing the Psalms of David and conform to other peculiar usages of the Covenanter Church, and he became pastor of this congregation, May 16, 1833. Two years later a society sprung up in West Cornwallis, and desired a part of his time, which was granted, and he was installed pastor of this branch, May 9, 1835, and from this date to that of his death, he was pastor of the united congregations of Horton and Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. After a labor of forty-seven years as a pioneer missionary in this region, he died at his home in Somerset, Kings County, Nova Scotia, September 28, 1878. He was twice married. First to Miss Sarah B. Dickie, of Amherst, Nova Scotia, in 1832; and second to Mrs. Jane E. (Caldwell) Woodworth, of Grand Pre, Nova Scotia, September, 1854. His bodily vigor, mental endowments, and manly intrepidity fitted him peculiarly for missionary work. His abilities were those of a powerful evangelical preacher, and a resolute defender of Scripture doctrine. His genial spirit and earnest benevolence attracted many to the acceptance of the Covenanter faith. He met and measured spiritual weapons with all opponents of different denominations. His controversies were principally with the Baptists

and their mode of applying water in the sacrament of baptism; and with other denominations for the exclusive use of the Psalms of David as a matter of praise in divine worship. He was a gifted controversialist, and his pen was seldom at rest. During at least twenty years of his pastoral labors he was engaged in teaching school. He visited his native country in 1840 and in 1858. Among his publications are: "Dissertation on the Nature and Administration of the Ordinance of Baptism," in two parts, two editions, 1845 and 1866, pp. 319. "Exclusive Use of the Psalms of David in Worship," 1855, pp. 189. "Rule of Faith," 1859, pp. 28. "Southern Slavery not founded on Scripture Warrant," 1865, pp. 26. "Social Position of the Cameronians," 1868, pp. 40. "Baptismal Immersion not of God," 1876, pp. 77. He also delivered a course of lectures before the Protestant Alliance of Nova Scotia, at Halifax, in 1858.

JAMES ALEXANDER SPEER:

Son of Robert and Sarah (Jamison) Speer, was born in New Concord, Muskingum County, Ohio, February 27, 1842. He received his early education in the schools of his native town, and entered Muskingum College in 1861. When the war of the rebellion broke out, he served in the army two years. In the fall of 1866, he became Principal of the Academy of Ontario, Ohio, and the following year taught in Muskingum College, where he graduated in 1868. He studied theology in the Allegheny Seminary, was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, April 8, 1873, and labored for some time in the West. He was ordained by the