

MEMOIRS

OF THE

REV. WALTER M. LOWRIE,

MISSIONARY TO CHINA.

EDITED BY HIS FATHER.

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## P R E F A C E .

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THE Editor of this Memoir has done little more than to select and arrange the papers of his beloved son. A few remarks have been made with the view of noticing his early years, and connecting the different periods of his short but active and not unvaried life. The plan adopted was to let him speak for himself in his letters and journals; though some letters from his missionary brethren, and others in the ministry at home, who knew him, have been given at the end of the volume. From these every reader will form his own estimate of his character and acquirements. A few of the many letters from Christian friends, as the sad intelligence of his death reached them, have also been inserted.

His letters for the most part were hastily written, many of them in the confidence of Christian and endeared friendship. His journals also were written at the dates mentioned, and his other engagements gave him no time to correct or copy them.

Two volumes of private journals were found after his death among his papers; but they were destroyed, in accordance with his special written request to his friend Rev. M. J. Culbertson, or either of his surviving colleagues.

The work has been stereotyped, and the entire expense of this edition has been defrayed by Christian friends, to whom his memory is very dear. Whatever profit may arise from the sale will be applied to the enlargement of the Ningpo mission, under the care of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church.

man 43 Macleod 248

# CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER I.

FEBRUARY, 1819—SEPTEMBER, 1847.

EARLY LIFE AND COURSE AT COLLEGE.

### LETTERS.

|                                            | Page |                                                | Page |
|--------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------|------|
| His Father. Religious Impressions, . . .   | 3    | His Mother. Foreign Missions. Death of         |      |
| " Revival in College, . . .                | 5    | Lyman and Monson, . . .                        | 12   |
| " First Communion, . . .                   | 7    | " Feelings. A Grave-Yard, . . .                | 13   |
| His Mother. Religious Views, . . .         | 7    | His Father. Duty as to Foreign Missions, . . . | 15   |
| His Father. Duty as to the Ministry, . . . | 8    | " The Question decided, . . .                  | 16   |
| " Religious Views, . . .                   | 10   | " Through College. Grade, . . .                | 17   |

## CHAPTER II.

OCTOBER, 1837—JANUARY, 1849.

RETURN HOME FROM COLLEGE.—COURSE IN THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT PRINCETON,—ACCEPTED AS A FOREIGN MISSIONARY.—SAILS FOR CHINA.

### LETTERS.

|                                              |    |                                                                            |    |
|----------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| John Lloyd. College Times. Missions, . . .   | 20 | Two Sabbath School Scholars, . . .                                         | 45 |
| Roger Owen. On Sabbath Schools, . . .        | 23 | His Mother. Strangers and Pilgrims, . . .                                  | 49 |
| John Lloyd. Swartz. Comfort in Christ, . . . | 24 | John Lloyd. Studies. Works of God, . . .                                   | 50 |
| Roger Owen. On Sabbath Schools, . . .        | 26 | His Mother. Journey to the West, . . .                                     | 50 |
| His Mother. Daily Employments, . . .         | 28 | Executive Committee. Missions, . . .                                       | 51 |
| Roger Owen. Sabbath Schools. Missions, . . . | 28 | John Lloyd. Friendship. Prospects, . . .                                   | 52 |
| His Mother. Christian Duties. Studies, . . . | 30 | John O. Procter. How little we know, . . .                                 | 53 |
| John M. Lowrie. Death of Relatives, . . .    | 32 | His Mother. The Country. Journey, . . .                                    | 54 |
| John Lloyd. Personal Religion, . . .         | 32 | His Father. Change of Field to China, . . .                                | 56 |
| Roger Owen. Tone of College Piety, . . .     | 34 | His Mother. Detroit. Forest. Flowers. Niagara. Grave-yard. Missions, . . . | 57 |
| John Lloyd. Love of Christ. Missions, . . .  | 35 | " Journey West, . . .                                                      | 63 |
| Roger Owen. Sabbath Schools, . . .           | 36 | Wm. H. Hornblower. Presence of Christ, . . .                               | 64 |
| John Lloyd. Western Africa, . . .            | 37 | John O. Procter. On leaving for China, . . .                               | 65 |
| His Mother. Seminary Students, . . .         | 38 | John Lloyd. Feelings. Faith, . . .                                         | 66 |
| John Lloyd. Africa. India. China, . . .      | 39 | Mrs. Ann Porter. On leaving Friends, . . .                                 | 68 |
| His Mother. Beauty of Scripture, . . .       | 40 | Rev. Thos. W. Kerr. Sabbath Schools, . . .                                 | 68 |
| Thomas W. Kerr. Missionary Spirit, . . .     | 41 | John M. Lowrie. On the Eve of Sailing, . . .                               | 70 |
| John M. Lowrie. Study of the Bible, . . .    | 41 |                                                                            |    |
| John Lloyd. Christian Course. Africa, . . .  | 42 |                                                                            |    |

## CHAPTER III.

JANUARY 19—MAY 27, 1849.

VOYAGE TO CHINA.—JOURNAL IN THE HUNTERESS.

|                                         |    |                                               |     |
|-----------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------|-----|
| Parting from Friends, . . .             | 71 | A Calm. Sunsets. Sailors, . . .               | 87  |
| Sea Sickness, . . .                     | 72 | Stars. The Sailmaker, . . .                   | 89  |
| A Gale. Pleasant Days, . . .            | 73 | Rocks of Martin Vaa. Stars, . . .             | 91  |
| Carlyle. Sermon on board, . . .         | 77 | Magellan Clouds. Missions, . . .              | 93  |
| Reading. Wisdom of God. Stars, . . .    | 79 | A Squall. The Ocean. Home, . . .              | 95  |
| Sermon. Trade Winds. Flying-Fish, . . . | 81 | A Sailor. The Ocean. A Gale. Albatross, . . . | 97  |
| Trade Winds. The Sabbath, . . .         | 84 | Stormy Petrels. A Storm. Winds, . . .         | 101 |
| Studies. A Shark. Birth-day, . . .      | 85 | A Ship. Dreams. Trade Winds, . . .            | 105 |

|                                      | Page |                                        | Page |
|--------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------|------|
| Sabbath. Preaching to Sailors, . . . | 109  | Angier. Malays. Learned Sailor, . . .  | 131  |
| Rain. Sea Gnats. Thunder, . . .      | 111  | China Sea. Missions. Preaching, . . .  | 133  |
| An Island. Boobies. Java, . . .      | 113  | Sailmaker. Galea. China, . . .         | 136  |
| Heathen. Ships. Angier, . . .        | 117  | To his Mother, with his Journal, . . . | 139  |

## CHAPTER IV.

1842.

LANDING IN CHINA.—VOYAGE IN THE SEA QUEEN.—SHIPWRECK IN THE HARMONY.—  
RETURN TO MACAO.

## LETTERS AND JOURNALS.

|                                          |     |                                             |     |
|------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| His Mother. Macao. Hong Kong, . . .      | 131 | His Mother. Scenes in Manila, . . .         | 160 |
| His Father. China. Missions, . . .       | 134 | Rev. Thos. W. Kerr. Stay in Manila, . . .   | 161 |
| John Lloyd. Mission to China, . . .      | 138 | His Brother. Voyage on China Sea, . . .     | 162 |
| His Mother. China Sea. Journal, . . .    | 140 | Shipwreck in the Harmony, . . .             | 165 |
| Embarka. Lascars. Alone, . . .           | 141 | To the Second Presbytery of New York, . . . | 178 |
| Calms. Monsoon. Currents. Gale, . . .    | 146 | His Mother. Missionary Trials, . . .        | 182 |
| Delays. Currents. Storms. Faith, . . .   | 151 | His Father. First Letter from Home, . . .   | 184 |
| Providence. The Parting, . . .           | 155 | His Mother. Letters from Home, . . .        | 184 |
| Course of the Sea Queen, . . .           | 156 | James Lenox, Esq. Romanists in China, . . . | 185 |
| John M. Lowrie. Studies at Sea, . . .    | 157 | His Father. Early Instruction, . . .        | 187 |
| Rev. T. L. McBryde. Plans delayed, . . . | 158 | John Lloyd. Missions in China, . . .        | 188 |

## CHAPTER V.

1843.

RESIDENCE IN MACAO.—VOYAGE UP THE COAST.—DESCRIPTION OF AMOY AND  
CHANG-CHOW.—RETURN TO MACAO.

## LETTERS AND JOURNALS.

|                                                                        |     |                                                                                |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Rev. J. M. Lowrie. Missions in China, . . .                            | 193 | Chobey. Haetang. Return to Amoy, . . .                                         | 220 |
| His Mother. Various Thoughts, . . .                                    | 194 | Remarks on the foregoing, . . .                                                | 231 |
| " Home. Heaven. Sabbath, . . .                                         | 196 | Return. Storm. Danger, . . .                                                   | 234 |
| John Lloyd. Chinese Language, . . .                                    | 198 | Good News from Home, . . .                                                     | 236 |
| His Father. Effects of Heat. Preaching. Chi-<br>nese Dictionary, . . . | 202 | Death of Rev. Mr. Dyer, . . .                                                  | 237 |
| Journal to Amoy and Chusan, . . .                                      | 203 | To his Father. Morrison's Bible, . . .                                         | 238 |
| Boat Population. Hong Kong, . . .                                      | 204 | " Missionary Trials, . . .                                                     | 241 |
| Opium. Amoy. Infanticide, . . .                                        | 206 | His Brother. Perils of the Sea, . . .                                          | 245 |
| Grave of Mrs. Boone. Monsoon, . . .                                    | 210 | Society of Inquiry, Western Theological<br>Seminary, . . .                     | 246 |
| Opium. Kulangsu, . . .                                                 | 212 | His Father. Missionary Statements, . . .                                       | 251 |
| Buddhist Temple, . . .                                                 | 214 | His Mother. Chinese Customs, . . .                                             | 253 |
| River. Bay. Boats, . . .                                               | 215 | Society of Inquiry, Princeton Theological<br>Seminary, . . .                   | 254 |
| Chang-Chow. Mandarins, . . .                                           | 218 | His Father. Sir Henry Pottinger's censure<br>of the Visit to Chang-Chow, . . . | 261 |
| The City. Bridges. Temples, . . .                                      | 223 |                                                                                |     |
| Villages. Multitudes, . . .                                            | 227 |                                                                                |     |

## CHAPTER VI.

1844.

RESIDENCE IN MACAO.—LETTERS.—CHINESE PRINTING WITH METAL TYPE.—  
ARRIVAL OF NEW MISSIONARIES.—THEIR FIELDS OF LABOR.

## LETTERS.

|                                                                    |     |                                                                        |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| His Mother. Sabbath-breaking, . . .                                | 267 | His Father. To visit China. A Solemn<br>Question by his Teacher, . . . | 276 |
| " His Teacher. Idolatry, . . .                                     | 268 | Rev. Levi Janvier. China Missions, . . .                               | 277 |
| His Father. Chinese Letter, with Transla-<br>tion and Notes, . . . | 270 | Recollections of a Missionary, . . .                                   | 279 |
| John Lloyd. Christian Friendship, . . .                            | 274 | Rev. J. M. Lowrie. English Preaching, . . .                            | 283 |
| His Mother. Passing Thoughts, . . .                                | 275 | Rev. J. Montgomery. Trials, . . .                                      | 284 |

# CHAPTER VII.

1845.

DIFFERENT MISSIONS ESTABLISHED.—LEAVES MACAO.—VOYAGE UP THE COAST.—  
NINGPO.—CHINESE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE.

## LETTERS AND JOURNALS.

|                                            | Page |                                                      | Page |
|--------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------|------|
| His Father. Leaves Macao, . . . . .        | 287  | His Father. Written and Spoken Language              |      |
| Voyage up the Coast. Changes, . . . . .    | 288  | of China, . . . . .                                  | 315  |
| Monsoon. Currents. Sailors, . . . . .      | 291  | His Mother. Psalm xxx. 5, . . . . .                  | 323  |
| Shanghai. Woosung. Chusan, . . . . .       | 293  | His Father. Various Thoughts, . . . . .              | 324  |
| Books injured. Tinghsae, . . . . .         | 296  | Leaves from the Note-Book, . . . . .                 | 325  |
| Ningpo. City. Country, . . . . .           | 298  | Tower of Ningpo. Rice, . . . . .                     | 328  |
| Chinese Dinner. Idol Worship, . . . . .    | 303  | Visit to Teentung, . . . . .                         | 330  |
| Opium. Festival of all the Gods, . . . . . | 305  | Visit to Pooto, . . . . .                            | 334  |
| Suicide. Proverbs. Idols, . . . . .        | 308  | Wedding. Females. Teacher, . . . . .                 | 341  |
| Monks. God of Thunder, . . . . .           | 310  | Society of Inquiry, Princeton Theol. Sem., . . . . . | 343  |
| Mrs. Hepburn. Love of Christ, . . . . .    | 313  | His Father. Chinese Ignorance, . . . . .             | 348  |
|                                            |      | “ Chinese Translations, . . . . .                    | 349  |

# CHAPTER VIII.

1846.

MISSIONARY LABORS AT NINGPO.—HEATHEN CUSTOMS.—WORSHIP.—SUPERSTITIOUS  
FEARS.—PREACHING IN CHINESE.

## LETTERS AND JOURNALS.

|                                               |     |                                            |     |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| His Mother. Deaths. New Year, . . . . .       | 352 | His Father. Preaching. Chinese Books.      |     |
| “ Plan of House, . . . . .                    | 354 | Dictionary, . . . . .                      | 374 |
| Rev. Levi Janvier. Writing Letters, . . . . . | 356 | Rev. John Lloyd. Religion, . . . . .       | 376 |
| His Father. The Millennium, . . . . .         | 357 | Report of the Ningpo Mission, . . . . .    | 379 |
| Rev. D. Wells. Prayer, . . . . .              | 359 | The Use of Engravings, . . . . .           | 386 |
| Rev. John Lloyd. Chinese Tones, . . . . .     | 359 | His Brother. The Millennium, . . . . .     | 386 |
| His Father. The Heat. Teachers, . . . . .     | 362 | Journal. Fear of Poisoning, . . . . .      | 391 |
| His Brother. Superstitions, . . . . .         | 363 | Rains. Drought. Heat, . . . . .            | 392 |
| His Mother. Changes, . . . . .                | 366 | Fear of Evil Spirits, . . . . .            | 395 |
| His Father. Shin. Shang te, . . . . .         | 366 | Earthquake. Suspensions, . . . . .         | 396 |
| His Mother. Reminiscences, . . . . .          | 367 | Chinese Preaching. Cruelty, . . . . .      | 399 |
| His Father. Chinese Dictionary, . . . . .     | 369 | Marriage Ceremony, . . . . .               | 401 |
| James Lenox, Esq. Music. Cuts. Return         |     | Fruit Pedler. Chinese Preaching, . . . . . | 403 |
| of Missionaries, . . . . .                    | 370 | Chinese Audience, . . . . .                | 405 |

# CHAPTER IX.

1847.

MISSIONARY LABORS AT NINGPO.—VOYAGE TO SHANGHAI.—MANCHU LANGUAGE.—  
CHINESE TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE.—IMPORTANCE OF SELECTING PROPER  
TERMS.

## LETTERS AND JOURNALS.

|                                                 |     |                                                         |     |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| His Brother. Chinese Language, . . . . .        | 408 | Chinese Language. Dogs, . . . . .                       | 431 |
| His Father. Type. Dictionary, . . . . .         | 409 | Various Questions. Inquirers, . . . . .                 | 432 |
| Rev. Levi Janvier. Trials. Preaching, . . . . . | 410 | Worship of Ancestors, . . . . .                         | 434 |
| His Mother. Labors. Loneliness, . . . . .       | 412 | Voyage to Shanghai, . . . . .                           | 435 |
| His Father. Books. Millennium. Shorter          |     | Chinhal. Commerce. Chapoo, . . . . .                    | 436 |
| Catechism, . . . . .                            | 413 | Canal. The Sabbath. Shanghai, . . . . .                 | 437 |
| On the Minutes of the General Assembly of       |     | His Father. Chapoo. Dictionary, . . . . .               | 438 |
| 1846, . . . . .                                 | 416 | His Mother. Health, . . . . .                           | 440 |
| His Father. Translation of the Bible. Na-       |     | His Brother. On the proper Translation of               |     |
| tive Convert, . . . . .                         | 420 | the word God, . . . . .                                 | 441 |
| His Mother. Heathen Procession, . . . . .       | 422 | Rev. Joseph Owen. Same subject, . . . . .               | 443 |
| Journal. Preaching. Incidents, . . . . .        | 426 | His Father. Manchu Language, . . . . .                  | 443 |
| The Sabbath. Changing Audience, . . . . .       | 428 | On the real Trials of the Foreign Missionary, . . . . . | 445 |

## CHAPTER X.

LETTERS FROM MISSIONARIES AND OTHERS, ON THE DEATH AND CHARACTER OF  
THE REV. W. M. LOWRIE.

|                                              | Page |                                        | Page |
|----------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------|------|
| Rev. A. W. Loomis, . . . . .                 | 456  | Rev. John M. Lowrie, . . . . .         | 479  |
| Right Rev. W. J. Boone, D.D., . . . . .      | 458  | Rev. Charles Hodge, D.D., . . . . .    | 481  |
| Resolutions of the Canton Mission, . . . . . | 462  | Rev. Samuel Miller, D.D., . . . . .    | 482  |
| Rev. John Lloyd, . . . . .                   | 463  | Rev. John A. Savage, . . . . .         | 483  |
| Rev. T. L. McBryde, . . . . .                | 465  | Rev. Joseph H. Jones, D.D., . . . . .  | 483  |
| Rev. Thomas McClatchie, . . . . .            | 466  | Rev. Wm. S. Plumer, D.D., . . . . .    | 484  |
| Rev. E. W. Syle, . . . . .                   | 467  | Joseph P. Engles, Esq., . . . . .      | 485  |
| Rev. Joseph Owen, . . . . .                  | 469  | Rev. Wm. M. Atkinson, D.D., . . . . .  | 486  |
| Rev. John Wray, . . . . .                    | 471  | Rev. W. H. Foote, D.D., . . . . .      | 487  |
| Rev. Levi Janvier, . . . . .                 | 472  | Rev. Wm. C. Anderson, D.D., . . . . .  | 488  |
| Rev. James Wilson, . . . . .                 | 473  | Rev. Loyal Young, . . . . .            | 488  |
| Rev. James B. Ramsey, . . . . .              | 475  | Rev. John N. Campbell, D.D., . . . . . | 489  |
| Rev. E. M. Loughridge, . . . . .             | 475  | Mrs. A. H. Richardson, . . . . .       | 490  |
| Rev. John Layton Wilson, . . . . .           | 476  | Right Rev. George Smith, . . . . .     | 491  |
| Rev. James Read Eckard, . . . . .            | 477  | Sunday Thoughts of a Layman, . . . . . | 493  |
| Rev. John O. Procter, . . . . .              | 478  | Rev. A. Alexander, D.D., . . . . .     | 496  |
|                                              |      | Cenotaph, . . . . .                    | 501  |

*From the Rev. James B. Ramsey, of the Choctaw Mission.*

*Spencer Academy, February 5th, 1848.*

WALTER LOWRIE, Esq.—

DEAREST SIR:—Permit us to mingle our tears with yours on account of the mournful intelligence from China. The paper containing the intelligence had been lying for nearly a week on the table unread, when, feeling unwell, I picked it up, and almost the first thing that met my eye was the notice of your son's death. It came indeed like a thunderstroke; and it was not till I had retired to another room, and returned, that I could speak of it to Mrs. Ramsey. I knew him, and loved him, and cannot now think of him but with tears. How, then, must his sudden death pierce a father's heart! "When one of the members suffer, all the members suffer with it." This we now deeply feel, and it is to assure you of our sympathy and our prayers that I now write; not to comfort, for consolation must come from another source; and how to draw it thence, your long experience in the Christian life, and of the Spirit's consolations, has doubtless fully taught you. While your heart bleeds, as it must to a degree the stranger knows not of, may the Spirit's consolations abound, and the blessed Saviour's voice of love sweetly soothe and abundantly sustain you!

We feel his loss to be a common one, and one which the Church must deeply feel, more deeply in proportion as his worth was known. But still, why should we speak of a loss? The work in which he was, and we are engaged, is carried on under the auspices of a Leader who loves his cause and his people far better than we, and who can make these things all instrumental in hastening on the accomplishment of the great and glorious result. "The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice." Surely, then, his people may at all times rejoice in his dispensations, even when clouds and darkness are round about them.

His work was quickly done, and the Master has taken him to himself. We would feel it to be a loud call upon ourselves to give all diligence to do our Master's work, as we may have but a short time to honor our Saviour in.

Yours affectionately,

JAS. B. RAMSEY.

*From the Rev. R. M. Loughridge, of the Creek Mission.*

*Creek Mission, January 24th, 1848.*

WALTER LOWRIE, Esq.—

MY DEAR SIR:—I have just heard of your great bereavement, and the great loss of the Church, in the death of your son Walter. Is it true? The account came here in the New York Observer.