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ANNALS

OF THE

AMERICAN PULPIT;

OR

COMMEMORATIVE NOTICES

OF

DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN CLERGYMEN

OF

VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS,

FROM THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE COUNTRY TO THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE.

WITH HISTORICAL INTRODUCTIONS.

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BY WILLIAM B. SPRAGUE, D. D.

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VOLUME IV.
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District of New York.

MOSES WADDEL, D. D.

1792—1840.

FROM A. B. LONGSTREET, LL. D.

JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA. AND PRESIDENT OF EMORY COLLEGE.

JACKSON, La., May 1, 1849.

Dear Sir: I most cheerfully comply with your request in furnishing you with some notices of the life and character of the late Dr. Moses Waddel. I had the best opportunity of knowing him, and it is only a labour of love for me to offer this tribute to his memory.

On the 25th of January, 1767, a vessel destined for Georgia, but baffled by adverse winds and weather, put into the port of Charleston, having on board William Waddel, his wife, and five female children. He had emigrated from the vicinity of Belfast in Ireland, where he left interred a daughter and an only son. He remained but a short time in Charleston, before he removed to Rowan (now Iredell) County, in North Carolina, and settled on the waters of the South Yadkin River. Here, on the 29th of July, 1770, MOSES WADDEL was born. He was the last of three sons born on the same spot; and so confident were his parents that he would not survive his birth a single day, that when they found themselves mistaken, they gave him the name of the Patriarch who was providentially preserved in his infancy.

In May, 1777, he entered as a half scholar in a school about three miles from his father's residence. At his tender age, it was believed that he would not be able to attend school more than half the year; and this proved true. In May following, he left this school, having received at it, in all, about six months' instruction. In this time he learned to read accurately, and to write a fair hand. His proficiency here, which was unequalled by any child of his age in the school, opened the way to all his subsequent usefulness.

In 1778, by the instrumentality of the Rev. James Hall, a Presbyterian clergyman, a grammar school was established in the neighbourhood, and Mr. Waddel's friends besought him to enter his son Moses in the Latin department. The old man objected upon the very reasonable ground that he was not able to purchase the books, much less to endure the more heavy expenses of such a course of study. He, at length, however, yielded to the importunities of his friends, casting himself on Providence for the means. In October of this year, the school was opened under the name of Clio's Nursery; and Moses Waddel, in a class of five, commenced the study of the Latin grammar. In rather more than a year afterwards, Mr. James McEwen, the Preceptor, died, and in November, 1779, the school was committed to the care of Mr. Francis Cummins, then a student of Theology, and afterwards a distinguished divine, well known throughout the two Carolinas and Georgia. The favours which Mr. Waddel received at his hands, he afterwards returned with interest to many of his grandchildren. By reason of an incursion of the British forces into the neighbourhood, and the subsequent events of the Revolutionary war, the school suspended its operations from May, 1780, to April, 1782, when it was recommenced under

the direction of Mr. John Newton, who was succeeded by Mr. Samuel Young. With these two, Moses Waddel prosecuted his studies about two years; and in the spring of 1784, having finished the study of the Latin and Greek languages, Euclid's Elements, Geography, Moral Philosophy, and Criticism, he bade adieu to Clio's Nursery. And here, except for a few months employed in learning Arithmetic, closed his academic education. About this time, application was made to the Rev. Dr. Hall for the best linguist that had been taught at Clio's Nursery, to supply a vacant tutorship in the Camden Academy, and Moses Waddel, who had just completed his fourteenth year, was, by this grave divine, recommended as a suitable person to fill the place; but his father, in consideration of his youth, and the temptations to which a city life would expose him, positively refused to let him accept the appointment. Considering the necessitous circumstances of both the father and the son, and the strong appeal that was here made to the father's pride, he exhibited a triumph of parental affection over personal interest, which reflects the highest credit upon his heart and understanding. His son never ceased to feel grateful for it as long he lived.

In October, 1784, when just entering upon his fifteenth year, he took charge of a school,—his first, about fifteen miles from his father's residence. It consisted of about twenty pupils in English, and six or seven in Latin, and was kept at a stated salary of seventy dollars per annum. Here was the beginning of his labours in that field from which he reaped so much renown, and for his services in which he afterwards received a most liberal recompense.

At this place, near the waters of Hunting Creek, in what is now Iredell County, and in its vicinity, he continued to teach, giving general satisfaction to his employers, until the latter part of the year 1786; when he removed to Greene County in the State of Georgia. In January following, he established a school, composed mostly of English scholars, with one or two in Latin. This, his first establishment in Georgia, was near the North Ogeechee River. In the summer of 1787, a threatened invasion of the Creeks forced him to break up his school, and being now out of employment, he visited his parents in North Carolina, who determined to accompany him to Georgia. He preceded them, however, about a month; and on his return found that the Indian alarms had been but too well founded. The Creeks had invaded the white settlements, burnt Greensboro', and committed several murders still farther to the Eastward. Mr. Waddel found his old patrons and friends had abandoned their houses and taken refuge in forts. He now went to Augusta, and, after having spent nearly a month in an ineffectual attempt to procure a place in the Richmond Academy, he returned to Greene where he found quiet restored, and his parents just arrived from North Carolina. In 1788, he opened another school in the neighbourhood of his first in Georgia; and while engaged in its duties this year, he (at Bethany, then a missionary station under the North Carolina Presbytery) received his first permanent religious impressions. It is a curious fact that to find an experienced religious friend with whom he might commune upon the state of his feelings, he had to travel several miles beyond Washington in Wilkes County. At this time, he determined to enter the ministry, and preparatory thereto, to obtain a collegiate education. In the fall of the year 1790, he set out for Hampden Sidney College. He arrived there in September, and, after employing himself for some time in prepara-

tory studies, entered the Senior class in that institution in January following. In September, 1791, he graduated; after remaining in College but eight months and twenty-six days. Meanwhile, having presented himself to the Hanover Presbytery, of Virginia, as a candidate for the ministry, and having undergone the usual examinations and trials, he was licensed to preach on the 12th of May, 1792. After remaining a while in Virginia, he returned to the South, and resided in the family of Mr. Thomas Legare, of South Carolina.

In 1793 or 1794, he opened a school in Columbia County, Ga., about two miles to the Eastward of the village of Appling. After teaching here for several years, he removed to the village, where he continued his usual labours for a short time, prior to his removal to South Carolina.

In 1795, he married Miss Catherine Calhoun, daughter of Patrick Calhoun of South Carolina, and sister of the Hon. John C. Calhoun. She survived the marriage but about a year.

In 1800, he married Miss Elizabeth Woodson Pleasants, a native of Powhattan, but then a resident of Halifax County, Va. Four sons and two daughters were the offspring of this marriage. All his sons have been liberally educated, and two of them have entered the ministry.

In 1801, he left Columbia, and opened a school in Vienna, Abbeville District, S. C. Here he remained until 1804, when he removed to Willington, a country seat of his own establishment, about six miles South of Vienna. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Columbia College, S. C., in 1807.

In 1819, Dr. Waddel published a small volume of "Memoirs of Miss Catharine Elizabeth Smelt," daughter of D. Smelt, M. D., a physician of Augusta. It was a highly interesting and popular work, as was indicated by the fact that it passed to a third edition in this country, and was published at least twice in Great Britain.

He remained at Willington until May, 1819, when, having in the previous year been elected President of the University of Georgia, he entered upon the duties of this office. The effect of his coming to this institution was almost magical: it very soon attained a measure of prosperity altogether unequalled in its previous history. Here he remained until August, 1829, when he resigned his place; and in February following he returned to Willington. This was the close of a course of preceptorial labours that had continued forty-five years. His labours in the ministry he continued six or seven years longer. In September, 1836, he was visited with a stroke of the palsy, which he survived nearly four years; but his mind went rapidly to ruin under the blow. In January, 1839, he was removed to the residence of his son, Professor Waddel, at Athens, where he closed his pre-eminently useful life, on the 21st of July, 1840.

The reputation of Dr. Waddel never suffered from change of times, place, or society, but bright at his rising, it grew brighter and broader at every move in his orbit. This certainly is a remarkable fact; for if there be any occupation in which merit is no guaranty of popularity, it is that of an instructor of youth: if there be any thing in which age never confirms the views of youth, it is in the direction and government of a school. For many years previous to his death, it would have been a self reproach in any one to question his merits as a teacher. The fruits of his vineyard are scattered far and wide through most of the Southern States, and long have

they been seen in rich luxuriance in the Capitol of the Union. Indeed it would be hard to name the place of rank which his pupils have not occupied. I do not say that they derived the largest share of their mental endowments from him; but I do fully believe that, without the impulse which he gave to their talents, many of them who rose to high rank, would never have been heard of. The remarkable distinction which his pupils acquired, cannot fairly be ascribed to chance. The immense number whom he taught, amounting to nearly four thousand, accounts in part for the number who attained to eminence; but upon what principle are we to account for the number whom he taught? The question naturally presents itself here,—Where lay the secret of his success over others of equal abilities? I should say, in his sleepless vigilance over the conduct and morals of his scholars; the equity and impartiality of his discipline, and his firmness in enforcing it; his ready insight into the character of youth, and his skill in improving it, either by prompt correction or speedy commendation, as seemed to him best; and in his well regulated familiarity with them, which made him at all times accessible to them, without lessening their respect for him. To all which it may be added that, when left to choose, he almost invariably established his school in some retired spot, which, while it brought his pupils, night and day, under his immediate supervision, removed them almost entirely from the temptations of vice. Certain it is that he had the faculty, in a wonderful degree, of developing the native powers of the youthful mind. It is remarkable that he rarely, if ever, corrected a student for deficiency in recitation. While I was with him,—and I was with him longer than most of his pupils,—I do not remember a single instance in which he did so. To be “turned off,” as it was called,—that is, to be required to recommit a lesson, was considered such a disgrace by all the students, that he never found it necessary to apply any other corrective to this delinquency.

He was himself a very severe student, and a very industrious man. He rose with the dawn in summer, and before it in the winter.

As a Christian, Dr. Waddel's character was unexceptionable. He was not without the Christian's trials; and these, for some years after he embraced the cross, were uncommonly severe; but, as the surges that break over the coral reef, only add brilliancy to its native beauty, so these trials but added lustre to the “beauty of his holiness.” His piety burned with a steady flame. It was subject to no violent transitions, but it brightened by a steady process, as is manifest from a brief record which he made in his latter years of his daily transactions. It was obviously kept as a mere private remembrance of his secular matters, and yet its monthly entries often close with earnest aspirations for a deeper work of grace upon his heart. He was active and constant in the discharge of his ministerial duties, and he shrunk from no labour which his ecclesiastical relations imposed upon him. His discourses were always grave, solemn, and practical, possessing few of the ornaments of style, but occasionally enlivened with flashes of true eloquence. He was generous, hospitable and kind, and while he dispensed many charities which the world must needs know, I doubt not but that he dispensed many which will not be known till the revelations of the final day.

As a citizen, he was ever blessing and ever blessed. He kept aloof from the political storms which so often raged around him. I believe they gave

him the greatest anxieties of his life; for he generally recognised in the spirits of the storm, the linements of his pupils, and however he may have regarded the blasts, he regarded *them* with a father's love. And he did them but justice; for in their bitterest strifes, they always guided the tempest above his lowly dwelling, or hushed it into a fitful silence until it passed.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

A. B. LONGSTREET

FROM THE HON. JOHN C. CALHOUN, LL. D.

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, SECRETARY OF STATE, &c.

FORT HILL, May 19, 1849.

Dear Sir: I comply with pleasure with your request to give you a brief statement containing a summary of the character of the late Rev. Dr. Moses Waddel I knew him well. Under his tuition I prepared myself for College.

His character as a man was good. He discharged punctually and faithfully the various duties attached to all his private relations. He was sociable and amiable; but not without a due mixture of sternness and firmness. As a minister of the Gospel, he was pious, zealous, and well versed in Theology generally. His style of preaching was plain, simple and earnest. He addressed himself much more to the understanding than to the imagination or passions.

It was as a teacher that he was the most distinguished. In that character, he stands almost unrivalled. Indeed, he may be justly considered as the father of classical education, in the upper country of South Carolina and Georgia. His excellence in that character depended not so much on extensive or profound learning, as a felicitous combination of qualities for the government of boys, and communicating to them what he knew. He was particularly successful in exciting emulation among them, and in obtaining the good will of all but the worthless. The best evidence of his high qualities as a teacher is his success. Among his pupils are to be found a large portion of the eminent men of the State of Georgia. In this State it is sufficient to name McDuffie, Legare, Pettigru, and my colleague in the Senate, Butler. To these many others of distinction might be added. His pupils in Georgia who have distinguished themselves are numerous. In the list are to be found the names of W. H. Crawford, Longstreet, &c. It is in the character of a teacher especially that he will long be remembered as a benefactor of the country.

With great respect,

I am your obedient servant,

JOHN C. CALHOUN.

FROM THE REV. ALONZO CHURCH, D. D.,

PRESIDENT OF FRANKLIN COLLEGE.

ATHENS, Ga., April 16, 1850.

Rev. and dear Sir: I am pleased to learn that you are engaged in writing biographical notices of distinguished deceased clergymen of our country. I am more than pleased to hear that among these will be found the name of the venerable Dr. Waddel,—a man, who, as a teacher, and as a minister of the Gospel, acquired a reputation in the Southern States, which few teachers or ministers have acquired in our country. The friends of Dr. Waddel do not claim for him talents the most brilliant, or acquirements the most varied and profound. The sphere of action to which he was, in the providence of God, called, required

talents of a peculiar kind. It was a sphere where prudence, and patience, and perseverance, and self-denial, were far more important than the utmost refinement of taste, or the profoundest researches in science, or even the most powerful and commanding eloquence. His friends, however, do claim for him,—and this part of our country almost unanimously accords to him,—an energy of character, and an honesty of purpose, and an ardent desire for the advancement of religious education and the spread of the Gospel, which enabled him to accomplish far more for the best interests of his fellow men, than many who possessed talents of a more striking character.

My first personal acquaintance with Dr. Waddel was in September, 1819,—a few months after he had entered upon the duties of his office as President of the University of Georgia. In December of the same year, I became associated with him as a Professor in the institution; and we continued thus associated for ten years, when he retired from the University, in consequence of advancing age and declining health. The circumstances of the University were, when Dr. Waddel was called to preside over it, peculiarly embarrassing. They were such as no one can fully comprehend, who was not connected with it. They were such, I am fully persuaded, as few men would have been able to meet, without ultimately abandoning the object in despair. And to the wisdom, and prudence, and reputation, of that good man, is Georgia very largely indebted for the respectability and usefulness of her State College. The success which attended his efforts in raising the institution so rapidly as he did to respectability, has been to many inexplicable. But to those who well understood his character, that success is by no means surprising. He accepted the office after repeated solicitations, and only upon the fullest conviction that God had called him to this field of labour. Perhaps few men, in all the business of life, more prayerfully inquired as to the path of duty, than Dr. Waddel. And by the path of duty, I mean, the glory of God in the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom. Though a minister of the Gospel, he spent most of his life in the occupation of a teacher of youth. This he did, not because he found it more to his pecuniary interest, but because, from a careful survey of the condition of this part of our country, he believed he could in this way more effectually promote the cause of evangelical religion, than by devoting his whole time to the ministry of the Gospel. And I cannot doubt that in this his judgment was in accordance with the intimations of the Divine Spirit, whose enlightening influences, I believe, he ever sought to indicate to him the path of duty. The grand object which he had in view, while engaged in the business of instruction, was the inculcation of truth, which directly or indirectly would have an influence upon the great cause of the Gospel. The country was new, the population was rapidly increasing, and the few schools which existed were almost universally under the control of men who were ignorant and vicious, and often infidel. Dr. Waddel saw the necessity for different schools, and resolved that, by the blessing of God upon his labours, he would endeavour to show the practical benefits resulting from those conducted by well-educated and pious men. To accomplish this reformation, he saw the necessity for teachers educated at home,—educated in the fear of God,—teachers who would carry into the school-room something of the Bible. And he accordingly encouraged those who were under his instruction, and especially those who were pious, to prepare themselves for teachers. To those who were unable to bear the expenses of their education he opened the doors of his school, and often his house, leaving them, in after life, to make such return as they might be able and might think proper to make. The heart of this good man also yearned over the multitudes through this part of the country, who were “as sheep having no shepherd.” He ardently desired to see intelligent and pious young men consecrating their talents to the service of God in the ministry of the Gospel. His school was, therefore, always a School of the Prophets—every encouragement was

given by him to those whose minds were turned to this subject, and, by directing his pupils to the great want of ministers, he was instrumental in diverting many from mere secular pursuits to the sacred office. In this respect few men have, I apprehend, been more useful to the Church—like his Divine Master, he was continually saying to many, and apparently with effect,—“Go preach the Gospel.” Looking at the condition of the country, and especially of the Church, he believed that it was the duty of many who were called to the ministry, to engage also in the business of instruction; and he accordingly encouraged many of the young men who studied with him, to pursue a course similar to that which he felt it his duty to pursue. By this means, in a short time, many feeble churches were partially supplied with Christian ministrations, and a striking change was wrought in the moral aspect of society.

It should not be inferred that Dr. Waddel did not preach, and preach constantly. Perhaps few ministers ever felt more intensely the obligation resting upon them to preach the Gospel. Few Sabbaths ever found him out of the pulpit. The great destitution of ministers of the Gospel had more influence, I doubt not, in inducing him to accept the office of President of the University of Georgia, than any other cause. The urgency of the friends of the institution, and especially of its Trustees, whose grand object was to raise it to literary eminence, led him to inquire most prayerfully what were the designs of Providence; and, upon a careful survey of the whole case, he came deliberately to the conclusion that a new field was opening, in which he might probably labour successfully for the cause which was nearest his heart. The result was as he anticipated. The College rose in the estimation of the community. Young men flocked to its halls—poor and pious young men were invited by him to partake of its advantages. The Trustees made provision for the free education of a number who were preparing for the ministry. Dr. Waddel induced several families in the town and adjoining country, each to board one poor young man who was preparing for the ministry. God poured out his Spirit upon the institution, and many, in a few years, were hopefully converted, and went forth as teachers of Academies and preachers of the Gospel. At the end of ten years, the good man was permitted to see a change in the institution,—a change in the moral and religious aspect of the State,—a change in the prospects of the Church, and especially the feeble branch of it, to which he belonged, which more than realized his most sanguine expectations. I mention these things concerning the College and his labours as a teacher, to show that he did not err in his interpretation of the indications of Providence in respect to his duty.

Dr. Waddel was scrupulously conscientious in the fulfilment of every known obligation. He never allowed himself to excite expectations which he did not intend, and which he did not make every possible exertion, to fulfil. Punctuality in meeting his appointments was with him a cardinal virtue. He often, while President of the University, preached in the country from ten to twenty miles distant from this place. I never knew him deterred from going to his place of preaching, in consequence of unpleasant weather, or business relating to his private interests, or even to the institution, unless of a most important nature. I have often seen him start from his house to meet his clerical engagements when few men would have left home for any important business of life. If reminded that he could expect few, if any, to hear him, his reply was, that two or three with the Master's presence would be a profitable meeting; and that it was all-important to a church to know that their minister would not disappoint his people. The same punctuality was observed as to all the duties of life; and such were his feelings upon this subject, that men associated with him soon found it necessary to practise most carefully this virtue, so far as business with him was concerned. The members of the Faculty were soon punctiliously observant of their meetings for business,—were scrupulously careful to be at

their posts, as required by the laws of the institution. Students found it important to be ready, at the first sound of the bell, to retire to their studies, or repair to their recitations; and even servants seldom failed in the discharge of their duties. And what to many appeared unnecessarily and vexatiously exacting, was soon discovered to produce that order and regularity so useful in their results.

Dr. Waddel was, in the estimation of some, a stern disciplinarian; and yet no man was more mild or conciliating towards those who were disposed to do their duty; and no one was ever more ready to aid his pupils in their efforts to acquire knowledge. His study was open at all times to those seeking assistance, and he would lay aside the most interesting or important business to answer the inquiries of a student. He was supposed by some to be a timid man, when called to meet difficulties and dangers—perhaps he had not what the world calls the strongest nerves; but he had that which was far more important,—an humble but firm reliance upon the direction and the protection of his Master. Of this I saw a remarkable illustration in one of those emergencies which sometimes occur in the government of a College. It became necessary, as the Faculty believed, to pursue a course which a large portion of the students considered an unjustifiable interference with a Society. A Committee of the Society notified the Faculty that it would be dangerous to attempt to carry out the resolution. This was considered a threat, and at once the Faculty determined to act with energy. The action was to be that evening immediately after prayers in the chapel. Dr. Waddel was as decided in his opinion as any member of the Body. But, as he entered the chapel, a doubt came into his mind as to the prudence of the course adopted. He prayed most earnestly for both students and Faculty, and especially that the latter might be endowed with wisdom, and prudence, and grace. I felt assured, at the time, that peculiar emotions were agitating his bosom; but when he closed the exercises, instead of leading the Faculty to carry out their resolution, (as he had expected to do,) he left the chapel, and retired without an intimation to any one concerning the reason of his conduct. He afterwards informed me that he became fully convinced that the course which the Faculty had determined to pursue, was not prudent, and he had not a doubt that his mind had undergone this change in consequence of an intimation from the Spirit of God. Subsequent developments clearly proved that, had he persisted in endeavouring to effect the object of the Faculty, most serious and probably melancholy consequences would have ensued. A young man of desperate character, excited by intoxication, was pledged to defeat, at any expense, the attempts of the Faculty, and this he could have done, under the peculiar circumstances, without the probability of detection. The course of Dr. Waddel on this occasion was at the time attributed by some to weakness; but it was generally acknowledged afterwards that, whatever influences controlled his mind, the result was most propitious. His attachments to friends were strong and enduring,—especially to early religious friends. A striking illustration of this occurred a short time previous to his decease. Under the influence of that disease which terminated his life, he seemed to lose gradually the use of all his faculties, till he was no longer conscious of any thing. I visited him on one occasion, and found him apparently insensible to all that was passing. We could not ascertain that he knew any one; and yet, during a conversation between myself and others in his room,—the name of an early clerical friend being mentioned, he immediately exclaimed in broken and yet perfectly intelligible accents, “I knew him well,—one of the best men I ever knew;” and then sank immediately into his unconscious state, from which it was impossible to arouse him. His memory was extraordinary, especially as to times and places. He was remarkable for his minuteness in keeping a diary, in which he preserved notices of almost every transaction of life; and he was able to recollect especially whatever related to

his clerical duties with a particularity that was truly astonishing. He could recall the texts from which he had preached, and the places where he had preached from them, and the mode of treatment and the persons present, and the effect produced, with an accuracy that seemed almost incredible. He was perhaps more opposed to reading sermons than almost any minister of any denomination during the period of his ministry. He believed the subject of every sermon so important, that the man who feels a proper interest in it, and has the requisite furniture for the sacred office, will make such preparation, and will go into the desk with such emotions, as will enable him to speak, and speak with freedom and power, extempore. He was not opposed to writing sermons, but utterly opposed to their being read. On one occasion, when a distinguished Doctor of Divinity was preaching, and the house became so dark that he could not read his sermon without much difficulty, and was finally obliged to cut it short and show an abrupt conclusion, Dr. Waddel, who was sitting by me in the church, unconsciously exclaimed loud enough to be heard by myself and others in the same pew,—“he is served right.” He believed every minister was under obligations to preach where an opportunity was offered;—that he should not refuse to preach because he might not have expected to be called upon, or because others were present who ought to preach and would not. “If no one else will preach, I will try to,” was his motto. He loved his duty as a minister of the Gospel—he was ready, at all times, as far as in his power, to discharge that duty. He rejoiced to see the work of the Lord prosper,—no matter by whose instrumentality it might be carried forward. He was greatly beloved by the common people of the country, who visited him with freedom, and were ever received with the welcome which so much endears a minister to his flock. In the Southern States, he needs no monument but the recollection of those who knew him; and so long as they shall survive, his praise will be in all the Churches *where they survive.*

Very truly, I am yours in the Gospel,

A. CHURCH.



GEORGE BUIST, D. D.*

1793—1808.

GEORGE BUIST, a son of Arthur and Catharine Buist, was born in Fifeshire, Scotland, in the year 1770. His father was a respectable farmer. Having gone through his preparatory course, he entered the College of Edinburgh in 1787, where he enjoyed the instruction of some of the most distinguished men of the age, and gained a high reputation both as a scholar and a man of original genius. He was remarkable for his proficiency in classical learning, and especially for his minute and thorough acquaintance with the Greek language; and Professor Dalzell is said to have shown his high estimate of his attainments in this department, by employing him as his assistant in preparing for the press a part of his *Collectanea*. He was thoroughly versed also in the Hebrew, French, and Italian languages. Indeed, there was no branch of knowledge included in a thorough Scotch education in which he was not a proficient.

* Memoir prefixed to his Sermons.—MS. from Hon. Mitchell King.