

SKETCHES OF THE MINISTERS

Of the

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF NORTH AMERICA

From 1888 to 1930

With supplemental sketches of ministers living in 1888 whose records were carried forward in Glasgow's History up to that date; together with sketches of the institutions, missions and organizations of the Church, and lists of missionaries who have served the Church during this period; containing also 42 portraits of Moderators of Synod besides the cuts of the institutions of the Church; also lists of Presbyteries and Congregations together with the dates of organization and disorganization of the same during the period covered by this volume.



By
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will what was often beyond his physical strength, humanly speaking. He served the King to the last. His work in Spring Garden Mission and Compromise Street are evidence of his zeal and consecration to Mission work. By character and personality he commended Christ and the truth to the world. He won and kept to the end the devotion of his people. He was, at the time of his death, a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pittsburgh. He was called from his earthly to his Heavenly Home January 7, 1919.

THOMAS SPROULL, D. D., LL. D.

THOMAS SPROULL, whose biographical sketch is carried forward in Glasgow's History up until within three years of his death, was, at the time of the publishing of that volume in 1888, Professor Emeritus of the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary in Allegheny. In spite of his advanced age he was still hearing a class in Pastoral Theology. In 1891 Synod meeting in Pittsburgh, a committee of the members of Synod sent to visit Dr. Sproull, "found that beloved father in a comfortable state of bodily health, though greatly weakened and exhausted. In a lengthened conversation we found our aged brother in a most comfortable state of mind, not only peaceful but triumphant, earnestly longing for an entrance into life eternal; realizing with wonderful pathos the inspired word, 'though now ye see Him not, yet believing ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.'" After prayer he charged the committee to communicate to Synod his gratitude for their kind regards; an assurance of his interest in and affection for the church of which he had for so long been a member; and his

earnest desire and hope that the church should stand firm to her principles, to the truth and value of which he gave his dying testimony. He was a man of exceptional ability, spirituality and devotion. At an unusually early period he had attained clear and distinct views of the way of salvation, and had also reached an assured confidence that he had passed from death into life as a subject of grace. At a still earlier period he had been so touched by the Spirit as to set his face toward the Gospel Ministry as his life's work and, notwithstanding apparently insurmountable difficulties, he at last attained the cherished hope of his heart. He held a most successful pastorate of 34 years, during which time a large and influential congregation was built up. He spent two lengthened periods of service in the Theological Seminary. For over 20 years he was more or less prominently connected with the periodical literature of the church. Beside this he was the author of numerous and various books, treatises, articles and lectures which left the religious world richer. His labor in the Seminary continued up until within one year of his death, which occurred March 21, 1892. He was in his 89th year. He had been ordained to the Gospel Ministry April 4, 1833, making his term of service under ordination 59 years. He was installed pastor of the Pittsburgh and Allegheny congregation May 12, 1834. He was chosen Professor of Theology in 1838. He resigned in 1845. He was re-elected to the professorship in 1856. He was made Professor Emeritus in 1874, and continued to hear a class in Pastoral Theology until 1891. "Entering the ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church amid the controversies and trials which attended the division of 1833, and departing 60 years later

during a period of similar painful differences of feeling and judgment, his convictions as to the distinctive principles on which the church reposes, and the importance of the work which is given her to do, never wavered for an hour." Sixty years of privilege, preaching Jesus Christ and His wonderful Gospel of salvation and eternal life! How is such a privilege to be measured? How is such a privilege to be repaid? Not by a life of sixty years of service. Not by an eternity of service. More than an eternity could never repay Him for making us able to say, "I believe that Jesus Christ the Son of God died for my sins and arose to give me life. Will you, fellow-sinner, believe with me and live with Him forevermore?"

THOMAS CARGILL SPROULL

T. C. SPROULL, whose biographical sketch appears in Glasgow's History to the year 1888, when that volume was published, was at that time pastor of the Cedarville, Ohio, congregation, having been installed in that place June 10, 1881. He was released from Cedarville May 27, 1896, and went to Fairgrove, Michigan, as stated supply. He labored here in this relation for some time. Later, having received a call from the congregation, he was installed as their pastor on October 24, 1902. He was released from Fairgrove October 11, 1905, and came to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he has made his home to the present time. For a number of years after moving to Pittsburgh he supplied various congregations, mostly through the western part of the Church. He was Moderator of Synod at Sparta, Illinois, in 1904. His Church home is in the Central Pitts-