

THE CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL

OF THE

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE.

A SERIES OF PAPERS, HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL, RELATING
TO THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF PRESBYTERIANISM
IN THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN PART OF
SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.—BIOGRAPHICAL.

✓
George M. Mearns

"Write this for a memorial in a book."—Ex. 17: 14.

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J. Moore

sisted back to his hotel, medical aid was summoned, but he died of disease of the heart about three o'clock on the following morning, August 31, 1880, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. His health had been feeble for some time, but his sudden death was unexpected to him and his family. He left a widow and three children, two sons and one daughter.

1838—1870.**Rev. Thomas Verner Moore, D. D.**

The above-named minister of the gospel took a high rank as a preacher and author among the more distinguished of the Presbytery of Carlisle.

He was born in Newville, Pa., February 1, 1818. Having pursued his academic course of preparation for college under the Rev. Robert McCachren of the same place, he entered Hanover College in 1834, and afterwards became a student in Dickinson College, from which he graduated with honor in 1838.

For a short time after leaving college he acted as traveling agent for the Pennsylvania Colonization Society. He entered Princeton Theological Seminary in 1839. He was licensed by the Presbytery of W. Jersey, and, in the spring of 1842, was ordained and installed pastor of the Second Presbyterian church of Carlisle.

In 1845, in consequence of a controversy on a question of ecclesiastical law, between him and an able lawyer, a member of the session, which was carried to Presbytery and to Synod, and very ably contested on both sides, he asked to have the pastoral relation with that church dissolved, which request was granted, and he received and accepted a call to the church of Greencastle in the same Presbytery. Here he continued two years. In 1847 he received and accepted a call to the First Presbyterian church in Richmond, Va. There he continued as pastor with growing reputation and usefulness for twenty-one years. In 1868, on account of impaired and feeble health, he asked leave to resign the church at Richmond, in order to the acceptance of a call to the First Presbyterian church in Nashville, Tennessee. Here he remained only a short time, on

account of continued ill health. He died at Nashville, August 5, 1871.

Dr. Moore belonged to a family of strong intellectual endowments, and of a highly nervous temperament. His parents were Presbyterians of the stricter class, active and useful in the church and community. In June, 1842, he was married to Sarah, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Blythe, of Hanover, Indiana. She died during his residence in Greencastle.

As a preacher Dr. Moore from the outset was earnest and eloquent, instructive and attractive, popular and impressive. His style was elegant and ambitious. He was exceedingly fluent, had a cultivated and vivid imagination, and was commonly very solemn and often deeply and sometimes overwhelmingly impressive.

His preaching in all the churches of which he was pastor, commanded general attention, attracted full houses and being very scriptural and evangelical, was continuously useful.

His pastorate at Richmond was eminently successful up to the commencement of the war of the rebellion. Here he made full proof of his ministry and to a very high degree realized, as said Dr. Rice, the idea of a Christian pastor. He rose to the highest rank of city preachers and pastors, and was eminently successful and useful.

As a preacher it has been said of him, that "his discourses were perspicuous in thought and expression. His style was finished and elegant, bright with the flashes of a chastened imagination, and glowing with the fervor of a sincere piety. The hearer was ordinarily reminded of the beautiful, peaceful landscape, bathed in the pure white light of heaven, yet reflecting the fresh tints of the springtime, or the varied hues of autumn; but at times, when the occasion demanded, he seemed to hear the rush of mighty waters, as with a resistless torrent of eloquence, sin, and especially all baseness, were swept away to merited shame and ruin, yet he often loved to bear the soul away to the blissful scenes where.

"Sweet fields beyond the swelling flood
Stand dressed in living green,"

where the palace of our Father stands on high, with its many

mansions; where the multitude of the blessed sit down to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

"Here in Richmond," says the same writer, "amid the arduous labors of his pastorate, he redeemed the time to employ his elegant and vigorous pen for the instruction of the church at large, and future generations of Christians."

It was in Richmond he wrote and published his Commentary on the prophecies of Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi—the prophets of the restoration, which has taken its position among the scholarly works upon books of the Hebrew Scriptures, and is quoted and referred to by men of the highest standing as interpreters of the Old Testament. Before its publication the manuscript was submitted to that prince of Hebrew scholars and Old Testament expositors, Rev. J. Addison Alexander, D. D., and received from him a hearty commendation.

It was during that same pastorate that he also wrote his popular treatise on *The Last Words of Jesus*, which was well received at the time, and is regarded as both scholarly and highly valuable. He is also the author of a little book entitled *the Culdee Church*, which is a highly instructive and practical treatise on an interesting theme.

Two lectures by him are published in the series of lectures delivered before the University of Virginia on the "Evidences of Christianity," and a sermon preached as Moderator of the Southern General Assembly, on the "Corporate Life of the Church."

He was also engaged for a number of years as one of the associated editors of the *Central Presbyterian*. He was also for a time one of the projectors and conductors of the *Richmond Eclectic Magazine*. He was also a frequent contributor to the *Methodist Quarterly*. During his pastorate in Richmond Dr. Moore married Matilda, daughter of Mr. Henry Gwathmay, an elder of the First Presbyterian church of Richmond. By her he had six children, all of whom, with their mother, survived him. Two sons entered the ministry, one of whom has since died. His son, Rev. T. V. Moore, has all the promise as to talents, piety, scholarship and usefulness of his lamented father.