

Pages 190 through 193 from:

Sketches of the Ministers
of the
Reformed Presbyterian Church
of North America
From 1888 to 1930

By
The Rev. Owen F. Thompson

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called of God. A half century on one road takes you far yet it is only a beginning after all, and we may all make our beginning on that same journey whether we spend one year or fifty on the earthly end. Eternity is before us all.

JOHN DAVISON McCLURE

J. D. McCLURE, son of McLeod Milligan and Annie Elizabeth (Wilson) McClure, was born at New Alexandria, Pennsylvania, June 15, 1884. His father and mother are both living. He united with the Reformed Presbyterian Church at New Alexandria, Pennsylvania, at about 12 years of age, under the pastorate of the Rev. R. J. Gault. He attended the Public Schools of his home community, the Normal School of Saltsburg, Pennsylvania, and Business College at Greensburg, Pennsylvania. His college work was taken at Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, from which institution he graduated in June of 1912. In September of the same year he entered the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary of North Side Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he attended two years. He was licensed to preach the Gospel by Pittsburgh Presbytery on May 12, 1914. He did not complete his theological work because of weak eyes, and was never ordained but preached as a licentiate and labored as missionary in the Spring Garden Mission of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On August 2, 1927, he was united in marriage with Edith H. Mearns, of Seattle, Washington. Their address is Belle Center, Ohio.

ALBERT WITSIUS McCLURKIN

A. W. McCLURKIN, whose biographical sketch appears in Glasgow's History up until the time of his licensure,

was in the year 1888 preaching in the bounds of Kansas Presbytery, having been licensed to preach the Gospel by Kansas Presbytery at Olathe, Kansas, on April 3, 1888. He completed his course in the Seminary and on May 31, 1889, was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by Pittsburgh Presbytery at New Alexandria, Pennsylvania, and installed pastor of the congregation in that place at the same time. On January 14, 1891, the pastoral relation between the New Alexandria congregation and their pastor was dissolved upon the resignation of the pastor. Soon after this he left the communion of the Reformed Presbyterian Church and his name was taken from the roll of Presbytery. On leaving the Covenanter Church he affiliated first with the United Presbyterian Church and then with the Presbyterian Church, in which body he held several pastorates in the state of Illinois. He held charges in Earlville, Apple River, Cedarville, Millersburg (four years). At the time of his death he was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Augusta, Illinois. He passed away in the manse there. After a serious illness of heart trouble lasting for a space of three months, he passed away from the fields of a long service in the Kingdom, April 20, 1926. The surviving members of his family are: His wife, Anna Garland McClurkin, who lives in Aledo, Illinois, and three daughters, Eleanor, Mrs. W. H. Downey and Mrs. Kenneth Cooling. His life has been described by one near to him as "A series of small tasks well and faithfully done." His labors were in small communities where his influence was deeply felt and will be abiding.

HUGH PARK McCLURKIN, D. D.

H. P. McCLURKIN, whose biographical sketch appears in Glasgow's History, is recorded there as holding the pastorate of the Wahoo, Nebraska, congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. This was in the year 1888. He had been installed here February 29, 1884. He held this pastorate until the latter part of the year 1891 or the beginning of 1892, when, at his own request, he was released from this charge and soon after left the communion of the Reformed Presbyterian Church and entered the United Presbyterian Church. On November 8, 1894, he was received again into the membership of the Reformed Presbyterian Church through the Iowa Presbytery. The following year he was transferred to the Kansas Presbytery and for a while preached as stated supply at Wahoo, Nebraska, where he had been pastor formerly. Later he filled appointment as stated supply at Topeka, Kansas, where he made his home until the end of his life. After serving the Topeka congregation as stated supply for 7 or 8 years he was compelled to give up the work in the year 1902 on account of failing health. He continued, however, to make his home in this city, glorifying God by a godly life until the call came for him to enter the Heavenly Ministry, on February 18, 1905. He not only filled well his congregational charge but had a broad grasp of public questions and always exerted a deep influence upon his community. A beautiful tribute was paid to his memory by the Ministerial Association of Topeka, Kansas, at his funeral. His fellow-ministers attended in a body, and his pall-bearers were ministers with whom he had been associated in past years in various reform efforts. He had been ordained to the Min-

istry of the Gospel on October 15, 1850, and served the Lord in that capacity for 55 years. A short life is too long for any sinner. A long life is too short for any saint.

JOHN JOHNSTON McCLURKIN

J. J. McCLURKIN, whose biographical sketch is carried forward to the year 1888 in Glasgow's History, was at that time serving as stated supply in the Clarksburg, Pennsylvania, congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. He took up work in that place in 1885. He completed seven years of service in this congregation and then retired from active labors, making his residence in New Alexandria, Pennsylvania, and serving the Lord as his physical strength and opportunity afforded. He resided in his home in this place until he had reached the advanced age of 93 years, 64 of these years having been spent as an ordained minister of Jesus Christ. He died February 28, 1907, and was buried in the New Alexandria Cemetery. He was a faithful minister of Jesus Christ and was devoted whole-heartedly to the principles of his Church, in which he had held his membership and which he had served as a minister for so long. He was unmoved by all the defections through which the church had passed and said, even when those near and dear to him changed their views, "I stand where I have always stood." He was a diligent student and a faithful preacher and pastor. A long, long life of service, as we count it by the years of time, but exceedingly short as he has long since learned, having entered into life in the timeless ages of Eternity.