

## PREFACE

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The REVEREND JAMES HENLEY THORNWELL; D. D., LL. D., was born near Cheraw, S. C, December 9, 1812, and was reared in the same section of this State. Left in poverty and obscurity by the death of his father while yet a child, he was taken up in early life and educated by General James Gillespie and Mr. William H. Robbins; and at their expense, together with that of General Samuel W. Gillespie, he was sent through South Carolina College, where he was graduated in 1831, with the first honors of his class.

While teaching in Sumterville in 1832 he made profession of faith in Christ, uniting with Concord Church, and immediately began to prepare for the ministry, to which he was ordained by Bethel Presbytery in 1834. His subsequent life, extending to August 1, 1862, was spent entirely in connection with the Synod of South Carolina, in which he rendered most valuable and distinguished service to the Church and the State.

It therefore seemed meet to the Synod to make appropriate celebration of his illustrious career and eminent services near the Centennial of his birth, and accordingly at its sessions in Newberry, October, 1910, it adopted the following resolution:

The 9th of December, 1912, will be the centennial of the birth of the Rev. James H. Thornwell, D. D., LL. D., a son of this Synod, who spent his whole ministerial life in our bounds, and who rendered most eminent service to our Church in defining her theological views, and in expounding, organizing, and applying her ecclesiastical polity. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Synod during its sessions in 1912 make appropriate celebration of this noteworthy centennial; and that a committee of three be now appointed by the Moderator to make the necessary arrangements for this celebration, and report to the next meeting of Synod.

The Moderator appointed the following as the committee, Rev. Drs. T. H. Law, and E. P. Davis, and Elder H. E. Ravenel, who reported to the next Synod, recommending that the meeting for 1912 be held in the First Church, Columbia, which Dr. Thornwell had twice served as pastor, and in the city where nearly all his eminent services to the Church had been rendered; and that three set addresses be delivered during this meeting, on

several specified phases of Dr. Thornwell's life and work, by speakers named. This report was adopted; and during the sessions of the Synod in the First Church, Columbia, October 23d and 24th, 1912, the addresses were delivered as appointed, in the presence of large congregations assembled with the Synod to hear them. And with reference to them, the Synod adopted the following:

*Resolved*, That we have heard with genuine profit and pleasure the eloquent and learned address delivered by Rev. Thornton Whaling, D. D., on "Dr. Thornwell as a Theologian," by Rev. A. M. Fraser, D. D., on "Dr. Thornwell as an Ecclesiologist," and by Rev. Thomas H. Law, D. D., on "Dr. Thornwell as a Preacher and a Teacher," all of which addresses were delivered as part of the celebration of the Centennial of the birth of the Rev. James H. Thornwell, D. D., LL. D.; and the Synod now desires to put on record its appreciation of these valuable contributions to the life and memory of our distinguished divine.

*Resolved, further*, That the Stated Clerk of Synod, with W. A. Clark, of Columbia, and John McSween, of Timmons ville, be appointed a committee and authorized to procure from the speakers copies of these addresses, and, with the consent of the speakers, have the same printed for distribution among the members of Synod; and be authorized to meet the expenses thereof out of any funds in the hands of the Treasurer not otherwise appropriated.

In compliance with these resolutions, this little volume is now sent forth.

Spartanburg, S. C., December 31, 1912.