

MEMOIR, 1780—1869

THE REV. JOHN SPROTT was born at Caldon Park, Stoneykirk, Wigtownshire, Scotland, 3rd February 1780, and was the eldest son of James Sprott, farmer there, and Margaret Hannay, his wife. He was baptized and brought up in the Church of Scotland, of which his parents were God-fearing members. He was wont to say of himself that he "could not remember a time when he did not love the Saviour, or neglected secret prayer," and in old age it was matter of deep thankfulness to him, that he had been preserved all his life from any great wickedness. At the age of eighteen he resolved to devote himself to the ministry, and after two years of preparatory study, he entered the University of Edinburgh, and continued there four years. Having connected himself with the Reformed Presbyterians, he studied at their Divinity Hall and was licensed as a preacher in 1809. After some years he joined the Synod of Relief.

He received several calls in Scotland, but was not settled, and in 1818 he sailed for America, and landed at St. John, New Brunswick, where he was welcomed by the Rev. Dr. G. Burns, afterwards of Tweedsmuir, who had been his fellow-student in Edinburgh. During the next few years, he preached in almost every part of Nova Scotia, and he was then ordained, and admitted to the pastoral charge of Windsor, Newport, and Rawdon.