

PREFACE

PERHAPS no words explanatory of the reasons for publishing these memorials of the late Rev. Nevin Woodside are necessary. As a tribute of love and respect to the finished earthly career of this prince and great man who has fallen in our spiritual Israel; as a token of sympathy to his bereaved and chastened family; as a remembrancer to the sorrowing members of his own and other churches; but above all as an acknowledgment of gratitude to God the Father, for giving to His people here on earth, the ministry of reconciliation in all the plenitude of His gracious power, the issuance of these records of the life and death of a much loved pastor and friend, is felt to be both essential and becoming.

We regret the wholly unavoidable delay in setting forth these remains. At the present time, when large libraries of memoirs, to help as guides in compiling biographical sketches are at one's disposal, it might be thought a comparatively light matter to edit memorials of the great departed. But no two memorials ever issued can be identical; no single one will serve as even a proximate pattern for the other. Projects for such an undertaking as the present take time to mature, and the months, perhaps, spent in careful and systematic planning may and indeed should, result in a more orderly arrangement and presentation of facts. Those, moreover, directly interested in the publication of these memorials, in some cases at least, have been separated by considerable distances, and procedure under such circumstances is hampered. We might also add that the very greatness of a man like Mr. Woodside makes those who are naturally sensitive to criticism shrink from undertaking to write even the slightest comment on his life and monumental work.

However, these obstacles, by the grace of God and the kind encouragement of friends, having been in a large measure overcome, we send forth these brief memorials, hoping that they will preserve fragrant in the thoughts of his own people in particular, and the Christian church in general, the recollection of one who, throughout the whole of his long ministerial career, was a consistent christian, a kind and gentle friend, a powerful preacher, a heroic convenanter, and above and beyond all, an earnest labourer for the promotion of God's declarative glory both in the church and nation.

We cordially thank all ministers, laymen and public bodies, who have so generously contributed by the furnishing of transcripts of their appreciation, as well as copies of resolutions passed anent Mr. Woodside's death, for the valuable assistance they have rendered in the publication of these memorials.