

REV. DR. THOMSON,*

Author of "The Land and the Book."

REV. W. M. THOMSON, D.D.

THE Rev. Wm. M. Thomson, D.D., whose death occurred last year at Denver, Colorado, in the eighty-ninth year of his age, was born at Springdale, Ohio, December 31st, 1806. He entered Princeton Theological Seminary in 1829, but left in 1831 before graduation, and went to Syria as a missionary of the American Board in 1832, arriving at Beyrout February 24th, 1833. He was actively connected with mission work in Syria for a period of forty-three years until 1876, when he left Syria, and after a sojourn in Scotland returned to the United States. Until 1870 he was connected with the American Board. Since that date Dr. Thomson's official connection has been with the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, until his final retirement in 1876. Since his return he published in 1880-86 the enlarged edition of "The Land and the Book," a work which has been of great value and service to all

lovers of the Bible, and with which his name will always be identified.

His father, Rev. John Thomson, and also his mother, were of Scotch-Irish descent, and removed to Ohio from Kentucky when Cincinnati was only a fort.

Dr. Thomson married Miss Eliza Nelson Hanna, of New York, before his departure for Syria. Mrs. Thomson died in 1834. He subsequently married the widow of a former English Consul in Syria, who also died a few years before Dr. Thomson finally left Syria. The circumstances of the death of his first wife were tragical. It happened that soon after his arrival in Beyrout he went in 1834 to Jerusalem. It was at the time of the disturbances incident to a rebellion against the iron rule of Mohammed Ali. Dr. Thomson had occasion to leave Jerusalem for a short journey. During his absence he was arrested and imprisoned by Ibrahim Pasha, who could not be made to understand the function of a missionary, but

took him for a spy. While Dr. Thomson was thus detained, Ibrahim Pasha marched upon Jerusalem, and, taking advantage of an earthquake, assaulted the city and captured it. Mrs. Thomson, with her infant in her arms (now the well-known Dr. William H. Thomson, of New York), took refuge in a vault. A falling stone nearly crushed the babe. Mrs. Thomson soon after became delirious and was found in this state by Dr. Thomson on his return to Jerusalem. She died while still delirious and was buried at Jerusalem.

Dr. Thomson returned to Beyrout, where he resided during most of his missionary life in Syria. He participated in many stirring scenes during the civil wars of 1841, 1845 and 1860. In the war of 1845, through his personal influence and courage, the village of Abeih, filled with refugees, was saved from a massacre. Dr. Thomson was himself shot at while carrying a flag of truce. In the disturbances

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