

**MEMOIRS OF THE  
HON.  
WALTER LOWRIE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649388035

Memoirs of the Hon. Walter Lowrie by Anonymous

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Cover @ 2017

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**ANONYMOUS**

**MEMOIRS OF THE  
HON.  
WALTER LOWRIE**





*Matthew Lourie*

MEMOIRS  
OF THE  
HON. WALTER LOWRIE

EDITED BY HIS SON

NEW YORK  
THE BAKER & TAYLOR CO.  
5 AND 7 EAST SIXTEENTH STREET  
1896

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## PREFACE.

THE first part of this book is a personal narrative—from Edinburgh, Scotland, to Butler, Penna., 1784 to 1810. The second part relates chiefly to public service—in the Legislature of Pennsylvania, the Senate of the United States, and as Secretary of the United States Senate—from 1811 to 1836. Included, according to its date in 1830, is a Treatise on Divine Revelation, presumably from Mr. Lowrie's pen. The third, and chief, part is based largely on the writings of Mr. Lowrie—reports, journals and correspondence; and also on personal interviews and conversations with him as the Corresponding Secretary for thirty years of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

Referring to Dr. Ashbel Green's History of Presbyterian Missions, 1741 to 1838, page viii., where a second volume of the History is adverted to, these Memoirs do not take its place. For a complete history, an immense number of letters on file in the Mission House would require examination. The plan of this book implies, however, a full acquaintance with the proceedings of the Executive Committee, to be referred to so far as may be expedient. The cause



of missions was greatly favored in having such eminent clergymen as Drs. Phillips, Janeway, McElroy, Spring, and others, and such laymen of influence as Messrs. James Lenox, Walter Lowrie, David W. C. Olyphant, and others, as members of the Executive Committee. Their meetings were held every Monday morning, excepting in the month of August. They enjoyed the confidence of the church, and their councils were prospered from on high.

The editor of these Memoirs may refer to the privilege of his being connected with his revered father for many years in the same work. This resulted from separate appointments by the Board, which were not sought for by either, and at first were declined by both; but which eventually led to their occupying adjoining offices in the Mission House. Previously they had been separated, when one of them went as a missionary to India, in 1833, neither he nor his wife expecting to return to this country. In a few weeks after arriving at Calcutta she was called to her heavenly home—an event full of distress to the survivor, though of joy to herself. Their esteemed colleagues, after some months, embarked for this country, under medical orders for Mr. Reed's health; but he departed this life soon on the voyage. His classmate and colleague endeavored to fulfill their mission by going alone to the selected station, at Lodianna; but eventually had to return home for his health. Partially

regaining health, he applied to the Board to be sent again to his field. Under medical counsel, this request had to be refused. Service as a pastor was then available; but by the Board it was considered that the time spent in India would be of use in the Mission House, where additional service was already required. He was thus again connected with his beloved father; and for thirty years it was his great privilege to be associated with him in his work for our blessed Lord. For nearly as long a period he has survived him, still engaged in the same work. Of late, much of his time has been occupied with these Memoirs. Imperfect as they are, may they be accepted of God, and be useful to His people!

JOHN C. LOWRIE.

*53 Fifth Avenue, New York, 1896.*

