

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY  
OF BISHOP HENRY  
CLAY MORRISON**

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Autobiography of Bishop Henry Clay Morrison by Henry Clay Morrison & George H. Means

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**HENRY CLAY MORRISON & GEORGE H. MEANS**

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY  
OF BISHOP HENRY  
CLAY MORRISON**





**BISHOP H. C. MORRISON**

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

OF

Bishop Henry Clay Morrison

REVISED AND EDITED BY

GEORGE H. MEANS, D.D.

*This above all: to thine own self be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man.*

—Shakespeare.

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**Dedication**

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**TO MY DEVOTED WIFE**

Who has shared my labors for half a century and who has been my severest critic, and therefore the greatest help in my ministry, this volume is affectionately inscribed

*Lochely 13 Apr. 1943*

## CONTENTS.

	Page.
INTRODUCTION .....	7
CHAPTER I.	
Ancestry and Youth.....	9
CHAPTER II.	
Conversion .....	14
CHAPTER III.	
The Ministry .....	20
CHAPTER IV.	
Army Life .....	24
CHAPTER V.	
Peace and Its Fruitage.....	29
CHAPTER VI.	
Marriage and Home Life.....	40
CHAPTER VII.	
City Life .....	47
CHAPTER VIII.	
Connectional Duties .....	61
CHAPTER IX.	
The Episcopacy .....	65
CONCLUSION BY THE EDITOR.....	80
APPENDIX.	
Reminiscences and Reflections.....	87
Gospel Talks .....	101





## INTRODUCTION.

PETER HERRY, the biographer and bosom friend of Francis Marion, exclaims: "O that my pen were a quill of the swan, that sings for future days! Then wouldst thou, my friend, receive the full measure of thy fame." This emotional expression of appreciation illustrates the real test of worth, the fame of future days, when all the facts are weighed in the balance of justice, when men are not swayed by friendship or warped prejudice, and when the world is converted to an impartial jury. Then, and not until then, can we measure the true worth of a faithful servant.

A biographer is too often prone to "lift a mortal to the skies or draw an angel down." And if the editor of this book had written a biography instead of editing an autobiography, no doubt he would have "dipped his pen in his heart," painted pictures in colors too gorgeous, and blurred the record by extravagant statements. As it is, we have the simple story of an active life, written without ostentation and without self-laudation, its life lessons glowing on every page for the good of rising generations and those that are yet to come.

The subject of this sketch has acted his part in many stormy periods of the Church that tried men's souls. By many he has been loved and revered, by some misunderstood; and it is expected that he should say something in justification of his conduct in certain vital emergencies, and he presents his case without rancor, simply letting the facts, as he understands them, speak for themselves.

*Autobiography of Bishop Henry Clay Morrison.*

Biographies and autobiographies are not measured by the same standard of appreciation. Friends esteem them because they perpetuate the memory of those they love, enemies question their truthfulness and treat them as a target for abuse, strangers value them for the useful facts and incidents they contain, and the great mass of readers neither know nor care about the conditions that controlled or the motives that actuated the man whose record they peruse as carelessly as they would scan the pages of a summer romance.

A jury is better fitted to render a verdict concerning an act when it knows the motives which actuated the actor. A vessel is often controlled by undercurrents which to the untutored mariner are unknown and unsuspected. There are emergencies arising in life which call for measures seemingly severe, and circumstances at other times demand a policy that may appear tame and unduly tolerant. Time only can unfold the real facts when the passing years have dulled the edge of unjust criticism.

"We can reason but from what we know." Courage is often attributed to rashness, and earnest impotency to a lack of discretion. In all life there are influences that impel a course of conduct contrary to the wishes of others, and yet which duty prompts us to pursue even when it conflicts with our own interests.

"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;  
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.  
We should count time by heart throbs. He most lives  
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

THE EDITOR.