

**ROMANCE IN RELIGION;
A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF DR. SWANDER'S LIFE**

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Romance in religion; a biographical sketch of Dr. Swander's life by John I. Swander

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JOHN I. SWANDER

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Romance in Religion

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
DR. SWANDER'S LIFE.

AUTHOR OF "THE SUBSTANTIAL PHILOSOPHY" "TEXT BOOK
ON SOUND," "THE INVISIBLE WORLD," "THE RE-
FORMED CHURCH," "THE SWANDER FAMILY," "OLD
TRUTHS IN NEW FORM," "THE EVOLUTION OF
RELIGION," "THE DIVINITY OF OUR LORD,"
"THE MERCERSBURG THEOLOGY," "AUTO-
BIOGRAPHY AND SELECTED WORKS OF
DR. SWANDER," "SEEING THE INVIS-
IBLE" AND "THE IDEAL PREACHER."



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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. Introductory and Nativity.....	9
II. Moving to Ohio.....	19
III. Starting Life Anew	37
IV. Starting Out in the World	51
V. Called to a Parsonage.....	66
VI. Starting to the Parsonage.....	76
VII. Filling the Parsonage.....	87
VIII. Another Form of Religious Energy.....	100
IX. Called to Pennsylvania	115
X. Called to Fremont, Ohio	129
XI. Entangled at Heidelberg	141
XII. Experimental Theology.....	170
XIII. Appointed as Receiver.....	182
XIV. Christological Theology.....	193
XV. The Great Sorrow of My Life.....	216
XVI. The Romantic Climax	230
XVII. Recapitulation and Supplementary.....	254

FOUNDATION
OF THE
Swander Lectureship

THE Swander Lectureship in the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in the United States, located at Lancaster, Pa., was founded by the Reverend John I. Swander, D. D., and his wife, Barbara Kimmell Swander, for the twofold purpose of promulgating sound Christological Science and of erecting a memorial to their daughter, Sarah Ellen Swander, born April 30th, 1862, died September 29th, 1879; and to their son, Nevin Ambrose Swander, born August 7th, 1863, died March 29th, 1884. It shall be known as the "Sarah Ellen and Nevin Ambrose Swander Lectureship." For its maintenance a sum of money was given to the Board of Trustees of the said Theological Seminary, the interest of which is to be applied for the publication of lectures in book form, in accordance with the conditions defined by the terms which accompanied the conveyance of the fund into the hands of the aforementioned Board of Trustees.

These lectures are delivered by members of the Faculty of the Theological Seminary, and others whom the Faculty may select and secure for such service; and while the said Faculty shall guard diligently against the admission of anything into these memorial volumes at variance with the truth as it is in Jesus, they shall not be held responsible for the views of the individual lecturers.



Romance in Religion

A Biographical Sketch of
Dr. Swanders Life

CHAPTER I.

Introductory and Nativity.

THE former sketch of my life was written and published at the request of the faculty of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in the United States, located at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Having complied with the wishes of my colaborers, in the preparation of the manuscript of that book, I yielded also to their further request to have the book inflicted upon a helpless public. It therefore appeared in 1909, as the memorial volume for that year, upon the foundation of the Swander Lectureship, which had been founded and established some years previous to that date, for the twofold purpose of promulgating sound Christological Science, and of erecting a monument sacred forever to the memory of his sainted children, rather than for the purpose of

spreading autobiographical literature before the world.

Since the above given date, God has wrought wonderful things in the world, and a few astonishing things in the writer's own life. Six eventful years have rolled away. During those years new elements have entered into my life intertwining and interweaving their mystic threads with the fibers of my being. New forms of providence have appeared in my history, and new manifestations of hitherto only partially developed principles have forced themselves to the surface, as significant periods in my personal experience, domestic affairs and social relations.

Such being the facts in the case, it may not be entirely out of order to supplement the former treatise with another volume of the new testament in the inspired scriptures of personal reminiscences of occurrences and events in a life, which, though marred by human defects, is, nevertheless, regarded by the biographer as full of that most wise and beneficent "Divinity which shapes our ends rough hew them how we will".

In such review of the history of my life, covering more than four score years, I am thankfully amazed at the growing evidence that my trembling steps have been ordered by the Lord. Though probably for a less special and important purpose, God has been and still is in my personal, domestic and ministerial history, choosing my paths, helping me to mold my character and directing me on and up to the goal of my proper destiny, as really as

he was in the callings and careers of Abraham and Moses.

The above case is not cited as one necessarily rare and exclusively peculiar to the writer's personal self. Such narrow egotism would find little sympathy and less toleration in this age of God's growing revelation of Himself, his will and his ways to the children of men. The powers of the heavenly world are now manifesting themselves to us as never before. Although the canonical scriptures are and should still be held as the peculiarly inspired and especially authorized medium of God's revelation from the supernatural world and the testimonial means of man's communication with the grand realities of the heavenly realm, it should not be overlooked that the Divine One doth still in these last days speak to and work in and through man in a manner in which he hath not bound himself exclusively to his former methods of making "known his ways unto Moses and his acts unto the children of Israel". The day of Pentecost was only the beginning of the time when men should speak with other tongues as the Spirit would give them utterance. It was only the starting point in the fulfillment of Joel's wonderful prophecy. In **these** last days we are reasonable in our expectation of **greater** showers of blessings directly from the heavenly world. Even now is the tabernacle of God dwelling among men with wider portals and more expanding dimensions.

Why should the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing when God sets his king upon