

**TWO ADDRESSES: ST. GEORGE'S
EDINBURGH, A HISTORY OF ST.
GEORGE'S CHURCH, 1814 TO
1843, AND OF ST. GEORGE'S FREE
CHURCH 1843 TO 1873**

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DAVID MACLAGAN

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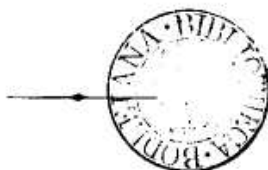
A HISTORY OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH
1814 to 1843 AND OF ST. GEORGE'S
FREE CHURCH 1843 to 1873. *****

Two Addresses

DELIVERED TO THE YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF ST. GEORGE'S
FREE CHURCH.

By

DAVID MACLAGAN, F.R.S.E.



LONDON:

T. NELSON AND SONS, PATERNOSTER ROW,
EDINBURGH; AND NEW YORK.

1876.

110. K. 638.

To

THE REV. ALEXANDER WHYTE, M.A.

MINISTER OF ST. GEORGE'S FREE CHURCH,
EDINBURGH,

AND

HONORARY PRESIDENT OF ITS YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

I dedicate,

WITH AFFECTION AND GRATITUDE,

THESE SKETCHES OF THE MINISTRIES

OF

HIS DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSORS.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.



THE Young Men's Association of St. George's Free Church, of which I have long been an Honorary Office-Bearer, and in which I have always taken a warm interest, asked me to give them a Historical Sketch of St. George's Congregation from its origin in 1814 to the death of Dr. Candlish in 1873. Being much burdened with work of different kinds, the task would certainly have been declined for any others. Having undertaken it, however, I tried, by research in Municipal and Ecclesiastical Records, in Newspaper files, in volumes of Pamphlets, and in the memories of those likely to retain facts and incidents on the subject, to give the Lectures some interest to the Association—and to the Congregation also, who were invited to be present on the occasion of their delivery. They were written under much pressure, and were not intended for any further service than as the closing Addresses of two Annual Sessions.

Appeals were made to me to print them—appeals which were resisted as long as I could do so without unduly disregarding friendly requests which were based upon the argument that

they would be interesting to our Congregation, and might be useful as a contribution to the History of the Free Church as illustrated in the fortunes of an important Congregation.

It has been out of my power to attempt any revision on an extended scale; but I have sought, while retaining the form of spoken address, to make the story as readable, and above all as accurate, as possible. To a large number of friends I owe thanks for the help given me—too large a number to be named here. I must not omit, however, to acknowledge the kindness of the Rev. Dr. Stevenson of St. George's Parish, who gave me access to the Kirk-Session Records prior to 1843, without which my first Lecture would have been impossible. I must also express my warmest acknowledgments to Dr. Omond, Session-Clerk of St. George's Free Church, who gave me similar access to the Session Records since the Disruption; and to my life-long friend, Lord Ardmillan, for many facts of interest in connection with our congregational history. I am further specially indebted to my old and valued friends, Lord Cowan and Mr. Benjamin Bell, who assisted me in revising the proofs, and gave me much counsel and help in preparing them for publication.

D. M.

EDINBURGH, January 1876.

Any profits arising from this publication are to go to the Funds of the Young Men's Association of St. George's Free Church, and to be at their disposal for any purpose they may deem right.


EXTRACT FROM ACT OF PARLIAMENT, XLIX.
GEORGE III., C. 21, S. 13.

And whereas it is necessary that two additional churches should be built within the limits over which the royalty of the said city of Edinburgh was extended by the said recited Acts of the 7th, 25th, and 26th years of the reign of his present Majesty, or is extended by this Act; Be it enacted, that the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of the said city, and their successors in office, shall be and they are hereby authorized and required forthwith to enter into contracts for building and completing, within a competent time, one church for the additional accommodation of the inhabitants within the limits over which the royalty of the said city was extended by the said before recited Acts; and that as soon as there shall be five thousand inhabitants within the limits over which the royalty of the said city is extended by this present Act, the said Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council, and their successors in office, shall be and they are hereby authorized and required to build another church for the accommodation of those inhabitants.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH EDINBURGH.

Part First.

1814-1843.

HE New Town of Edinburgh in 1810 was, of course, a very different place from the New Town of 1874. Moray Place, Ainslie Place, Randolph Crescent, were then green fields, thickly wooded, on the banks of the Water of Leith. There was no building west of Charlotte Square—which itself was not then complete—and Heriot Row and Abercromby Place were only partially built. The only Presbyterian church in the New Town was St. Andrew's, of which Dr. Moodie and Dr. David Ritchie—who was also Professor of Logic—were ministers; and the church accommodation was accordingly so deficient that many loyal members of the Church of Scotland were obliged to worship in Episcopal chapels until the new church in Charlotte Square should be ready.

The plans of St. George's were furnished by Robert Reid, architect; and the estimated cost of the building was £18,000. Estimated costs then, as now, seem to have been very unreliable