

**PRESBYTERIANISM,
THREE HUNDRED
YEARS AGO**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649389353

Presbyterianism, three hundred years ago by Wm. P. Breed

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WM. P. BREED

**PRESBYTERIANISM,
THREE HUNDRED
YEARS AGO**



John Knox

HEB
B.

PRESBYTERIANISM

THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

BY THE

REV. WM. P. BREED, D.D.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION,
No. 1334 CHESTNUT STREET.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1872, by
THE TRUSTEES OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION,
In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

3104
9/18/40

WESTCOTT & THOMSON,
Stereotypers and Electrotypers, Philadelphia.

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INTRODUCTION.

ECCLESIASTICAL history is the record of the outworking of God's decree for the world's renovation. It is the complicated story of the progress of the truth, its assaults upon error, the resistance of error to these assaults, and the results, in the life and experience of men and nations, of these onsets and oppositions—results many of them cheering and glorious, some of them fearful and bloody. Full of food for the head and the heart is such a story!

It was a wise charge, therefore, of the Presbyterian General Assembly of 1871, that its synods, presbyteries and congregations should take advantage of the advent of the year 1872 to refresh their own and the people's minds with the memories that come down to us from the year 1572, to

meditate upon the furious conflicts that then were raging, to gaze again upon the grand, heroic and devoted champions that then led the hosts of Israel, and to contrast the sweet quietude of our own times with the turmoil and woes, the defeats and triumphs, of our brethren three hundred years ago. Having prepared and preached a discourse upon this subject, the writer was allured by the attractions of the theme and its obvious instructiveness to enlarge the manuscript into a small volume. There is here no pretence to original research, but simply a presentation of the results of an effort to gather and group in a brief compact form those facts which lie scattered through many volumes on our bookshelves.

The plan of the book embraces the following points :

1. A statement of the fact, together with confirmatory proof of the fact, that three hundred years ago the Protestant world was almost exclusively a Presbyterian world.

2. A rapid survey of this Presbyterian-