

**LIFE SKETCHES OF
REV.
ALFRED COOKMAN**

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Life sketches of Rev. Alfred Cookman by W. McDonald

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W. MCDONALD

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Life Sketches of 
Rev. Alfred Cookman

By Rev. W. McDonald

"He was not Pauline, but he was Johanne. He was the brother of John. He leaned upon his Master's breast, from whom he drew his inspiration."
—Bishop R. S. Foster, at the funeral of Alfred Cookman.



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PREFACE.



WE have been induced to prepare this brief life of our esteemed friend and brother, Alfred Cookman, to meet a long-felt need; viz., a comprehensive account of this holy man, adapted to the great mass of the Church whom he loved, and who love and revere his memory. The late Dr. H. B. Ridgaway, some years ago, wrote a most exhaustive life of this good man, which was, in all respects, worthy of the scholarly author. It was a book of nearly 500 pages, published by the Harpers, and sold at \$2 per copy. It seemed to have failed in two particulars: It was too expensive for people of moderate means, and too bulky and exhaustive

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for busy people, who have little leisure for reading.

The present volume seeks to avoid these extremes. We have sought to present in a condensed form all that is essential to a proper understanding and appreciation of the character of this saintly man.

We are indebted to the Messrs. Harpers for permission to use a few selections from the aforesaid Life, as the work has for some time been out of print.

People of small means, equally with those of abundance, will find this Life of Alfred Cookman, small as it is, an inspiration to holy living, and a blessing which will cheer and help them in the struggles and conflicts of life.

In view of Mr. Cookman's deep, life-long interest in the colored race, we have arranged that the entire profits

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from the sale of this work shall be devoted to the benefit of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Our fervent prayer is that the spirit of Alfred Cookman may possess all the workers in this field, as well as the people for whom they labor. This will fully compensate the writer for any labor he has performed, and will fully meet the wishes of Mrs. Cookman and her children.



INTRODUCTION.



THE vision of John Fletcher's face often sent conviction to the sinner's heart. Edward Perronet, who wrote the immortal hymn,

"All hail the power of Jesus' name,
Let angels prostrate fall,"

had a brother, William, who testified that the first sight of Fletcher's face so impressed him that he never got over it till he gave his heart to God.

Dr. Daniel Devinne, once a missionary in the then remote wilds of Louisiana, wrote Dr. Abel Stevens, the historian of Methodism, that on his circuit he found a settler who had been reproved by Fletcher of Madeley for profanity. He was struck dumb by the look of the vicar, and though afterwards he went to sea and forgot the words of rebuke