

**HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN BOARD  
OF PUBLICATION AND SABBATH-  
SCHOOL WORK: PREPARED AT  
THE SUGGESTION OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF 1888, UNDER THE  
DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY**

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History of the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work: prepared at the suggestion of the General Assembly of 1888, under the direction of the secretary by Willard M. Rice

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**WILLARD M. RICE**

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HISTORY  
OF THE  
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PREPARED AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1888, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY,

BY THE  
REV. WILLARD M. RICE, D.D.

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PHILADELPHIA:  
PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION  
AND SABBATH-SCHOOL WORK,  
1354 CHESTNUT STREET.



# INTRODUCTION.

BY REV. E. R. CRAVEN, D. D.,  
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD.

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THE General Assembly of 1886, when making arrangements for the meeting of the one hundredth Assembly, passed the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That each of the Boards of our Church be urged to provide for the preparation and publication of the history and outlook of its work, and arrange for the presentation of a brief synopsis of the same at its evening meeting during the sessions of the General Assembly of 1888.

In compliance with the first part of this resolution, the Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work requested its Recording Clerk, the Rev. Willard M. Rice, D. D., to prepare a history of the institution. This work could not have been committed to more competent hands. Dr. Rice has been associated with the institution for thirty years, having been appointed a member of the Old School Board in 1860. He was appointed Recording Clerk of that body in 1862, and in that office he was continued until the Reunion, and since that event to the present time.

The work as prepared by Dr. Rice is eminently satisfactory. It is accurate, exhaustive and well written.

It presents a living picture of the operations of one of the most important agencies of the Church.

The history naturally is divided into four parts:

Part I. treats of the actions of Assemblies and Synods in reference to the publication of religious literature previous to 1838, in which year the Board was first established by the O. S. Assembly as "The Board of Publication of Tracts and Sabbath-school Books." It notes the change of title and the enlargement of the sphere of the newly-formed Board in the following year, and then traces its operations and its gradual development until the Reunion in 1870.

Part II. sets forth the history of the Presbyterian Publication Committee from its establishment in 1852 by the N. S. General Assembly until the Reunion.

Part III. carries on the history from the Reunion of the churches in 1870 until the reorganization of the Board in 1887.

Part IV. describes the institution as reorganized by the Assembly of 1887 under the title of "The Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work." It contains the report of the Special Committee appointed by the Assembly of 1886, in accordance with whose recommendation the reorganization was effected, and also a complete statement of the work of the different departments since the reorganization.

The work is enriched with a valuable Appendix, which contains the "Charter of the Board;" tabulated statements of receipts and missionary work; and a list of all the members since the beginning, with the dates of their appointment and death or resignation.



I,

PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

1838—1870.



## PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

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THE Presbyterian Church has always set a high estimate upon the power of the press. Its contributions to every department of literature have been varied and valuable. In our own country from the days of Makemie until now its ministers have made free use of the printed page for the dissemination of religious truth. In 1735 the Synod of Philadelphia, then the supreme judicatory of the Church, appointed a committee for the supervision of whatever its members should see cause to prepare for the press upon any controversy in religious matters. From time to time through the eighteenth century the Synod, and afterward the General Assembly, directed the purchase and distribution of Bibles and religious books among the poor and on the frontiers, and the publication of the Standards of the Church, etc. In the early part of the present century this course was continued, and appropriations were repeatedly made for the distribution of books among the needy and the colored population. In 1809 the Assembly recommended the formation of synodical tract societies to secure the distribution of tracts within their bounds. Presbyterians were prominent among the founders of the American Bible Society in 1817, the American Sun-