

**THE LIFE AND CHARACTER
OF CALVIN:
THE REFORMER,
REVIEWED AND DEFENDED**

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The Life and Character of Calvin: The Reformer, Reviewed and Defended by Thomas Smyth

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THOMAS SMYTH

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LIFE AND CHARACTER

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OF
CALVIN,

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REVIEWED AND DEFENDED.

BY THE
REV. THOMAS SMYTH, D. D.

Author of Lectures on the Apostolical Succession, Presbytery and
not Prelacy the Scriptural and Primitive Polity, Ecclesiastical Repub-
licanism, An Ecclesiastical Catechism, &c.

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Quid enim tota ejus vita nisi tempestas veluti quaedam  
perpetua fuit?—MORUS.  
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P R E F A C E .

THE fact that John Calvin was led, by the grace of God, to embrace and defend all the essential principles of doctrine and polity, which distinguish the system of Presbyterianism, has exposed him to the unceasing calumny of all those to whom that system is unpalatable. Romanists, prelatists, and errorists of every name, have vied with one another in their efforts to blacken his character and detract from his fame. The defence of Calvin against these misrepresentations is necessary for the glory

of that God who called him by his rich grace; for the honour of that truth in whose cause Calvin lived and died; and for the maintenance of that church to which he was attached, and which is built upon the foundation laid by apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. And this defence is in a peculiar manner the privilege and duty of Presbyterians, with whom Calvin has been so generally identified.

Actuated by these views, the alumni of the Theological Seminary at Princeton appointed the author to deliver a discourse in vindication of the life and character of Calvin, at their anniversary meeting in May, 1843. The substance of the following little work was accordingly delivered in Philadelphia, in the

second Presbyterian church, during the sessions of the General Assembly. At the request of the alumni, it has since been published in some of our religious papers; and it is now prepared by the desire of the Board of Publication of the Presbyterian Church, for publication as one of their volumes.

That it may lead the members of our beloved church more highly to estimate and prize the character and achievements of Calvin; that they may thus be excited to bless God, (who raised up Calvin, and qualified him for his work) for his past dealings with his church, while they humbly look for his continued guidance and protection—and that the inhabitants of this country may be brought by it more deeply to appreciate the influence of Calvin, and of the sys-