

**THE PLEA AND THE PIONEERS IN
VIRGINIA; A HISTORY OF THE RISE AND
EARLY PROGRESS OF
THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST IN VIRGINIA,
WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE
PIONEER PREACHERS**

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The plea and the pioneers in Virginia; a history of the rise and early progress of the Disciples of Christ in Virginia, with biographical sketches of the pioneer preachers by Frederick Arthur Hodge

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FREDERICK ARTHUR HODGE

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OLD SCAMORIE CHURCH

See page 83

The Plea and the Pioneers in Virginia

A History of the Rise and Early Progress of the
disciples of Christ in Virginia, with
Biographical Sketches of the
Pioneer Preachers

BY
FREDERICK ARTHUR HODGE

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Dedication

To the descendants of the Virginia pioneer preachers, whose lives were given to the restoration of the Christianity of Christ and his Apostles in both doctrine and practice, this volume is respectfully dedicated.

"I sent you to reap that whereon ye have not labored; others have labored, and ye are entered into their labor."—John 4:38.

PREFACE

In the crowning religious reformation, which had for its object the restoration of the primitive Christianity of Apostolic times, Virginia took no secondary part. Her pioneers were in the front ranks of the movement, and never did men contend more earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints than did they.

Our object in presenting this little volume to the public is threefold. First: The reformation in Pennsylvania and that part of Old Virginia now known as West Virginia has been set forth in Richardson's "Memoirs of A. Campbell"; Haley's "Dawn of the Reformation" performs a similar work for Missouri; the reformation in Ohio has been depicted in Hayden's "Early History of Disciples in Western Reserve"; the pioneer history of the movement in Kentucky is derived from the biographies of John Smith and Jacob Creath; Virginia alone, of all the States that took a prominent part in the restoration of primitive Christianity, has up to this time had no written record of her pioneer reformers. Our second reason is: That the younger generation about to become the pillars in the churches of Christ know little if anything of the lives of those grand old men, their forefathers, who fought so nobly the good fight of faith; nor can they justly appreciate the necessity of standing firm on the bedrock principles of the Old Jerusalem Gospel. Third: Doctrinal points are more easily understood when their application is in the concrete than when it is abstract. Our history as a people is the story of our plea in the concrete.

During the year 1901 the author embodied some of the material found in this work in a series of essays,

which were published in the *Christian Guide*. Owing to the interest manifested in these essays, and at the request of several Virginia Disciples, he has ventured to put this material into a more connected and permanent form. From the "Sketches of Deceased Virginia Ministers," published in the *Christian Examiner* of 1870 and 1871, by Elder Peter Ainslie, also from "Sketches of our Pioneers," by F. D. Power, the author has drawn much information found in the second part of this work, one or two sketches having been copied nearly verbatim from Bro. Ainslie's. The sources of information from which the first part of the work is drawn are mainly the "*Millennial Harbingers*," "*Christian Baptists*," and Richardson's "*Memoirs of A. Campbell*." We take this opportunity of acknowledging our indebtedness to the works named.

To a large number of friends and brethren who have rendered valuable assistance in gathering the material, we are deeply indebted.

We wish also to acknowledge our indebtedness to Bro. F. D. Power, D. D., of Washington, D. C., for the able address which appears as our Introductory Chapter; also to Bro. O. E. Sears, Ph. D., of Farmville, Va., who has rendered valuable assistance as literary critic.

Hoping that this volume may make us value more fully the labors of our forefathers, and bring us to a clearer knowledge of God's will as revealed in his word, we send it forth on its mission.

F. A. HODGE.

Virginia Christian College, Lynchburg, Va., May 10th, 1905.