

**CALVIN DEFENDED: A
MEMOIR OF THE LIFE,
CHARACTER, AND
PRINCIPLES OF JOHN CALVIN**

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Calvin defened: a memoir of the life, character, and principles of John Calvin by Thomas Smyth

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THOMAS SMYTH

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THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Calvin Defended

A MEMOIR
OF THE LIFE, CHARACTER
AND PRINCIPLES OF

John Calvin

BY THE
REV. THOMAS SMYTH, D. D.

New Edition



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PREFACE.

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 honor 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 Pres-

byterians, 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 incited 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 system he advocated in securing those blessings of religious and civil freedom by which they are distinguished, is the sincere prayer of

THE AUTHOR.

NOTE BY THE PUBLISHERS.

THIS work, by the Rev. Dr. Smythe, has proved so valuable and so useful that, the original edition having been exhausted, it is now stereotyped and this new edition offered to the public by

THE PUBLISHERS.

NOVEMBER, 1831.