

**LIFE AND DEEDS OF  
DR. JOHN  
MCGREGOR**

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Life and Deeds of Dr. John McGregor by Jeremiah S. McGregor

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**JEREMIAH S. MCGREGOR**

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# LIFE AND DEEDS

OF

## Dr. JOHN MCGREGOR,

INCLUDING SCENES OF HIS CHILDHOOD, ALSO SCENES ON THE BATTLE FIELD OF BULL RUN, AT THE PRISONS IN RICHMOND, CHARLESTON, CASTLE PINCKNEY, COLUMBIA, SALISBURY, ON THE BANKS OF THE JAMES RIVER, HIS ESCAPE, HIS RETURN HOME, THE TRAGIC SCENE ON DYER ST., AND THE HEART-RENDING SCENE AT THE CITY HOTEL IN PROVIDENCE, WHERE HIS EVENTFUL LIFE TERMINATED.

BY

JEREMIAH S. MCGREGOR.

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FOSTER:

PRESS OF FRY BROTHERS,  
1886.

## PREFACE.

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The life of a public man is a leaf of History. It is a leaf also in which minute facts, and particular causes, and personal transactions, are brought out in such strong relief as to have the effect of a picture taken from the Great World, but viewed as we view small portions of the firmament through telescopic glasses. Such lives are essential elements in the great picture of Humanity in action. We must see the heads of the actors, as well as the great moral of the actions, which together compose the drama of human society.

The life of Dr. John McGregor is such an element in the history of our last war. It cannot be separated from the great struggle



with the South. Men may take what view they please of him, or the acts in which he was engaged; but some view they must take. Many of his acts were no trifling parts, nor performed in an unimportant period, of American progress. They were brilliant points on the battle field of Bull Run. They moved on from that bloody field to those loathsome Southern prisons. They made part in the terrible scenes at Richmond, Charleston, Castle Pinckney, Salisbury, and on the banks of the James River, terminating in a tragical and heart-rending scene on Dyer Street, and at the City Hotel, in the city of Providence. In all these scenes, whether of war or peace, the acts of John McGregor cannot be separated from History. My duty is to place the lineaments of a public character on record, where they may be seen by all observers, and left, undisfigured, to the final judgment of posterity. This duty the writer has undertaken to perform with strict fidelity. The records of

the country, happily, furnish the foundation for most of his statements; the testimony of eminent and honorable gentlemen, themselves actors in some of the scenes described, furnishes other materials; and, finally, the papers and narratives of private persons make up an aggregate of facts and evidence amply sufficient to satisfy the demands of Truth and Justice.

These facts the writer has undertaken to compose in a clear method, an easy narrative, and, as far as he has the ability, an agreeable style. Beyond this he does not seek to go. He would neither exaggerate the objects in his picture, nor add a coloring beyond the hues of nature. Nor has he need, for the scenes through which the doctor passed, have interest enough without any distorted figures drawn by the pen of Fancy. In fine, the writer desires to make a volume of authentic and unimpeachable history. It will aid the historian who, in future time, shall wish to fill

up his page with the actors and actions of our days.

The life of a man whose mind was so concentrated on Surgery, Physical Science, and the art of medicine, is one in which the lover of those sciences cannot fail to take deep interest. It is but natural that men will seek to know the origin of one who stood in the foremost rank with the most noted Surgeons and Physicians of Rhode Island and Connecticut, and the facts of his early life, and of the expanding of his mind. With eager curiosity we look back, and in the sports of his childhood, in the pursuits and occupations of his youth, we seek the origin and source of all that is noble and exalted in the man, the germ and the bud from which have burst forth the fair fruit and the beautiful flower; and we carefully treasure up each trifling incident and childish expression, in the hope to trace in them some feature of his after greatness. Feeling that the early life of a man like John McGregor,