

**A MEMOIR OF JOHN  
MACLEAN, M.D., THE FIRST  
PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY IN  
THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

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A Memoir of John Maclean, M.D., the First Professor of Chemistry in the college of New Jersey  
by John Maclean

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A MEMOIR  
OF  
JOHN MACLEAN, M.D.,

THE FIRST PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY IN THE  
COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY,

BY HIS SON,

JOHN MACLEAN,

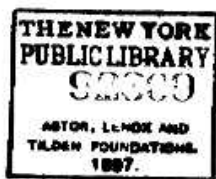
THE TENTH PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE.

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1876.

2-4



ROY W  
JUN  
WASH

A stamp consisting of three lines of text, each line formed by a grid of small dots. The text is "ROY W", "JUN", and "WASH".

TO  
GEORGE MACINTOSH MACLEAN, M.D., PH.D.,  
AND  
ARCHIBALD MACLEAN, ESQ.,  
THE OTHER SURVIVING MEMBERS OF HIS  
FATHER'S FAMILY,  
THIS MEMOIR IS INSCRIBED  
BY THE WRITER,  
IN TOKEN OF HIS LOVE AND RESPECT  
FOR THEM.

## PREFACE.

In preparing a history of the College of New Jersey, the writer was of necessity led to speak of his own father, who for seventeen years was a Professor in the College; and for a considerable portion of this time the only one, with the exception of President S. S. Smith, who was Professor of Divinity and Moral Philosophy as well as President.

While engaged on this work, the thought occurred to him, that he ought to write a fuller account of his father than would be suitable for the proposed history of the College; and that was the origin of this memoir.

The things mentioned in this narrative are in some instances given rather with respect to their connection with each other than to the order of their occurrence.



## MEMOIR.

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Dr. Maclean was born in the city of Glasgow, Scotland, on the first day of March, 1771. His father, after whom he was named, was by profession a surgeon, both in civil and military service. His grandfather, the Rev. Archibald Maclean, was minister of the Parish of Kilfinichen, which included the well known Island of IONA. Upon retiring from the army, his father practised surgery in the city of Glasgow, and resided there until his death. He was present at the capture of Quebec from the French, and he was the third man who succeeded in scaling the famous heights of Abraham, then regarded as a formidable and natural defence of that city. A short time before going with the British army to Canada, he married Miss Agnes Lang, of Glasgow, and their youngest child is the subject of this memoir.

In a Historical and Genealogical account of the clan Maclean, published in London, in 1838, page 282, mention is made of Dr. Maclean's going to America, and of his marriage here. His mother's name is inaccurately given as Anne

Long, instead of Agnes Lang. This genealogical account of the clan furnishes the data by which Dr. Maclean's lineage can be traced back to Gillean, the founder of the clan in the thirteenth century.

In early life he had the misfortune to lose both his parents, but had the happiness to have for his guardian George Macintosh, Esq., a gentleman of rare worth, who took great interest in his welfare, and made excellent provision for his instruction, by sending him to the Glasgow Grammar School, where he made rapid and real advancement, and then to the University, which his intelligence and proficiency enabled him to enter, while he was yet a lad between twelve and thirteen; no inquiry having been made in regard to his age.

For his good scholarship, and upon a public examination, he obtained at the Grammar School several premiums, and one or more after his admission to the University. The prizes at the Grammar School were awarded on the calends of October, in successive years, and each one consisted of a Latin classic suited to the proficiency of the pupil. The premiums assigned to the subject of this memoir were the "Excellentium Imperatorum Vitæ" of Cornelius Nepos; the Commentaries of Julius Cæsar; the works of Virgil and of Horace, and Lucan's Pharsalia. This last was given by the University, and with the following certificate signed by the *Humanity* Professor:

JOAN: M'LEAN,  
 Universitatis Glasguensis Alumnus  
 Elegantioris ingenii dotes  
 Diligenter graviter excolens,

Hoc Praemium Academicum,  
 Empt: pecuniis in hunc usum,  
 A Fratibus  
 Georgii Muirhead, quondam, L. H. P.  
 In hac Universitate, legatis,  
 Publice tulit,  
 Kal: Ipsiis Maii, 1785,  
 Guli: Richardson, L. H. P.

Both in the Grammar School and in the University of Glasgow, the course of instruction in the Greek language was much more limited than the Latin curriculum. To this cause are we to ascribe the fact that Dr. M. was not the proficient in Greek that he was in Latin. Yet he never underrated the great importance of a thorough knowledge of the Greek to a liberally educated man, and especially to a minister of the Gospel. He died before his eldest son, the writer of this sketch, had fully attained the age of fourteen years; but having a hope that his son would, if spared to manhood, enter the ministry, he urged him to devote himself earnestly to the study of the Greek language. In a letter to him of the date of the 7th of November, 1812, he thus writes: "When you write to me again, which let it be soon, tell me what you are studying. In the meantime, be sure to attend particularly to your Greek; yet upon no account neglect your Latin. Be assured, that notwithstanding what ignorant or lazy people may say, it is a matter of great consequence for every gentleman, or professional man, to be a good classical scholar; but, besides, I have a particular end in view in making you one. See to it then, and be careful that you are well acquainted with Prosody. I have known several good scholars, who, from inattention to Prosody, have made themselves laughing stocks to mere drivellers in classical literature."