

**MEMORIAL VOLUME,  
COVENANT  
RENOVATION**

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Memorial volume, covenant renovation by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**MEMORIAL VOLUME,  
COVENANT  
RENOVATION**





# MEMORIAL VOLUME.

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## COVENANT RENOVATION

BY THE SYNOD OF THE

✓  
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN NORTH AMERICA.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF SYNOD.

"They shall ask the way to Zion, with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord, in a perpetual covenant, that shall not be forgotten." Jer. 50: 5.

PITTSBURGH:  
BAKEWELL & MARTHENS,  
1872.

This volume is published in accordance with the following action of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America :

“The Committee on the advisability of publishing a Memorial Volume on the act of Covenanting, reported :

“ We recommend that Synod appoint a committee of three, with power to prepare, and have published, at as early a day as possible, a history of the taking of the covenant, with such a synopsis of the proceedings as they may deem expedient.”

J. R. W. SLOANE,

J. W. SPROULL,

S. A. STERRETT,

Committee.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1872,

BY THE COMMITTEE

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# COVENANT RENOVATION.

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## NARRATIVE.

THE transaction which this volume is designed to commemorate marks an important era in the history of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America.

The limits to which we are necessarily confined, preclude any discussion of the Scriptural ordinance of covenanting, or any detailed history of those memorable epochs in which the church of God has exemplified this part of her testimony.

For information upon these points, we must refer the reader to the discourses in the body of this volume, and to such other sources as are easily accessible.

The object which we have in view is simply to present a brief narrative of the Act of Covenanting by the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, in the city of Pittsburgh, May 27, 1871.

It has been the custom of the church to commemorate remarkable events in her history, both by material structures and literary records. We have early instances of the former in Jacob's pillars, those set up by Moses at Mount Sinai, the twenty-four stones erected by Joshua at the passage of the Jordan, and the one which he set up

under the oak by the sanctuary of the Lord in Shechem ; of the latter, in Miriam's song at the Red Sea, that of Deborah and Barak at the overthrow of Sisera, and in many of the Psalms of David.

Following such approved examples, Synod resolved to erect a commemorative pillar—a "Memorial Theological Seminary,"—as an expression of devout thankfulness to our covenant God for the tokens of the divine favor enjoyed in all the circumstances of this solemn transaction, and also to issue this "Memorial Volume" as a means of perpetuating its remembrance, and transmitting to posterity an accurate account of the impressive services connected with it. "Walk about Zion and go round about her ; tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever. He will be our guide even unto death." "Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth. I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations, therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever."

In the September number of the *Reformed Presbyterian and Covenanters* for 1871, will be found a detailed account of the various attempts made by the church in this country to renew her federal engagements. Although many of these efforts resulted only in disappointment and apparent failure, it is manifest that the Head of the church was all the time preparing his people for a realization of their hopes, while leading them by a way which they knew not.

At the meeting of Synod held at Northwood, Ohio,

May, 1868, petitions from the 1st congregation of New York, 1st Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh, were presented, urging immediate attention to the subject of covenanting. These petitions were favorably received, and a special committee appointed to report on the subject at that meeting of Synod. The following is the report of the committee :

“WHEREAS, Public social covenanting is a duty and privilege of the church under the New Testament dispensation ; and whereas, it is a distinctive principle of the Reformed Presbyterian Church that such engagements should be entered into at suitable seasons ; and whereas, the ordinance of covenanting has never been practically exemplified by the church in America ; and whereas, it is our devout conviction that the proper observance of this ordinance would be blessed by God to the revival of the church through the outpouring of his Holy Spirit ; and whereas, we are profoundly convinced that there is in the present aspects of divine providence toward our church an urgent call to enter immediately upon the work of covenant renovation ; therefore,

“*Resolved*, That Synod appoint a special committee to prepare the draft of a covenant, and make all necessary arrangements for entering upon the work of covenanting without unnecessary delay.”

The adoption of this report was immediately followed by the appointment of a committee, consisting of S. O. Wylie, D. D., J. R. W. Sloane, D. D., T. Sproull, D. D., A. Stevenson, D. D., and William Crawford—J. Wiggins and Andrew Knox were subsequently added—to carry out the recommendations of the report.