

**THE LIFE OF REV.
ARCHIBALD MACLAY,
D.D., 1776-1860**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649634811

The Life of Rev. Archibald Maclay, D.D., 1776-1860 by Isaac Walker Maclay

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ISAAC WALKER MACLAY

**THE LIFE OF REV.
ARCHIBALD MACLAY,
D.D., 1776-1860**

THE LIFE
OF
REV. ARCHIBALD MACLAY, D.D.

"An Eminent Minister of the Baptist Church for more
than half a century.

—American Almanac for 1860.

1776 - 1860.

BY
ISAAC WALKER MACLAY.

Limited Number of 500 Copies only, of which this is No. ~~XXIX~~

1902
POLYDOR BARNES CO. PRESS
11 FRANKFORT STREET,
NEW YORK.

T
m

NEW YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
937666A
JAMES LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
1902

NEW YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

PREFACE

"Some angel guide my pencil, while I draw,
What nothing else than angel can excell,
A man on earth devoted to the skies,
With aspect mild, and elevated eye.
Behold him seated on a mount serene,
Above the fogs of sense, and passion's storm;
All the black cares and tumults of this life,
Like harmless thunders breaking at his feet,
Excite his pity, not impair his peace."

Perhaps this book might not inappropriately be called *Fifty Years Reminiscences of Baptist ministry*, instead of the life of the Rev. Archibald Maclay, for the threads of his history are so interwoven with the recital of the rise and growth of the Baptists in this country, that the two are inseparable. Appleton's *Encyclopedia* says of him: "that, he was a speaker and writer of great power, a Pastor of one church about thirty consecutive years, now known as the *Tabernacle Baptist Church* in *Second Avenue* and who contributed largely, as one of the early pioneers of that denomination, to promote its numbers and extend its bounds."

But the best tribute to him is contained in the following letter from an adopted son in the minis-

try, whose aid in this compilation has been most invaluable.

MURRAY STREET BAPTIST CHURCH,
PETERBORO, ONT.
J. BASTOW, PASTOR.

March 18, 1902.

MY DEAR BROTHER:

I am glad you are writing a life of your grandfather, Rev. Archibald Maclay, D. D. Undoubtedly his name will be preserved in history and be highly honored for his noble Christian character and for the large and excellent influence he exerted in connection with the Baptist denomination in its early history in New York City. He was for many years a popular and successful preacher, a faithful and efficient pastor, and greatly beloved by all who knew him. Very few ministers of the Gospel have officiated at so many marriages and funerals as he did, or have been so universally revered as he was. He was a great comforter to sorrowing ones, and a helper to the needy. He had a tender heart, and a helping hand. He brought up twelve children of his own, and adopted seven orphans. This is something of a revelation of the largeness of his heart.

I owe more to him for what I am to-day than to any other person in the world. I met him first when I was a lad, in Bradford, England. He then formed the purpose to take me to America and give me an education for the ministry of eight years in Madison University, now called Colgate University. He said nothing of his purpose to anyone until he could learn something about my character from those who knew me well. Yet he could not forget his purpose, and he embraced every opportunity that came to him to get the needed information. And when he had obtained enough to feel assured that I was worthy of his kindness, and that I would make a right use of it, he sent for me to announce his generous intention. Never was I so overwhelmed with joy as at that moment. He made every arrangement possible to carry out that intention. I came to the United States soon after his return and he sent me to the University and provided a scholarship through the kindness of Deacon William Colgate. After the death of William Colgate, Robert Colgate, at the Dr.'s solici-

tation, continued the scholarship to the end of my course. Deacon Peter Bolen added \$50 annually to that scholarship for the last four years of my University course. To make this full provision for my education, was amongst the last cares of the Dr.'s life. This generous act of Dr. Maclay's is only one of many of a similar kind in his long and useful career.

The Dr. was a man of extraordinary piety. He was a constant reader of the Bible. He drank deeply into its Spirit. He must have committed large portions of it to memory, for he could not preach or pray, or converse or write, without a liberal use of its phraseology. For years he was agent of the American Bible Society. He filled the position with rare usefulness. Nothing could be more congenial to his nature than the spread of the Word of God. The Society placed a high value upon his services. His desire for the translation of the Bible into the purest and plainest English possible was intense. Hence he worked with great sacrificing zeal for the Bible Union, whose supreme aim was a pure English version of the Scriptures. His labors for this Society were the suitable crowning work of his life.

Doctor Maclay was a very social man. His work as agent for the two Bible Societies necessarily brought him into many homes. He was a welcome guest wherever he was known to children and adults alike. He was courteous, affable and affectionate. He was a fine story teller and he had an abundant store to draw from. His stories, however, were always pure and elevating. Few could tell a story better than he. He knew where to put the emphasis by word, gesture, tone and twinkle of the eye. His social life was as elevating as his preaching. His friendships were strong, numerous and scattered in every direction.

The Doctor was pre-eminently paternal, therefore he was called "Father Maclay." Everyone that knew him could see the suitability of that title. This was not simply spontaneous upon the lips of the younger portion of the congregation to which he belonged, but the ministry generally instinctively called him by this title. I never heard of another Baptist minister anywhere in the world so generally addressed by this title. Indeed Baptists are very shy everywhere of bestowing this title, upon anyone. But no one scrupled to use this title, with respect to the Dr., who fully knew him. Of course the title sprang out of the paternal nature. He was affectionate, provident, sympathetic and com-

manded the love and reverence of the people that knew him. I shall never forget this paternal aspect in his bearing towards me, in that interview we had in which he announced his intention to educate me for the ministry. And all the letters he sent me afterwards breathed a father's love and care.

Yours fraternally,

JONATHAN BASTOW.

INTRODUCTION.

Most biographies are prepared by those who either have no personal knowledge of the subjects themselves, or else have a very slight acquaintance with the characters portrayed, and consequently much of the information is obtained from other channels, than the family. For this reason, authors rely upon glittering generalities, or upon fancied deductions; and in many instances conclusions are reached, based upon very unreliable and fictitious premises.

In the present instance, the compiler of this volume, approaches the subject with great diffidence from the fact of near relationship—preferring to quote from the testimony of others, expressions of praise and commendation of his forefather.

Instead of clothing him with the customary adulation of biographers, extracts showing the opinion and views of contemporaneous clergymen and the press are presented—most of them written during his lifetime when the writers were familiar with the subject, and the matter was fresh in their minds.

It is not the purpose of this work, however, to extol the virtues or magnify the good qualities characteristic of this clergyman; but simply to transmit to others an impartial account of his life and history.

The following pages relate to the life and labors of one who devoted not only his best days, but all