

# **HERO TALES OF CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY**

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Hero Tales of Congregational History by Grace T. Davis

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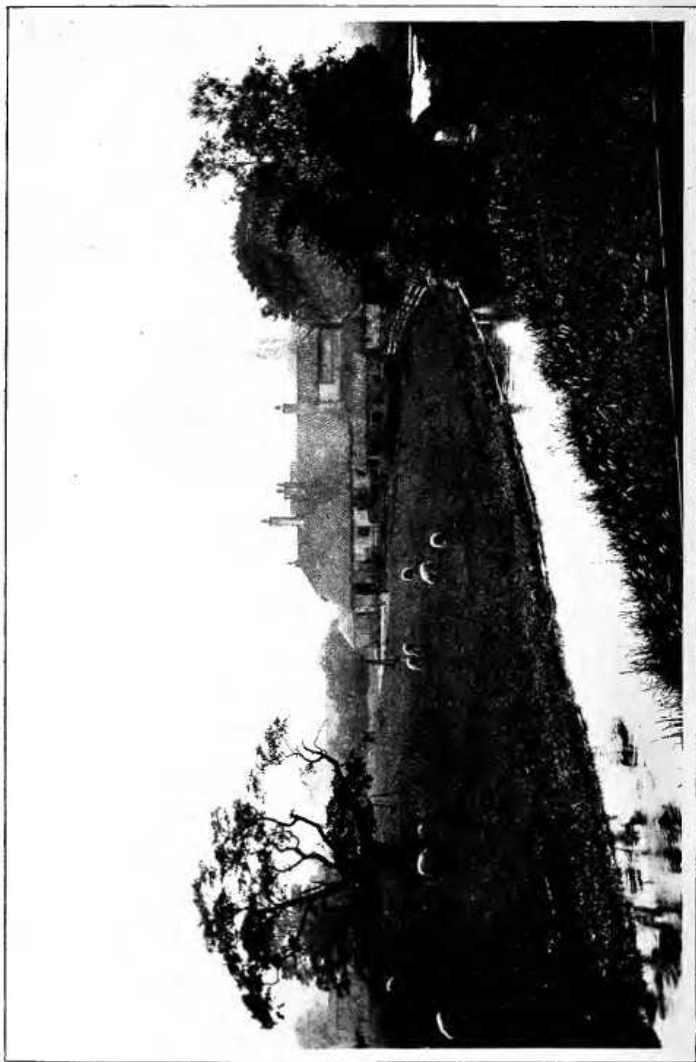
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Manor-house, Scrooby

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of Congregational History

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BY  
GRACE T. DAVIS



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TO  
MY FATHER AND MOTHER



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## PREFACE

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“**T**HERE were giants in the earth in those days.” So wrote the author of the ancient Book of Beginnings. That was long ages ago, but ever since, in every generation, there have been giants, not men of enormous stature, or men many hundred years old such as the author of Genesis tells us about, but men great in strength of intellect and mighty in courage, men of marvelous genius and of Godlike spirit. It is about some of these giants that these stories are written.

They are Congregational heroes, men whose greatness, like near-by mountains, still overshadows us, but whose grandeur we can even now begin to estimate. Their heroism is of a sort about which it is well worth while to think, for it is possible for our aims and achievements to become to a certain extent like theirs. Heroes like Cæsar or Napoleon most of us are not able to imitate, but we may copy the heroic qualities of Brewster and Robinson. For their church is our church, their adopted land our country, and their great Captain our Commander. We fight a similar battle and we may win victories somewhat like their very own.

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They were spiritual heroes, and the twentieth century with its tremendous problems is waiting eagerly for their successors.

In these narratives the writer has endeavored to use accurately the historical material which she has found. In the stories of the earlier heroes especially she has taken the liberty of relating imaginary conversations and actions which may be something like what actually happened. The bare facts which we know to be absolutely true have their influence upon us, but if we can see in fancy the Pilgrim Separatist walking the snowy shores of New England, if we can feel in imagination the cold which made him tremble, if we can hear in the silence of our homes his words of courage and Godlike trust, if the imagination can make him real to us, his personality and his heroism have far larger appeal to our interest. The space available has not been sufficient to give fancy full play or to make these tales into finished stories with plots and plainly drawn characters. They are rather sketches, not essays upon the men, not stories in the true sense of the word, but glimpses of various events and various people where something of the dramatic and heroic element seemed especially present.

Different heroes have been described with varying freedom. In the first sketches where a far-away time is pictured, only a little could be taken from historic sources, while in one of the last, the story of Cyrus

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Hamlin, every statement of what he did is drawn from his own books.

If these tales can but interest some of our young people in the great men and the great history of our denomination, awakening a desire to know more of these crises of the Church and the way in which they were met, the happiness of the writer will be very great.

GRACE T. DAVIS.

NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT.