

**A PORTRAITURE OF  
THE LIFE OF SAMUEL  
SPRECHER, D.D., LL. D.**

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A Portraiture of the Life of Samuel Sprecher, D.D., LL. D. by P. G. Bell

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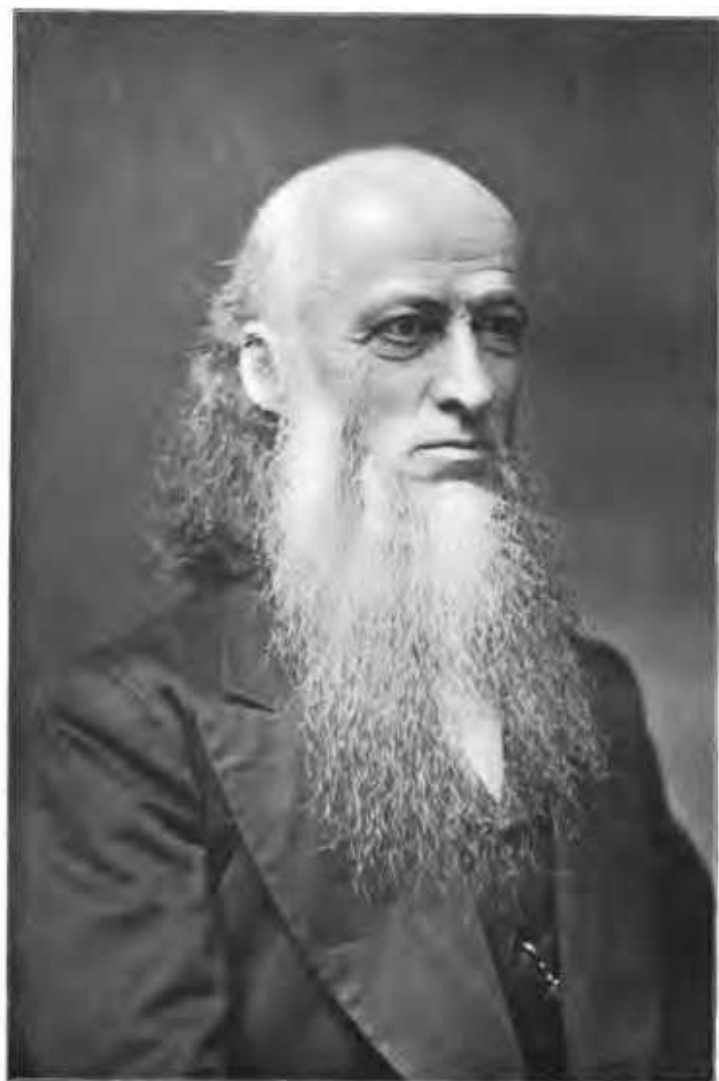
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**P. G. BELL**

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SPRECHER, D.D., LL. D.**





SAMUEL SPRECHER, D. D., LL. D.

Taken during the fifth year of his age.

A Portraiture of the Life of  
**SAMUEL SPRECHER**

D. D., LL. D.

Pastor,  
President of Wittenberg College and Seminary,  
and Author.

*Dup*  
BY  
The Rev. P. G. BELL,  
of Altoona, Pa.



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### Dedication.

**T**O MRS. LAURA C. LEWIS, of San Diego, Cal., who provided a beautiful home for her father in the evening of his life, and, lovingly aided by her sister, Mrs. F. P. Davidson, so ministered to his comfort as to prolong his days and help make his last years the brightest and happiest of his life, this volume is respectfully dedicated.

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## PREFACE.

IN the obituary two conditions are requisite in order to admission to the rank of literature: first, that the subject be a worthy one; second, that it be adequately and truthfully portrayed. That the subject of this memorial is worthy in a preëminent degree no one will dispute. Whether the artist has done justice to the subject is for the reader to judge. That all will be satisfied, even the optimist cannot expect.

Such transcendent characters are many-sided, and there will be as many different impressions as there are observers. As one of the least of these, we would have shrunk from the preparation of this portraiture, even at the request of the children, had it not been that we could call to our aid all those who had written to him on his ninetieth birthday, and of him since his death. The design is to have him appear in the light of the many; thus, making the volume as representative as possible, and to include, as far as possible, all points of interest in his round and comprehensive character.

By this method the Author has been enabled to give not only the correct historical setting of this truly great American, but his true rating as a man, as a teacher and as a molder of men, together with a just estimate of his achievements. That he was one of an elect few who wrought in the planting of a distinct and more truly American type of Lutheranism, no student of church history can deny—a type which found its fullest expression in the General Synod and

in Wittenberg College and Theological Seminary. That this evangelical, progressive and genuine form of the spirit of the Reformation may not suffer loss by the departure of the present generation, but that, as a river of blessing, enlarging as it flows, it may go on forever, is the supreme object of this Memorial. Souls thus made and used are the property of the whole human race, and should be so placed in the galaxy of human distinction, as to be seen and enjoyed by all, as an abiding light and inspiration.

In the absence of a diary or any autographic record of his life, we must rely upon individual impressions, and we rejoice that there are so many to bear glad testimony to his worth. We make no apology to the many for the privilege we have taken in the excerpts used in this volume, believing that they will gladly render tribute, in this more public manner, to him whom they so superlatively prize and love.

P. G. BELL.

JANUARY, 1907.