

**A HISTORY OF THE DIVISION
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA**

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A history of the division of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America by Various

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VARIOUS

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OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE

United States of America.

BY A

COMMITTEE OF THE SYNOD

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Contents.

CHAPTER FIRST.

History of the causes which produced the Division in the Presbyterian Church,	9
---	---

CHAPTER SECOND.

The grounds on which the majority attempted to justify their Excising Acts, and the Dissolution of the Third Presbytery of Philadelphia, stated,	22
--	----

CHAPTER THIRD.

The grounds on which the Assembly attempted to justify their Abrogation of the "Plan of Union," the Excision of the Four Synods, and Dissolution of the Third Presbytery of Philadelphia, examined,	34
---	----

CHAPTER FOURTH.

The alleged, shown to be, not the real nor chief reasons for the Excision of the four Synods,	79
---	----

CHAPTER FIFTH.

The real grounds of the passing of the Acts of Excision, stated,	84
--	----

CHAPTER SIXTH.

Measures taken by the Constitutional portion of the Church to preserve its integrity, and prevent the organization of an irregular Assembly.—They succeeded in organizing it in strict accordance with the principles of the Constitution,	155
--	-----

CHAPTER SEVENTH.

The Assembly, which held its Sessions in the Seventh Presbyterian Church, in 1838, was organized upon a basis wholly unknown to our Constitution,	170
---	-----

CHAPTER EIGHTH.

Erroneous application of the names, Old and New School.—Those who style themselves Old School are the New, and those whom they denominate New are the Old School branch of the Presbyterian Church,	183
---	-----

CHAPTER NINTH.

Policy of the self-styled Reformers concerning a division of the funds, and their feelings in reference to an appeal to the law of the land, to decide to whom they belonged, or how they should be divided—Unsuccessful efforts of the Constitutional Assembly to prevent litigation—Legal proceedings, and their results,	186
---	-----

CHAPTER TENTH.

Measures taken by the Constitutional Branch of the Church to unite the two in one body,	207
---	-----

CHAPTER ELEVENTH.

Our position, duty, and prospects,	214
APPENDIX,	226

Preface.

THE following extract from the Minutes of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, at their Sessions held in the City of Brooklyn, Oct., 1850, and the accompanying remarks, show the origin and object of this publication.

“The Synod, taking into view the state of that branch of the Church with which they are connected, believe that *their* interests, and the cause of truth and righteousness, will be promoted by the careful preparation, and the wide diffusion of a history of the *causes* which produced a division of the Presbyterian Church in this country ; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee, consisting of five Ministers and five Ruling Elders, be appointed to prepare and publish a brief history of the *causes* which produced this division, and of the subsequent attempts which have been made by our branch of the Church to unite the two Assemblies, together with the legal rights of churches in which attempts may be made to remove them from our connection.”—*Minutes of the Synod, page 15.*

The members of the committee were designated as follows :

REV. G. N. JUDD, D. D.	HON. JOS. C. HORNBLOWER,
“ T. H. SKINNER, D. D.	“ CYRUS P. SMITH,
“ E. F. HATFIELD, D. D.	“ JOHN L. MASON,
“ JOS. S. GALLAGHER,	“ DANL. HAINES,
“ S. T. SPEAR,	“ WILLIAM JESSUP.

Till within a recent period the hope was cherished that the necessity of such a history as that which this resolution contemplates, would be superseded by the union of the two branches of the Presbyterian Church. Repeated overtures have been made by our Assembly to that of our brethren for the purpose of securing this object, all of which have been rejected by them, as will be seen by the perusal of the following history. The report of the committee of their last Assembly upon "the Memorial of the Presbytery of Rochester, asking the Assembly to adopt measures to effect a union between the two branches of the Presbyterian Church," and the haste with which the transfer of the Third Church, Newark, was made to the Presbytery of Elizabethtown against the respectful and earnest remonstrance of a minority of said Church, and another from members of the Presbytery of Newark, and elders of the churches under its care, show beyond all controversy that the only union, which the leading members of their branch of the Church contemplate, is by the absorption of our ministers and churches.

In these circumstances we are called upon either to admit that the principles which governed us in the organization of the Assembly of 1833, and in our uniform course of action since, were wrong; or in the spirit of the Gospel, manfully to defend them. We cannot for a moment hesitate which alternative to choose. That all our acts in the peculiarly trying circumstances in which we have been placed, are faultless, we would by no means assert. That the *principles* which in the main have governed us in the unhappy controversy, forced upon us by our brethren, are correct, and that it is our imperative duty to defend them, we are as fully persuaded as that it is our duty "earnestly to contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Other reasons call for the history contained in the following pages. So long as any ground of hope remained that the two branches of the Church might soon be united, but little was said or published by the one to which we are attached,