HISTORY

OF THE

San Francisco Theological Seminary

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

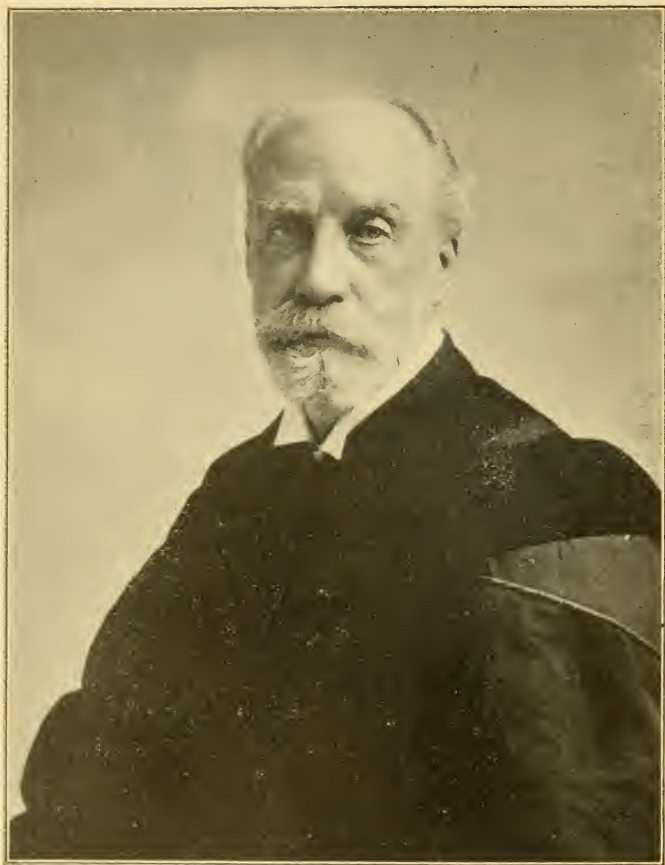### IN THE U. S. A.

AND ITS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

BY

JAMES CURRY, D. D.

JOHN S. MacINTOSH, D. D.

John S. MacIntosh, D. D.

In all great enterprises, where a number of people are associated together for the accomplishment of important purposes, there is need of a recognized leader to direct their affairs. The authorities of the San Francisco Theological Seminary had long felt this to be the case in that institution, and after due consideration the Directors asked the Synod of California to give them authority to elect a President of the Seminary. Accordingly, at its meeting in San Francisco, October, 1903, Synod made provision for such election, and at their next meeting the Directors elected Dr. John S. MacIntosh, Professor of Systematic Theology, as "President of the San Francisco Theological Seminary." He accepted the position, and soon thereafter he was installed as the first President of the Seminary. Thus there devolved upon him the double duty of Professor and executive head of the institution.

Dr. MacIntosh was of Scotch-Irish parentage. His father fled to America after the battle of Culloden and settled in Georgia. He was born in Philadelphia in 1839. His father died when he was very young, and his mother took him back to Ireland. He received his collegiate education in Queen's College, Belfast, and in Edinburgh, and his theological at Erlangen, Germany. After graduation, in 1865, he was pastor of the old

Antrim parish of Conner for two years, and while there
was married to Miss Sophia Moore of Dublin in 1867.
The same year he accepted a call to the May-street
Presbyterian Church in Belfast, as successor of the
great preacher, Dr. Henry Cooke.   This was a high
honor and involved great responsibility, but Dr. Mac-
Intosh ably filled the position for thirteen years, exert-
ing a wide influence throughout the North of Ireland.
During this time he received the degree of D. D. from
Edinburgh.

Dr. MacIntosh was a delegate to the Pan-Presby-
terian Council in Boston in 1880, and afterward received
a call to the Second Church of Philadelphia.   This he
accepted, and in the Spring of 1881 he left Ireland and
returned to his native land, and entered upon his pas-
torate, continuing in it until 1895.   He remained in
Philadelphia until 1902, engaged in other lines of work
for the church and for other purposes.   He assisted in
founding the American Society for University Exten-
sion and the Scotch-Irish Society in America, and was
Chairman of the Evangelistic Committee for the city of
Philadelphia and the surrounding country.   Here he
did good service in strengthening weak churches and
organizing new ones.

Dr. MacIntosh was elected Professor of Systematic
Theology in the San Francisco Theological Seminary
September 16, 1902; President of the same November
3, 1903, and was installed in both offices February 4,
1904.   He was appointed a member of the General
Assembly's Evangelistic Committee in 1904 to repre-
sent the Pacific Coast.   He entered enthusiastically
upon the discharge of his duties in this three-fold posi-
tion.   He wisely planned for the larger work of the

Seminary, led it along in earnest labor, and inspired all with bright hope for its future.   He traveled over the whole Coast, visiting individuals, churches and Synods, giving information concerning the work and needs of the Church and Seminary, and infused into others his own spirit of zeal, enthusiasm and hope.   But in the midst of his abundant labors he was, after a brief illness, called to rest January 5, 1906.   His death was a great loss to the Seminary and the Church, but the impress of his character and life will long abide.