

FOREWORD

Brother Joseph Cox of Louisville, Kentucky located an old copy of A TREATISE ON THE ELDERSHIP by J. W. McGarvey and suggested that we reprint it. A careful reading revealed what we already knew: that anything which McGarvey wrote is worthy of careful consideration. Those who are familiar with the congregations throughout the brotherhood know that the subject of the eldership needs to be given much study. Elders, ministers, Bible teachers and students in general will welcome this reprint of McGarvey's book. Our thanks are due Brother Cox for calling the book to our attention.

Brother L. L. Brigance, a professor in Freed-Hardeman College at Henderson, Tennessee was a great admirer of McGarvey. He was asked to write a short sketch of McGarvey's life for this book. A few days after completing this sketch—possibly the last writing he ever did—Brother Brigance, on Saturday, February 4, 1950—went home to be with the Lord. The truth for which he and McGarvey fought will continue to stand.

George W. DeHoff,

March 20, 1950
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

J. W. MCGARVEY

L. L. Brigance

John William McGarvey was born March 1, 1829, near Hopkinsville, Kentucky. His father, John McGarvey, was an Irishman, coming to this country from Tawney, Donegal County, Ireland, when he was a young man and settling in Hopkinsville. His mother was Sarah Ann Thomson. Her family came to this country from Scotland and settled in Virginia, and from there moved to Georgetown, Kentucky, where she was born. Later her father moved his family to Hopkinsville, where she and John McGarvey met and married. Before the family left Georgetown, her older sister, married Dr. Gurdon F. Saltonstall. They remained in Georgetown for a while, but later on followed the rest of the family to Hopkinsville. John McGarvey died six years after his marriage with Sarah Ann Thomson. Leaving her with four small children, of which John William was the second. Not far from the same time Mrs. Saltonstall died, leaving her husband with nine small children. Soon after the death of their companions Dr. Saltonstall and Mrs. Sarah Ann McGarvey, brother and sister-in-law, were married, and thus united the two groups of children, making thirteen in all. To Dr. and Mrs. Saltonstall six more children were born, making nineteen in all in the family. In after years McGarvey wrote concerning his stepfather: "He was an eminently just man, making no distinctions among the children, distributing his estate among them equally." In his will Bethany College was made his twentieth child and shared equally with them in the estate.

In 1847, when he was eighteen years of age, McGarvey entered Bethany College, from which he graduated in 1850, delivering the Greek oration. From graduation day to the day of his death he was a diligent, hard-working student. He became, perhaps, the ripest scholar in the brotherhood.

After his graduation, he followed the family to Fayette,