



John L. Nevius

The Planting and Development

OF

Missionary Churches

BY

REV. JOHN L. NEVIUS, D.D.

LATE MISSIONARY TO CHINA

THE REFORMED AND PRESBYTERIAN
PUBLISHING COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA

1958

PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

In 1890 Dr. John L. Nevius, a Presbyterian missionary working in China, received an invitation to Korea from a group of seven young missionaries who were just beginning their work in that little peninsula off the east coast of Asia, which until then had been closed to missionaries. They asked him to give them two weeks of instructions in the missionary methods which he had first set forth in a series of articles in the *Chinese Recorder* in 1895.

To those two weeks of meetings and to the application of those principles set forth in that series of articles, later collected in this little booklet of ninety pages, many missionaries in Korea attribute much of the rapid growth of mission work in that country. There were only 100 communicants at the time these principles were adopted, but today there is a full grown, self-propagating, self-supporting and self-governing church of 800,000 members. However, these same missionaries, as well as Dr. Nevius himself, would be the first to insist that to God and to God alone belongs the glory for all that has been wrought in Korea. As both believed the methods were God's, so they also believed that the results were God's. Dr. Nevius, a seasoned missionary, always criticized existing methods of mission work in the light of God's Word, and at the same time sought to find in God's Word the principles which should direct all missionary activity.

The Korea Mission considered Dr. Nevius' suggestions so important that they adopted them as mission policy, and in the early days gave all new missionaries a copy of this booklet and required them to pass an examination on it.

