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WALTER SCOTT: A GIFTED ORATER

Alexander Campbell provided the intellectual direction of the Restoration, but it was Walter Scott who provided its evangelistic fervor. Robert Richardson, the biographer of A. Campbell said the following, about Walter Scott, "Among the helpers and fellow laborers of Alexander Campbell the first place must be rewarded to Walter Scott. Walter made the apostles his model, and went before the world with the same message, in the same order, with the same conditions and promises."

Walter Scott was born on October 31, 1796 in Moffat, Scotland. After the death of Walter's parents he came to the United States looking for employment. He taught school in Long Island and then after deciding to go West, he and friend walked the 300 miles to 'Pittsburg. There Walter became headmaster for a boy's academy and worshipped with a congregation called the "kissing, Baptists." This group of unorthodox Presbyterians decided to use the Bible as, their only guide, while they practiced the "holy kiss", foot washing, and baptism by immersion. It was here in this Pittsburg congregation that Scott realized he needed to be baptized and--was by George Forrester.

Scott began to preach and be thrilled the audiences in 1827 and 1828 on the Western Reserve. Audiences had never before been stirred as they were by the powerful, Scott. As a teacher he possessed illuminating powers of comparison' and illustration, while his spiritual mind enabled him to interpret these analogies in a surprising way.

One of Scott's favorite ways of announcing a meeting was to visit the local school house. Using the children's left hand he would teach them these five things, "Faith, repentance, baptism, remission of sins, gift of the Holy Spirit". The children would run home, tell their parents and everyone would come that night to hear the "crazy five finger preacher."

Because of his great preaching ability Walter Scott had the nickname, "Golden Oracle". He was an inspiration to those around him, and the audiences that heard him. On April 16, 1861, Scott became ill with what doctors called typhoid pneumonia. He died a week later at Mayslick, Kentucky at the age of 65. Prior to his passing, Scott said that he did not fear death.

Next week: J.W. McGarvey: Distinguished Scholar.

---Greg