

This online repository seeks to be a complete archive of the works of R.L. Dabney. I am sure works are missing, so please email me at info@dabneyarchive.com if you have other works of Dabney and I will find a way to have them included in this archive.

This archive is structured as follows:

1. All files are in PDF format. Visible to the human eye is the original scan of the work, while machine-readable OCR has been performed and indexed into the document. This allows about 98-99% of the words to be searchable. This is useful to find Dabney's thoughts on any given subject, and also allows for search engine indexing.

2. Four types of files are available:

A. A file called `dabneyarchive.zip`, which contains the complete contents of this site, including the biography of Dabney by Thomas Cary Johnson.

B. A PDF file called `dabneycomplete.pdf`, which as an appended PDF (over 6000 pages long) of all of Dabney's works in this archive. This is the most useful document for searching Dabney's complete writing; just use the find feature in your PDF viewer.

C. Individual documents containing an entire work are in the main directory as well.

D. Subdirectories off the main directory include chapter-level snippets from the larger works. This is useful for having smaller file sizes to read in one sitting, on a mobile phone, etc.

3. Copyright status: All writings by R.L. Dabney are in the public domain per US copyright law, including derivative works such as compilations, scans and OCR such as that posted on this site. Distribute freely. I have made every effort to remove any copyright-protected prefaces, trademarks or other modifications to the original writing. Please contact me if you have a specific concern.

Biographical sketch of Dabney from Wikipedia:

Robert Lewis Dabney (March 5, 1820 - January 3, 1898) was an American Christian theologian, a Southern Presbyterian pastor, and Confederate Army chaplain. He was also chief of staff and biographer to Stonewall Jackson. His biography of Jackson remains in print today.

Dabney studied at Hampden-Sydney College and the University of Virginia (M.A., 1842), and graduated from Union Theological Seminary in 1846.

He was then a missionary in Louisa County, Virginia, from 1846 to 1847 and pastor at Tinkling Spring, Virginia from 1847 to 1853, being also head master of a classical school for a portion of this time. From 1853 to 1859 he was professor of ecclesiastical history and polity and from 1859 to 1869 adjunct professor of systematic theology in Union Theological Seminary, where he later became full professor of systematics. In 1883, he was appointed professor of mental and moral philosophy in the University of Texas.

By 1894 failing health compelled him to retire from active life, although he still lectured occasionally. He was co-pastor, with his brother-in-law B. M. Smith, of the Hampden-Sydney College Church 1858 to 1874, also serving Hampden-Sydney College in a professorial capacity on occasions of vacancies in its faculty. Dabney, whose wife was a first cousin to Stonewall Jackson's wife, participated in the Civil War: during the summer of 1861 he was chaplain of the 18th Virginia regiment in the Confederate army, and in the following year was chief of staff to Jackson during the Valley Campaign and the Seven Days Battles.

After the Civil War Dabney spoke widely on Jackson and the Confederacy. He continued to hold racial views typical in the South before the Civil War, and his continued support of slavery in speeches and a book published after the war and his strong loyalty to the Confederacy until the 1890s made him a visible figure in the post-war South (Hettle, 2003).

While at the University of Texas he practically founded and maintained the Austin School of Theology (which later became Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary), and in 1870 was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.