

ENCYCLOPÆDIA
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

INCLUDING THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ASSEMBLIES.

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AND OTHER EMINENT MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH.

Including a Description of the Historic Decorations of the Pan Presbyterian Council of 1880,

By REV. HENRY C. McCOOK, D. D., LL. D.

Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generation following—PSALM XLVIII, 12, 13.

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"*Christ the Teacher of Men*," and "*The New Life, not the Higher Life*." He has also contributed articles to the *Southern Presbyterian*, *Southern* and *North American Reviews*, to the *Catholic Presbyterian*, and frequently to the Church papers. He was a member of the Prophetic Conference in New York in 1878, and assisted in drafting and reported the doctrinal testimony adopted by the conference. He has twice sat in the General Assembly, and bore a prominent part in the establishment of fraternal relations between the Northern and Southern Assemblies. His published works vindicate the character of his preaching, which is that of clear, full, strong and simple statement of gospel truth.

Plumer, William Swan, D. D., LL.D., justly ranks among the great and good men of the Church to which the labors of his life were devoted. He was born July 26th, 1802, at Griersburg (now Darlington), Beaver county, Pa. After graduating at Washington College, Va., he entered Princeton Seminary, becoming a member of the class matriculated in 1824-5. He was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, June 14th, 1826, and was ordained an evangelist by the Presbytery of Orange, May 19th, 1827.

From September, 1826, to June, 1829, he was employed as an evangelist, in Southern Virginia and North Carolina. During this time he spent ten months and a half at Danville, and organized the Presbyterian Church there, and eleven months in Warrenton, N. C., where he also organized a Church. In June, 1829, he became stated supply of Briery Church, Va., where he labored sixteen months. He was pastor of the Tabb Street Church, Petersburg, Va., from July 10th, 1831, until September 19th, 1834; pastor of the first Church of Richmond, Va., from October 19th, 1834, until November 3d, 1846; and pastor of the Franklin Street Church, Baltimore, Md., from April 28th, 1847, until September 10th, 1854. His next pastoral charge was that of the Central Church at Allegheny, Pa., which continued from January 17th, 1855, until September 19th, 1862. After an interval of three years he was installed pastor of the Second Church of Pottsville, Pa., November 19th, 1865, and continued in this relation until January 2d, 1867. In January, 1867, he began to reside at Columbia, S. C., preaching, while a Professor in the Seminary, extensively in that and adjacent States.

In 1837 Dr. Plumer founded, and for eight years was sole editor and proprietor of, *The Watchman of the South*, in Richmond, Va. In 1838 he was largely instrumental in founding the Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, in Staunton, Va. In 1854 he was elected Professor of Didactic and Pastoral Theology in the Western Theological Seminary, at Allegheny, Pa., which post he filled until 1862. In 1862 he was elected Professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology in the Theological Seminary at Columbia, S. C., and filled that chair until 1875, when, at his own suggestion, he was transferred to the Chair of

Historic, Casuistic and Pastoral Theology in the same Institution, and retained that position until 1880, when, a few months before his death, the Seminary was closed, from a lack of funds.

Dr. Plumer was a very voluminous author. His works amounted to over twenty-five volumes, besides a very large number of tracts, sermons, leaflets, etc. In 1838 he was Moderator of the General Assembly (O. S.), and in 1871 Moderator of the General Assembly (Southern). His life was one of great earnestness and usefulness. As a pastor, preacher, professor, author and Christian, he was eminent. His tall and erect form, white hair, beaming eye, expressive countenance, and deep and sonorous voice, added greatly to the impressiveness of his Scriptural, instructive, experimental, searching, and, at times, impassioned



WILLIAM SWAN PLUMER, D.D.

preaching. As he advanced in years, his mental powers seemed to brighten and mellow, and he never ceased his varied and active labors until he was called to bid farewell to earth. He died in Baltimore, Md., October 22d, 1880, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. His end was a glorious triumph of faith. His utterances were full of faith in Christ, of love for Him, and of confident and joyful hope.

Pole Green and Samuel Davies Church. In Hanover county, Va., ten miles from the city of Richmond, and a few rods from the main road, more than a hundred years ago, stood Pole Green Church. It was built not later than the year 1756, on a piece of land about three acres in size, given to the church by a Mr. Whitlocke, who resided in the neighborhood. It was one of the first Presbyterian churches planted

in the State of Virginia; Makemie Church, in Accomac county, it is said, was the first.

The origin of the name, Pole Green, is not very clear. A small stream, called Pole Green branch or run, is near the spot. Pole Green Spring and Pole Green Hill are known localities near by, but it is uncertain whether the church derived its name from one of these, or gave its name to them. If a stranger, unacquainted with the history of this church and the interesting associations connected with it, had attended preaching there for the first time on a Sabbath in the Summer, fifty years ago, he would, probably, have seen nothing particularly to attract his attention about the exterior of the house, a plain, unpretending building of wood, rather antiquated, but yet showing no marks of decay. He might, it is true, have remarked the cool, pleasant and refreshing shade of the large and venerable oak, and other forest trees, in the churchyard, and a well beaten path leading from near the church door to the rear of the house, along which many of the congregation were passing before the public services commenced. This path led to a bold, clear and cool spring of water, a few yards from the church, *Pole Green Spring*.

He would have seen, within the house, as was usual in country churches built during the previous century, large, high-backed, family pews, with seats facing, and also with the backs towards the preacher; he would have seen a wide, heavy gallery extending along one broad side and the two ends of the building, a part of which gallery was set apart exclusively for the use of the colored people, and filled to its utmost capacity with that class of the population; a pulpit on the side of the house, with its high and narrow desk for the Bible, and with the sounding board away up over the preacher's head; and his attention would have been drawn and his curiosity excited by seeing on a board at the back of the preacher the large but not very artistically formed letters, S. D., and beneath them the figures 1756, the handiwork, it is said, of the mechanic who built the house. This was the condition of Pole Green Church, and the appearance of things around it, fifty years ago. It may not be uninteresting here to mention, that not more than half a mile from the church in a northwesterly direction, the road crosses Totopotomoy Creek, and a short distance beyond there is a very remarkably steep hill. It was customary for all persons, except the aged and infirm, returning from church, to walk up this hill; and it was said that even the horses acquired the habit of stopping of their own accord at the foot of the hill, to put off a part of their load. This was called Pole Green Hill.

The Rev. Samuel Davies was the first settled pastor of Pole Green Church, and the house there was built for him to preach in. When he came to the county, preaching and religious meetings were held by him, at first, in private houses, Presbyterianism being little

known and but lightly thought of, the established church in the country being that of the Church of England. Soon, however, by his great learning and eloquence, and his ardent and devoted piety, a wonderfully deep and marked impression was made upon those who knew and heard him, and it was not long before a Presbyterian church was organized at Pole Green, embracing as members many of the most intelligent and influential individuals in the community. The parents of the Rev. Wm. S. White, D. D., so widely known throughout the Presbyterian church, were members of the congregation, and attended regularly the preaching of Mr. Davies, at Pole Green. The letters S. D. upon the pulpit, which have been mentioned before, were the initials of Samuel Davies' name, and so long as they continued in that conspicuous place, no doubt, served to keep fresh in remembrance the name and character of that eminent and devoted minister of the gospel. Strangers and children in the congregation just old enough to notice such things, would have their attention drawn to them, and be led to inquire their meaning, and who S. D. was. The connection of Mr. Davies with Pole Green Church as pastor, lasted but a few years. He removed to Princeton, N. J., in the year 1759, and died there February 4th, 1761.

It has often been asked who succeeded him as pastor. The probability is, that a Mr. Maceaulay was the successor of Mr. Davies. It is much to be regretted that the Sessional records of early years of Pole Green Church cannot be found; much interesting and reliable information as to the condition and history of the church, which they only could supply, is thus lost. About the year 1785 the Rev. John D. Blair "was introduced into the ministry by the Presbytery of Hanover, and inducted to the pastoral charge of Pole Green Church." About thirty years before his death, which took place in 1823, he removed to the city of Richmond, but continued to supply the church in Hanover, until a short time before his death. He was beloved, respected, and looked upon as a good man by all who knew him. Many of his descendants are still living in Richmond, and Professor Blair, of Hampden-Sidney, was one of his grandsons.

In 1829 Pole Green and Salem churches were united, constituting one organization, with the name of *Pole Green and Salem Church*. Salem, distant five miles from Pole Green, was built by the congregation which worshiped at Hanover Town under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Jesse H. Turner. The names of ministers who have supplied the church thus united are Messrs. Smith, Davis, Osborn, Adams and Hooper, successively, until 1863, when Mr. Hooper resigned his charge. In 1832 there were fifty-four members on the roll of the church; in 1863, one hundred and seven. About thirty years ago the building at Pole Green needed repairs. Many alterations were made in the interior of the house, giving

to it a neat, comfortable and modernized appearance. The family pews and the gallery were taken down, and the pulpit, with its sounding board, shared the same fate. Only one part of a plank of the old pulpit in which Samuel Davies had formerly preached with so much earnestness and eloquence was saved, and is now in possession of, and carefully preserved as a highly valued relic by, one of the ruling elders of the church. This is the only piece, the only fragment, of Old Pole Green house now remaining. In 1864, during a sharp and desperate fight between Confederate and Federal forces, the house was set on fire and totally consumed. It has not been rebuilt. The ground remains unoccupied by Presbyterians, and it does seem that it will not be long before the name of Pole Green Church will cease to be known, except as belonging to that which *once was*. In 1872 the churches of Pole Green, Salem and Bethlehem (which had been supplied since 1865 by Rev. George H. Denny) were united, under the name of Samuel Davies Church, with the Rev. William N. Scott pastor.

Polk, James Knox, Ex-President of the United States, was born in North Carolina, 1795. After an honorable university course he became a member of the Tennessee Bar, in 1820, and pursued his professional career with such success that he was soon marked out by his countrymen for the highest services at their command. In 1825 he was elected to Congress, where he became conspicuous for firmness, regularity and assiduity, and after sitting in Congress fourteen years, two or three of which he was Speaker, he was elected President of the Federal Republic, in 1844. His administration was distinguished by various important events bearing on the fortunes of the country. By the annexation of Texas and California he extended the boundaries of his country; he labored to organize the National Treasury on the principles of the Constitution, and introduced into the government many financial and commercial improvements. He died in 1849. President Polk was a warm friend of the Presbyterian Church, of which his now aged and venerable widow long has been and still is an exemplary and useful member.

Pollock, Hon. James, LL. D., was born at Milton, Northumberland county, Pa., September 11th, 1810. His early education was committed to the care of the Rev. David Kirkpatrick, who had charge of the classical academy at Milton. He graduated at Princeton, N. J., September, 1831; in 1835 he received the degree of A. M. in course, and in 1855 the honorary degree of LL. D. was conferred upon him. Jefferson College conferred a like honor in 1857. In November, 1833, he was admitted to the Bar; in 1835 appointed District Attorney for Northumberland county; from 1843 to 1849 served as a member of Congress, where he acted a conspicuous part; in 1850 was appointed President Judge of the eighth judicial district; and in 1855 was chosen

Governor of Pennsylvania by a large majority. By the Act of the 16th of May, 1857, the main line of the public works of the State was directed to be sold. On the 25th of June, following, Governor Pollock caused the same to be done; and on the 31st day of July the whole line of the public works between Philadelphia and Pittsburg was transferred to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, at the price of seven millions five hundred thousand dollars. Following this sale, measures were taken for the disposal of the remaining divisions of the public improvements. They had failed to be a source of revenue to the State, and the application of the proceeds to the payment of the debt of the Commonwealth soon led to the removal of taxation by the State.



HON. JAMES POLLOCK, LL. D.

In the Summer of this year (1857) a serious financial revulsion occurred, resulting in the suspension of specie payments by the banks of Pennsylvania and other States of the Union, followed by the failure of many long-established commercial houses and the general prostration of business. In order to release the banks from the penalties and forfeitures incurred by a suspension of specie payments, Governor Pollock convened the Legislature in "extraordinary session" on the 6th of October. On the 13th an act was passed "providing for the resumption of specie payments by the banks, and for the relief of debtors," to go into immediate effect. This law had the desired result, and public confidence being restored, the different branches of industry revived, and the community was saved from bankruptcy and ruin.

In the so-called Compromise Convention, assembled at Washington, in February and March, 1861,