

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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prayer. His sermons were plain, pointed, evangelical. He was an impressive speaker; a talker, not a declaimer. He seldom preached without shedding tears, and was in the habit of keeping two handkerchiefs in use in the pulpit. His tearful appeals were deeply impressive, verifying the old maxim, *si vis me flere, flendum est tibi*.

As an instance of his decision it is related that upon a certain occasion Dr. James Phillips was assisting him at a communion, and as the forenoon services had been long, Dr. Harding requested Dr. Phillips to limit the afternoon services to an hour. Not willing to be hampered, Dr. Phillips said he did not know whether he could finish in an hour, or not. "Then," said Dr. Harding, "I can, and I will." And he did. Dr. Harding left one son who entered the ministry, Rev. Eph. H. Harding, D. D., now of Kentucky.

Harper, James, D. D., was born in Glasgow, Scotland, July 25th, 1802, of parents eminent for



JAMES HARPER, D. D.

their piety and social refinement. In October, 1820, he entered Glasgow College. Passing its curriculum, and five years in Divinity Hall, pupil of Dr. John Dick, he was licensed to preach by the United Secession Presbytery of Glasgow, and after three years, ordained, with the purpose of emigrating to America. He landed in New York in 1833, and spent his third Sabbath in the Presbyterian Church of Galway, Saratoga County, N. Y., to which he was invited as supply for a year, and then as pastor. After five years he removed to Ellicott City, Md., where he was instrumental in organizing a church and adding greatly to its strength. After twenty months he was called to the Church of Shippensburg, Pa., installed its pastor

on the 8th of May, 1840, and continued in this relation until June, 1870, when growing infirmities constrained him to retire. In accepting his resignation, his ardently attached congregation unanimously voted him an annuity. Stricken with paralysis, May 9th, 1876, he lingered in peaceful expectation until the morning of the 13th, when the silver cord was loosed and he quietly slept in Jesus.

Dr. Harper was comparatively unknown beyond the immediate field of his labor. Fettered by an innate, invincible diffidence, he shrank from publicity. His degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred by Lafayette College. He was possessed of more than ordinary intellectual grasp and scholarship; and was an indefatigable student through life. An able expounder of the Scriptures, he was yet unostentatious and humble. If he urged any particular doctrine or duty his manner was, first, to evolve it, on divine authority. His sermons were clear, concise and logical; always freighted with the rich doctrines of grace. His style was neat, nervous and sufficiently polished. Remarkable for goodness, he won the love and respect of the whole community. Of devoted personal piety, the charm of his ministry was the infusion of Christ and the gospel into all his teachings. He preached the law fearlessly, assailing every form of vice; ordinarily it was the Cross that warmed his heart and drew forth its most glowing effusions on the people.

Harper, Robert D., D. D., was born at Washington, Pa. In his earlier years his parents removed to Allegheny City. He graduated at the Western University, Pittsburg, Pa., in 1841, studied theology in the United Presbyterian Seminary, Allegheny City, and was licensed to preach in Pittsburg, in 1845. He became pastor of the First U. P. Church, Xenia, Ohio, in 1846. In 1868 he united with the Presbyterian Church, and in the same year was installed pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1871 he was called to the pastorate of North Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, in which relation he still continues, beloved and prosperous.

In all the congregations of which he has had charge, Dr. Harper's labors have been eminently blessed, and he has enjoyed the confidence and affection of his people. Though dignified in manner, he is genial in disposition, and in all his social intercourse leaves the impression of frankness, sincerity, uprightness, and benevolence. As a preacher, he occupies a high rank. His sermons, which are always carefully prepared, are thorough, logical, solemn, and impressive expositions of Bible truth, accompanied with close, pertinent and practical application, and, with the advantage of a fine voice and a graceful delivery, they both interest and edify his audience. As a pastor he is tenderly and diligently careful of his flock, and as a presbyter, he is ever faithful in the discharge of his duty. His sound judgment,

liberal spirit, and manly bearing, have won him the esteem of his brethren, and his ministerial work in Philadelphia, as his large, active and useful con-



ROBERT D. HARPER, D. D.

gregation attests, has been one of steady, solid and very gratifying progress.

Harris, Rev. John, came from Wales, while a child, with his father's family, who settled in Maryland. In 1754 he was licensed by the Presbytery of New Castle, and in 1756 he was installed pastor of Indian River Church, Del. This charge he resigned in 1759, and removed to the South, and in 1772, we find him pastor of Long Cane and two other churches in South Carolina, where he remained until 1779, when, forced by declining health, he resigned the charge. Mr. Harris was a pious, judicious and exemplary minister of the gospel. Bold, enthusiastic and independent, he was peculiarly fitted for the stirring times in which he lived. His patriotism made him obnoxious to the Tories, and he had many narrow escapes. It is said that he often preached with his gun in the pulpit and his ammunition suspended from his neck, after the fashion of the times.

Harris, Rev. John Montgomery, son of David and Sarah Harris, was born in Baltimore, Md., February 25th, 1808. He received his academical education at Baltimore and York, Pa., but was never graduated from any college. He abandoned the legal profession for the ministry; studied theology at Princeton; was licensed by the Presbytery of Baltimore, October 26th, 1831, and was commissioned by the Board of Domestic Missions to preach to the feeble Presbyterian flock in New Orleans, which he did

during portions of 1831-32. Owing to failure of health while at New Orleans, he was never ordained or settled in charge of any church. From New Orleans he returned to his home in Baltimore, and there remained as an invalid several years. In 1837 he made a renewed effort to preach, and for about four years resided in Hampshire county, Va., supplying Bloomery, Mount Bethel, Zion and Concord churches. He then returned to Baltimore, and soon after purchased a farm in Jefferson county, Va., where he resided some years. Although, through all these years, in extremely delicate health, he was earnest, active, and unceasing in efforts to do good; preaching at Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, and other churches, as he was able. In 1851, he purchased a farm on Jersey Mountain, about five miles from Romney, West Virginia, where he lived a secluded and quiet life, until his death, still, however, doing good as far as his feeble health permitted, by organizing and teaching Sabbath schools and Bible classes in the country around about. He died February 14th, 1881. Mr. Harris was a man of remarkable gifts, of brilliant oratorical powers, of remarkable culture and attainments, and had he possessed health and strength of body, would undoubtedly have held an eminent position in the Church.

Harris, William, M. D., was born August 18th, 1792, in the beautiful valley of Chester county, Pa. He received a classical education at Brandywine Academy, then entered upon the study of medicine, and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1812. He at once began the practice of his profession in his own neighborhood, and steadily advanced in a career of great success. At about the age of thirty-seven he united with the Presbyterian Church, Great Valley, Chester county, Pa., and was chosen a ruling elder in the same congregation a short time after. In 1834 he removed to Philadelphia, where, until his retirement from practice, he was well known as occupying a high position in his profession, while his business accumulated in the most substantial way. Besides attending to his round of practice, he delivered a Summer course of lectures, and trained many students for graduation. He was elected to the eldership in the Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, and faithfully discharged the duties of the office for twenty years. Having removed his church membership, in 1854, to the Seventh (now Tabernacle) Church, he was installed as one of its ruling elders, June 8th, 1856. He died March 3d, 1861.

The pure integrity, high-toned honor and wise judgment of Dr. Harris made him a valuable guardian and guide. He was characterized by a peculiarly intense energy in the discharge of duty. His habits were active in the extreme, sometimes, perhaps, impelling him to exertions which were greater than his system could well endure. He was a polished Christian gentleman. A wide-sweeping law of tender