

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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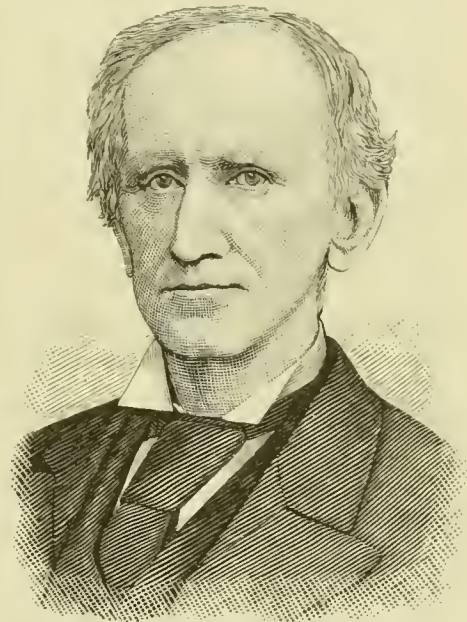
Milford, Mass., from A. D. 1745 to A. D. 1815. Seth Nelson second, having removed to New York, was a Presbyterian ruling elder during the later years of his life, in Cortland, N. Y.

Nelson, Rev. Samuel Kelsey, the eldest child of Henry and Anna (Kelsey) Nelson, was born near Jonesborough, East Tennessee, October 9th, 1787. He graduated at Washington College, then under the care of the venerable Dr. Doak; studied theology under his direction; was licensed, in 1807, by the Holston Presbytery, and then was engaged for some time in preaching in South Carolina, and also at different places in Tennessee. He was installed pastor of the Church at Danville, Ky., in 1809. To Mr. Nelson, it is understood, belongs the honor of having been the principal founder of Centre College, Danville. For this he labored with consummate skill and untiring assiduity. His public spirit was strikingly evinced in the interest he took in founding and fostering the Kentucky Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, which also was situated within the bounds of his congregation, and it was while fulfilling an appointment by its Board of Trustees, in the Spring of 1827, to Tallahassee, Fla., to negotiate some matters in which the Institution was specially interested, that he died. This event occurred, May 7th, and the tidings of it were mournfully responded to in every circle in which he had been known. Mr. Nelson was an interesting and edifying preacher. He drew his illustrations chiefly from within the range of ordinary observation, and he never uttered a sentence that was not level to the comprehension of the humblest of his hearers. His manner was earnest and affectionate, but was accompanied with very little action. He left behind him a highly honored name.

Nevin, Alfred, D. D., LL. D., was born in Shippenburg, Cumberland county, Pa., March 14th, 1816. His parents, Major David Nevin and Mary Peirce, were of English and Scotch origin, and descended from families among the first to settle in Cumberland Valley. His father, a nephew of Hugh Williamson, LL. D., was a merchant; served in the defence of Baltimore in the war of 1812, and was a representative from Cumberland county in the Reform Convention, 1837-8, for remodeling the State Constitution. He commenced his collegiate education at Dickinson College, completing it at Jefferson College, where he graduated in 1834. As a student of Judge Reed's Law School, at Carlisle, he received the degree of L. B., and was admitted to the Bar in 1837. Entering at once the Western Theological Seminary, he graduated there in 1840, and in April of the same year was licensed by the Presbytery of Carlisle. Declining invitations to several churches in Western cities, he took charge, in May, 1840, of Cedar Grove Presbyterian Church, Lancaster county, Pa., where he continued five years. He subsequently was pastor of the G. R. Church, Chambersburg, Pa., seven years, and for five years, of the then

Second Presbyterian Church of Lancaster City, Pa. During his residence in Lancaster he was chosen Moderator of the Synod of Philadelphia, at its meeting in Hollidaysburg. In 1857 he organized the Alexander Church, Philadelphia. Resigning this charge in 1861, he began the publication of *The Standard*, which, in 1866, on account of his impaired health, was merged in the *Northwestern Presbyterian*, at Chicago. After a rest, he published the *Presbyterian Weekly* (now the *Baltimore Presbyterian*), and he was the editor-in-chief of the *Presbyterian Journal*, which was published by the Rev. J. Ford Sutton, from its initial number, for three years.

Dr. Nevin, in 1858, was chosen to address the Alumni of his *Alma Mater*, and rendered that service, taking for his theme, "The Responsibility of Ameri-



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can Citizenship." He was, for years, a member of the Presbyterian Historical Society, a member of the Presbyterian Board of Publication, a Trustee of Lafayette College, and a Director of the Presbyterian Hospital, in Philadelphia. He has a number of times been a commissioner to the General Assembly, and by its appointment has represented the Presbyterian Church in the Massachusetts Congregational Association, the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. He has been honored with election to membership in the Historical Societies of Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and in literary societies of several of the prominent colleges of our country. He is the author of some twenty volumes. Our Board has published from his pen, "Notes on the Shorter Catechism," "Parables

of Jesus," etc. Among those issued by other publishing houses are, "Churches of the Valley," "Guide to the Oracles," "The Voice of God," "Popular Commentary on the Gospels and Acts," "Men of Mark of Cumberland Valley, Pa.," "Notes on Exodus," "The Age Question," and "Infidelity Reluked—Letters to Col. Robert G. Ingersoll."

Nevin, Edwin Henry, D.D., was born in Shippensburg, Cumberland county, Pa., May 9th, 1814. He graduated at Jefferson College; studied theology at Princeton Seminary, and was licensed to preach by the First Presbytery of Philadelphia, in 1836. His first pastoral charge was at Portsmouth, Ohio, where he had a successful ministry for several years. In 1839 he accepted the pastorate of the Church at Poland, Ohio, and continued in this relation, with the Divine blessing upon his labors, until 1841, when he was called to the Presidency of Franklin College, New Athens, Harrison county, Ohio. While in this position he raised funds and secured the erection of a new college building, and the Institution gained a wide repute under his administration. He was subsequently pastor, at Mt. Vernon, O., and Cleveland, O., and of several Congregational churches in New England. After an interval of rest, necessitated by ill health, he was called to the pastorate of St. Paul's Reformed Church in Lancaster, Pa., and from thence to the First Reformed Church of Philadelphia, where he remained several years. After relinquishing this position, he connected himself with the Central Presbytery of Philadelphia, and has not since accepted a pastoral charge.

Dr. Nevin is an eloquent and impressive preacher. He is an apt and ready debater, and has in several instances combated error in public discussion. He has recently been elected to membership in the "Victoria Institute or Philosophical Society of Great Britain," of which the Earl of Shaftesbury, is the President. He is the author of "The Minister's Handbook," "The Man of Faith," "The City of God," and "Thoughts about Christ," which have been prepared with care, and received with much favor. As a poet, he has attained considerable recognition, and some of his devotional poems have a place in many of the hymnals of the land, as well as in England and Ireland.

Nevin, Theodore Hugh, fourth son of John Nevin, Esq., was born in Franklin county, Pa., in the year 1815. His father was a gentleman of piety and of more than ordinary intelligence, a graduate of Dickinson College, of which for a time he served as trustee, and fond of books, but, in harmony with his tastes, he spent his life in the noble occupation of a farmer, living for many years on his beautiful place near Shippensburg, Pa., during which he frequently contributed articles to some of the public journals of his day. The first score years of the son's life were spent on his father's farm. He then removed to Pittsburg, Pa., where his education was completed, mainly under

the private tuition of his brother, the Rev. John W. Nevin, D.D. In 1842 he established the firm of T. H. Nevin & Co., for the manufacture of white lead, which firm still exists. In 1842 he was appointed Treasurer of the Western Theological Seminary at Allegheny, Pa., and still retains this position, in which he has rendered very valuable service to that Institution. In 1844 he was elected and ordained a ruling elder in the First Presbyterian Church, Allegheny, and for many years he has filled the same office in the Presbyterian Church at Sewickley. In 1864 he was elected, and still continues to be, President of the First National Bank, Allegheny, Pa., which, under his judicious and safe direction, has had a successful history. In 1864 he was appointed an Inspector of the Western State Penitentiary, and has



THEODORE HUGH NEVIN.

been the President of its Board of Managers until the present time, devoting to it an amount of time and care which has largely contributed to the very satisfactory condition of its affairs. Mr. Nevin has for many years resided at Sewickley, of which he was one of the early settlers, and where he is held in the highest esteem by the community. He is a gentleman of great energy, of unimpeachable integrity, of active public spirit, and of admirable administrative ability. His business career has been a success. He has filled the secular offices to which he has been called with a fidelity which is universally acknowledged, and the duties of all his relations to the Church have been discharged with a consistency, zeal and efficiency which have won him public confidence and regard.