

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

INCLUDING THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ASSEMBLIES.

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

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

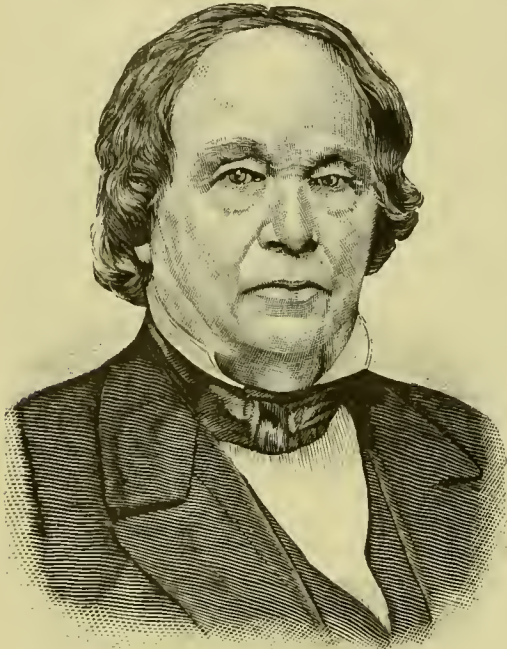
*Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generation following—PSALM XLVIII, 12, 13.*

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held in high regard for personal and professional excellence.

**Sprague, William Buel, D.D., LL. D.**, was born in Andover, Tolland county, Conn., October 16th, 1795. He graduated at Yale College in 1815; in 1816 entered Princeton Theological Seminary, and after studying there over two years, was licensed to preach by the Association of Ministers in the county



WILLIAM BUEL SPRAGUE, D.D., LL. D.

of Tolland, August 29th, 1818. As pastor of the Congregational Church of West Springfield, Mass., he labored with great assiduity and success from August 25th, 1819, until July 21st, 1829, when he accepted a call to the Second Presbyterian Church in Albany, N. Y., over which he was installed August 26th, 1829. In Albany he had a pastorate of forty years' duration, remarkable for the extraordinary steadfastness and warmth of attachment existing through all that protracted period between himself and his large and intelligent congregation, and even more remarkable for the vast and varied labors performed by him. He has been well and truly described as "an illustrious man, a cultivated, elegant, voluminous, useful and popular preacher; an indefatigable and successful pastor; an unselfish and devoted friend; loving, genial, pure, noble; an Israelite indeed, in whom there was no guile; one of the most child-like, unsophisticated and charitable of men."

While Dr. Sprague never relaxed his pulpit and pastoral duties, his added literary labors were prodigious, and their fruits exceedingly great. He preached nearly two hundred sermons on special

public occasions, the most of which were published. He also produced a large number of biographies and other volumes on practical religious subjects. But the great literary work of his life was his "Annals of the American Pulpit," undertaken when he was fifty-seven years old, and finished in ten large octavo volumes.

On December 20th, 1869, Dr. Sprague was released, at his own request, from his pastoral charge in Albany, and retired to Flushing, L. I., where he passed his later years, which were a serene and beautiful evening to his industrious, useful and eminent life. Here he enjoyed the sunshine of the divine favor, and looked upon the approach of death with a strong and placid faith. He gently and peacefully passed away, May 7th, 1876, and his remains were taken to Albany for interment, the funeral services being held in the church of which he had been so long the beloved and honored pastor.

**Sprecher, Samuel P., D. D.**, was born October 7th, 1839, in Harrisburg, Pa. He is of Lutheran parentage, and came from a family of ministers and professors through several generations. He was educated at Wittenberg College and Seminary, and was ordained in the Lutheran Church, in the year 1860.



SAMUEL P. SPRECHER, D. D.

In the year 1872 he changed his ecclesiastical relations, succeeding Dr. P. H. Fowler as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Utica, N. Y. In the year 1879 he succeeded Dr. James Eells as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, Cal. In December, 1882, he accepted a call to the pastorate of Calvary Presbyterian Church of San Francisco, and holds that position at the present time.