

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.

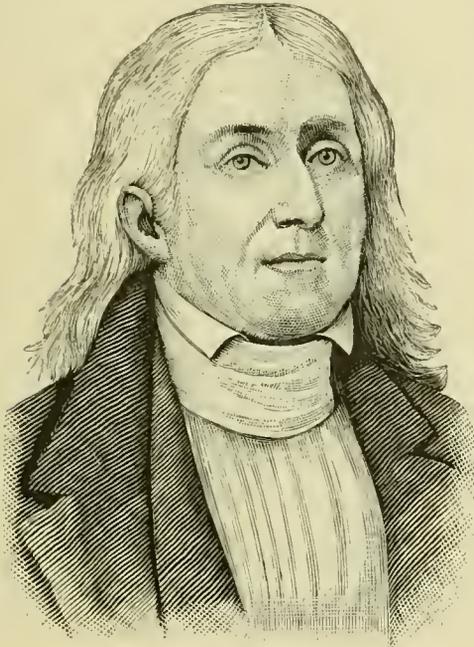
ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1884, BY D. R. B. N., FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN ENCYCLOPÆDIA PUBLISHING CO.,
IN THE OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING CO.,
No. 1510 CHESTNUT STREET.

Education," "Moral Culture in Schools," the Centennial Sermon before the Synod of Kansas, in 1876, etc.

Black, Rev. John, a South Carolinian by birth, and a graduate of Princeton College, was licensed by Donegal Presbytery, October 14th, 1773, and was ordained and installed pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Upper Marsh Creek, York County, Pa., August 15th, 1775. On the 10th of April, 1794, he was released from his charge, but continued to preach in various places without any regular settlement. Mr. Black possessed a high order of talent, and was especially fond of philosophical disquisitions. He died August 6th, 1802, in the exercise of a triumphant faith.

Blackburn, Gideon, D. D., was born in Augusta county, Va., August 27th, 1772. In his boy-



GIDEON BLACKBURN, D. D.

hood his parents removed to Tennessee. He pursued his literary course under the direction of Samuel Doak, D. D., and his theological studies under the instruction of Dr. Robert Henderson, and was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Abingdon, in 1792.

Mr. Blackburn established the New Providence Church, Maryville, and also took charge of another church called Eusehia, about ten miles distant. Besides his stated labors in these congregations, he preached much in the region round about, and was instrumental in organizing several new churches. During the early part of his ministry here, his situation, from the exposure of the region to Indian depredations, was one of imminent peril. In 1803 he undertook a mission among the Cherokees, and his

self-sacrificing labors among them were followed with excellent results. In 1811 he removed again to West Tennessee, settled at Franklin, took charge of Harpeth Academy, and preached in rotation at five different places within a range of fifty miles, organizing, within a few months after he commenced his labors, churches at the several places at which he preached.

On November 12th, 1823, Dr. Blackburn was installed pastor of the Presbyterian church in Louisville, Ky., where his labors were greatly blessed. He was President of Centre College, Danville, Ky., from 1827 until 1830. He then removed to Versailles, Ky., where he was occupied, partly in ministering to the Church in that place, and partly as an agent of the Kentucky State Temperance Society. In October, 1833, he removed to Illinois. In 1835 he was an agent to raise funds for Illinois College in the eastern States, and whilst thus engaged, conceived a plan of establishing a theological seminary in Illinois, which resulted, after his death, in the establishment of such an institution at Carlinville, Ill. He died August 23d, 1838.

Dr. Blackburn was much above the ordinary stature, being about six feet one or two inches high. In his manner he was easy, gentle, mild, courteous, affable, but always dignified. "He was," says one who knew him well, "not only an eloquent, but laborious and successful preacher. Like Whitefield, he loved "to range," and besides many extensive tours of preaching through various portions of the United States, his vacations in the academy and college were uniformly spent in traveling from place to place, often preaching night and day, and uniformly followed by weeping, wondering, admiring audiences wherever he went; and even during the sessions of the academy and college, often have I known him, mounted on horseback on Friday afternoon, to dash off ten, twenty and even thirty miles, preach four or five times, administer the communion on Sabbath, and return on Monday morning in time to be in his chair in the lecture-room at nine o'clock. Very many were converted under his ministry, and many churches planted and watered by his indefatigable labors."

Blackburn, William Maxwell, D. D., was born December 30th, 1828, at Carlisle, Ind. He graduated at Hanover College in 1850. He was a student of Princeton Theological Seminary, 1851-4, licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, in April, 1853, and ordained an evangelist by the Presbytery of Lake, September 28th, 1854. He acted as supply of the New School Church at Three Rivers, Michigan, for nearly two years, and then became stated supply of Park Presbyterian Church, Erie, Pa., which had recently been organized. The next year, 1857, he was installed pastor, and continued in this relation until 1863, the church growing rapidly under his ministry. In 1859 he wrote his first book—"The Holy Child," which was regarded at