

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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position as principal in a public school in New Orleans, which he held until near the time of his death. This event occurred August 21st, 1879. Mr. Wayne was a useful citizen and an assiduous and earnest minister, laboring with untiring zeal where his lot had been cast, among all classes and conditions of people. He had won the esteem and regard of all who knew him.

Weaver, Philip, ruling elder. Mr. Weaver was born in Mauchester county, Md., May 31st, 1806. Removed in early life to Selma, Ala., where he died, September 4th, 1875. He was installed as elder of the Presbyterian Church in Selma, Ala., in June, 1846. At that time Selma was a small village, and the church but recently organized. As a successful merchant, in a growing town, he wielded an immense influence for good. The old records show that he was regular in his attendance upon the meetings of Session, and faithful in taking heed to himself, to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost had made him an overseer. During successive pastorates he stood in his lot as a ruler; and to his liberal contributions, unobtrusive piety, untiring energy and fervent prayer, much of the growth of this church is to be attributed. Having served his generation well and faithfully, he "fell asleep," in a good old age, beloved by all.

Webb, Rev. Joseph, the son, probably, of the minister of Green's Farms, Conn., graduated at Yale in 1715, and became a member of Synod in 1720, being the pastor of Newark. He is said to have been dismissed from his pastoral charge in 1736; his name is mentioned as a member of Synod till 1710. He and his son, a student in Yale College, were drowned, October 21st, 1711, while crossing the ferry at Saybrook, Conn.

Webb, Rev. Robert A., second son of Robert C. and Elizabeth (Dootch) Webb, was born in Lafayette county, near Oxford, Miss., September 20th, 1856; entered Calleeoka Institute, in Maury county, Tenn., in 1871, and after remaining there three years and a half, entered the Sophomore Class in Stewart College, now the Southwestern Presbyterian University, at Clarksville, Tenn., and graduated, with the honors of the class, in 1877. In September of the same year he entered the Theological Seminary at Columbia, S. C., and completed the course in May, 1880. He was licensed at McMinnville, Tenn., by the Presbytery of Nashville, April 19th, 1880, and ordained by the Presbytery of Bethel, S. C., April 1st, 1882. After this, Mr. Webb supplied Moore Memorial Church, Nashville, Tenn., the Presbyterian Church at Albany, Ga., and the Second Presbyterian Church of Charleston, S. C. He is now settled as pastor over Bethel Church, York county, S. C.

Webster, Rev. Richard, was born in Albany, N. Y., July 14th, 1811, and early became a subject of converting grace. He graduated at Union College in 1829, and at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1834. He was anxious to go on a foreign mission to

India, but his deafness proved an insurmountable obstacle. He then determined to devote himself to missionary labors at home. He began his career at South Easton, but shortly after organized a church at Mauch Chunk, November 1st, 1835, over which he was settled as pastor. His labors were not confined to this spot, but extended over the coal region in the counties of Lehigh, Northampton, Columbia, etc. He aided in founding a dozen churches, and was the father of Luzerne Presbytery. He died June 19th, 1856, in the forty-fifth year of his age.

When it was announced to him that he was dying, he expressed his doubts, because he felt naturally, and in the full possession of all his faculties. "If it be death, it is such a death as I have never dreamed of. I never dreamed of such a heaven. It is most glorious, but, what is wonderful, it is not strange. It is only a brighter home." Such was the euthanasia of this excellent man, expiring in the prime of life.

Mr. Webster had a tenacious memory, a fondness for antiquarian lore and a familiarity with the details of church history that was astonishing. His deafness and near-sightedness drove him to solitary studies, particularly in the line of historical research. He had poetical gifts, but published nothing. He was genial and social, given to sportive and satirical sallies, full of anecdote and sparkling wit, yet, withal, a man of prayer, submitting with patience to his lot, and exemplary as a pastor, attentive and tender in affliction. He was a frequent correspondent for the religious periodicals, under the signature of K. H. He prepared a "Digest of the Acts of the General Assembly," and materials for a "History of the Presbyterian Church," published as a posthumous work by the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Webster, Rev. Samuel Eyres, was born in Chester county, Pa., July 26th, 1848; studied theology at Princeton Seminary, and was ordained by the Presbytery of Westminster, April 11th, 1871. He was pastor of Bellevue Church, Gap, Pa., 1871-5; of the First Church, Mansfield (Washington), N. J., 1875-80, to which churches more than 500 persons were added during his ministry, and since the latter year has had charge of the First Church, Williamsport, Pa., where his labors have been signally blessed. He is a thoroughly orthodox, strong and impressive preacher, and a most laborious pastor. He is loyal to the Standards and faithful in presenting the doctrines of the Church. He is a bold and courageous man of God, and denounces sin in its various forms with an uncompromising voice. He is one of the rising pastors of the Church, and stands in the front ranks of the young preachers of our day. (*See First Presbyterian Church, Williamsport, Pa.*)

Weed, Henry Rowland, D. D., was born at Ballston, N. Y., July 20th, 1789; graduated at Union College in 1812, and at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1815. He was ordained by the Presbytery of New York, January 4th, 1816; was pastor at Ja-

maica, L. I., N. Y., 1816-22; pastor of the First Church, Albany, N. Y., 1822-29; Agent of the Board of Education, 1830-32; stated supply of the First Church, Wheeling, Va., for some months, then pastor until 1870, though for a few years preceding his resignation, through the infirmities of age, the active duties of the pulpit and pastorate devolved upon his junior co-pastor, the Rev. D. W. Fisher. Dr. Weed was an able, earnest, faithful and successful preacher. He contributed occasionally anonymous articles to the religious periodicals of the Church, including the *Biblical Repertory*, but avoided regular authorship. For the use of his own Bible class, he published a series of questions on the Confession of Faith, which was afterwards published by the Presbyterian Board of Publication. He died at Philadelphia, December 14th, 1870.

Weir, James Wallace, was born at Harrisburg, Pa., August 9th, 1805. His great-grandfathers, Weir and Wallace, fought together in the siege of Derry; their grandchildren (Samuel Weir and Mary Wallace) met on the bank of the Susquehanna a hundred years after, and were united in marriage.

In 1824 Mr. Weir undertook to edit a small religious paper, and with this view learned type-setting. Whilst thus engaged, he received an appointment in a bank at Harrisburg, which he accepted. For five years he was clerk in the Branch Bank of Pennsylvania, located there; for eleven years he was Teller in the Harrisburg Bank, and for thirty-one years was Cashier of the same Institution, which is now known as the Harrisburg National Bank, and which, under his cashiership, greatly prospered.

Mr. Weir was a writer of force and varied ability, and the author of several poems of much merit. The principal productions of his pen are a "Treatise on Sabbath-school Instruction," "Duties of Laymen," and "Social Prayer," all of which were received with marked favor, and recommended by gentlemen of high literary standing.

Mr. Weir was an elder of the Presbyterian Church at Harrisburg, from 1834 until his death; was connected with the Sunday school about fifty years, and was Superintendent of the school of that Church for over forty years. He was one of the first, firmest and most influential friends of the anti-slavery and temperance causes. In 1859, he was elected a corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and long continued to promote its interests in every way in his power.

Mr. Weir resided, with the exception of six months, in the city of his birth, and his steadfast residence only tended to increase his influence and to endear him more and more to his neighbors. On his seventieth birthday the personal friends of the distinguished financier united in an ovation of respect to him, such as is not often paid to men who had a purely private character. No man better deserved it than James Wallace Weir. No man in the State had a

more unsullied reputation, and no man in any community, reaching the age of seventy, had a purer personal reputation. Uprightness, benevolence, energy, geniality, courage in duty, fidelity in earth's various relations, all sanctified and adorned by religion, eminently marked his symmetrical character.

Welch, Ransom Bethune, D.D., LL.D., is a native of Greenville, N. Y. He graduated from Union College in 1846, and studied theology at Andover and Auburn. Ordained and installed at Gilloa, N. Y., by the Classis of Schoharie, 1854; Gilloa, 1851-6; Catskill, 1856-69; Professor of Logic, Rhetoric and English Literature in Union College, 1860-76, and since 1876, has been Professor of Christian Theology in Auburn Seminary. He received the degree of D.D., from Rutgers College in 1863, also from the University of the City of New York, 1868, and the degree of LL.D., from Maryville College, 1872. Dr. Welch is an eminent scholar, a forcible writer and an instructor of marked ability. He has published "Notes on Theology," "Faith and Modern Doubt," also many articles, addresses, etc.

Welch, Thomas R., D.D., son of John Welch



THOMAS R. WELCH, D. D.

and B. J. Rice, was born in Jessamine county, Ky., September 15th, 1825. Having pursued preparatory study at Bethel Academy, in Nicholasville, he entered Centre College, May, 1844, and was graduated, A. B., September, 1846. After a year spent in reading law and teaching school, he passed to the Theological Seminary at Princeton, in September, 1847, where he remained two sessions and was then licensed to preach by the Presbytery of West Lexington, Sep-