

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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continuation of Ramsay's "History of the United States," from 1808 to 1817; "Lectures on Moral and Political Philosophy," "The Principles of Natural and Revealed Religion." One of his most splendid performances was his oration delivered at Trenton, on the death of Washington; the occasion roused his faculties, and the result was a production of great beauty and power.

"Dr. Smith," says the Rev. Philip Lindsley, D.D., who was Tutor in the College at Princeton and student of theology from 1807 to 1810, "throughout the Middle and Southern States was regarded as the most eloquent and learned divine among his contemporaries. . . . Of the government of the college, at this period of its greatest prosperity, I can hardly use language too favorable. . . . He was a diligent, persevering student through life. He was conversant with the literature, science, philosophy and politics of ancient and modern times. . . . His house was frequented by the good, the great, the wise, the intelligent, and humble merit was always welcome at his board and fireside. . . . He was not ambitious, except in the apostolic sense. . . . He was no bigot or dogmatist. In the General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery of his Church, he was confessedly *primus inter pares*, or at least second to none, if report and tradition may be credited. . . ." Referring to Dr. Smith, after he had passed the limit of threescore years, and was compelled, by ill-health, to relinquish all public employments, Dr. Lindsley observes, "the venerable figure, the suintly aspect, the benignant smile, the ethereal spirit, the tranquil resignation, the humble faith, the cheerful temper, the habitual meekness, the generous sympathy, the comprehensive charity, the modest, unpretending gentleness of his whole manner, all proclaimed the mature and gifted Christian, ready to depart, and calmly expecting his final translation to a more congenial world. He took great interest in the youthful candidates for the ministry. He delighted much in their society. His little parlor was often filled with them. And then, what words of wisdom, of kindness, of encouragement, of counsel, and the prayer; for he always concluded these meetings with prayer. . . . Thus blandly and peacefully passed away the latter years of the veteran invalid soldier of the Cross, doing what he could, still, as ever, faithful to his vows, and zealous in his Master's service."

Smith, Thomas Porter, was an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Paris, Ky., for forty-six years. He was born in Virginia, January 1st, 1793; ordained an elder, January 5th, 1822; and died November 12th, 1868. Mr. Smith was licensed Clerk of the County Court, in May, 1813, by Judges Boyle and Owsley, which place he retained for over forty years. He studied law, and was a wise counsellor, and often effected a reconciliation between parties at variance. He was remarkably conscientious, and would not enlist in the defence of the wrong side,

if aware of it. He was a man of extensive reading, and thought more than he read. His favorite works were such as Coleridge's and Isaac Taylor's, and the deepest and most metaphysical works on Morals and Theology. He was one of the leaders in the organization of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in Kentucky, and was a frequent contributor to the religious papers of the day. He was a man of the kindest disposition, very liberal to the poor and to the church, and of consistent and uniform piety.

Smith, Thomas W., a manager of the Presbyterian Hospital in New York, died in that city August 9th, 1875. Mr. Smith, as a business man, was remarkable for sagacity, energy and self-reliance. His integrity was beyond suspicion, and his kindness of heart and suavity of demeanor won the affectionate regard of a wide circle of friends, to whom he was ever ready to extend his sympathy in distress and his counsel and aid in difficulties. As a member and officer of the Presbyterian Church, his walk and conversation were uniformly consistent with his profession. His religious character was simple, yet decided, but never obtrusive. Being strong in his convictions, he was ever earnest and fearless in the advocacy of what he believed to be truth and duty, when called upon for their defence. His interest in the Hospital, to the Board of which he belonged, knew no abatement until death closed the scene, and his useful life and labor ended together.

Smith, Rev. William R., a brother of Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith, was licensed by the Presbytery of New Castle in 1776; was settled as pastor of the Second Church in Wilmington, Del., about 1786; resigned his charge in 1796, and became pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of Harlingen and Shannock, N. J., in which relation he died, about the year 1820. Mr. Smith was a judicious and instructive preacher, a faithful pastor, and amiable and exemplary in his spirit and deportment.

Smylie, Rev. James, was one of the fathers of the Presbyterian Church in the Southwest, and the second minister of the Denomination who settled permanently in that region. He was born in North Carolina, of Scotch parentage, about the year 1780. He received his classical and theological education, which was unusually complete, at Guilford, under the care of Rev. Dr. Caldwell, and was licensed and ordained by the Presbytery of Orange. Soon after his ordination, in 1805, he was sent by the Synod of North Carolina, as a missionary, to the Territory of Mississippi. Commencing his labors at the town of Washington, the capital of the Territory, in Adams county, six miles east of Natchez, he organized at that place a church, which bore the name of "Salem." The influences prevailing at such a political centre were not favorable to the growth of the church, and in the following year it was removed to a rural neighborhood, called "Pine Ridge." The "Pine Ridge Church" is still a vigorous organization, and is the

oldest living Presbyterian church in the Southwest. Mr. Smylie continued to minister to this church till 1811, when he removed to Amite county, on the southern boundary of the Territory. Here he engaged actively in the work of the ministry, extending his labors in behalf of religion and education over a wide region of country, and organizing a number of churches in Mississippi and the contiguous parishes of Louisiana. He was a zealous Presbyterian, and untiring in his efforts to advance the interests of his Church. As the result of a journey which he made in 1814, on horseback, to Tennessee, he obtained from the Synod of Kentucky an ordinance creating the "Presbytery of Mississippi." And from his weight of character and familiarity with ecclesiastical law and usage, his influence in that Presbytery, throughout his life, was almost magisterial.

He died in 1853. His tall, spare, erect bodily frame was the index of the candor and integrity of his spirit. His firmness of temper and conviction was proverbial, but was at the same time mingled with a singular power of attracting the confidence and conciliating the minds of those with whom he had intercourse. His benevolent disposition was conspicuously shown in his labors for the religious instruction of the slaves, and in his boldness in urging their duty in this respect upon their masters.

Smyth, Anson, D.D., was born in Pennsylvania, although by blood and education he is a New Englander. After completing his collegiate and theological education at the East, he took early pastoral charge of a pioneer church in Michigan, and, after four years of successful labor, was called, in 1847, to the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Ohio.

In the year 1850 he became providentially drawn into association with important educational measures then developing, and relinquished his pastoral duties to enter upon a department of public service, in which, for the next sixteen years, he achieved most honorable distinction. He became first Superintendent of the new school system of Toledo, and as a result of his success in that capacity, and his high reputation as Editor of the *Journal of Education*, was elected on the Republican ticket as Commissioner of Schools for the State of Ohio. Six years of laborious, faithful work, as indicated by his able and elaborate reports in this important office during two successive terms, left him high in the respect and confidence of the people. He then became for six years Superintendent of Instruction for the city of Cleveland, conducting its schools with pronounced acceptance and ability.

For the past twelve years Dr. Smyth has occupied no public post, although engaged with considerable regularity in preaching as supply for vacant churches and accomplishing much literary work. Gradually drawn into correspondence for the religious press, he has become widely and favorably known, of late

years, through this channel of influence, one which his genial style and wide acquaintance with men and affairs well enable him to occupy.

Dr. Smyth is of large frame and agreeable presence, warm in his friendships, with a natural fund of spontaneous humor and a remaining capacity for vigorous work which make his more than threescore years rest lightly. His sympathies are broad and scholarly, while yet he is strictly evangelical and entirely loyal to the doctrines and polity of the Presbyterian Church. As a preacher, he is eminently instructive, earnest, biblical and edifying. His warm,



ANSON SMYTH, D.D.

Christian heart, sound judgment, ready aid and fraternal fidelity give him high station in the regard of his ministerial associates.

Smyth, Thomas, D. D., was born in Belfast, Ireland, June 14th, 1808, of English and Scotch parentage. He entered the Institute at Belfast, which was then connected with what is now the Queen's College, as a preparatory or High school, and was prominent among his fellow students, bearing off a prize at every examination. In 1827 he became a student at Belfast College, and there maintained his relative position, as *primus inter pares*, winning prizes in every branch of study. He prosecuted his theological studies at Highbury College, in London. He embarked with his parents for New York, in August, 1830, and soon after his arrival in this country he was taken under the care of Newark Presbytery, and entered the Senior class in Princeton Seminary. Before graduating, he received an invitation to supply the vacant pulpit of the Second Presbyterian Church of