

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.

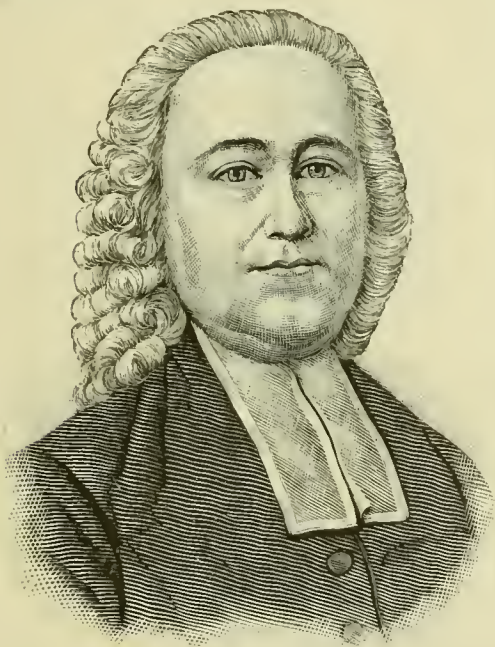
Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generation following—PSALM XLVIII, 12, 13.

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patience. Though he had sensibility to character as well as other men, yet he was willing to encounter disgrace rather than neglect preaching the Truth, however offensive to the sinful, whom he wished to reclaim.

Towards the close of the year 1740, and in the beginning of the year 1741, he made a tour in New England, at the request of Mr. Whitefield. An astonishing efficacy accompanied his labors. Visiting various towns, he was everywhere remarkably useful. In this tour, the dress in which he commonly entered the pulpit was a great coat, girt about him with a leathern girdle, while his natural hair was left undressed. His large stature and grave aspect added a dignity to the simplicity, or rather rusticity, of his appearance.



REV. GILBERT TENNET.

In 1744 he removed to Philadelphia and took charge of the Second Congregation. "Here," says Webster, "his feet were blistered in traversing the streets and visiting such numbers of distressed souls. He called on Franklin to point out suitable persons from whom to solicit aid in erecting a house of worship. The philosopher told the 'enthusiast' to call on everybody; he did so, and built the church." In 1753, Mr. Tennent, at the request of the Trustees of New Jersey College, went to England to solicit funds for that Institution. After a life of great usefulness, he died, in much peace, about the year 1765.

For more than forty years, Mr. Tennent had enjoyed a habitual, unshaken assurance of his interest in redeeming love. In his manner, he was affable, condescending and communicative. He was endeared

by his frankness and undisguised honesty, eminent for public spirit and great fortitude; his mind was enriched by much reading, and his heart was laden with a rich experience of divine grace. As a preacher, he was equaled by few; his reasoning was strong, his language forcible, and often sublime, his manner warm and earnest. With admirable dexterity he exposed the false hope of the hypocrite, and searched the corrupt heart to the bottom. He said of some of his earliest sermons that he begged them, with tears, of the Lord Jesus. Among Mr. Tennent's numerous publications were two volumes of sermons.

Tennent, Rev. John, the third son of Rev. William Tennent, Sr., was born in the county of Armagh, in Ireland, November 12th, 1707. The whole of his education he obtained under the paternal roof, and in the Log College which his father had founded at Neshaminy. After passing the usual trials before the Presbytery of Philadelphia, he was licensed to preach the gospel. November 19th, 1730, he was ordained pastor of the Church at Freehold, N. J., where his labors were attended with prudence, diligence and success.

Mr. Tennent died April 23d, 1732, in the twenty-fifth year of his age. A few minutes before he expired, holding his brother William by the hand, he broke out into the following rapturous expressions: "Farewell, my brethren, farewell father and mother, farewell world, with all thy vain delights. Welcome, God and Father—welcome, sweet Lord Jesus! Welcome death, welcome eternity. Amen." Then, with a low voice, he said, "Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus!" And so he fell asleep in Christ, and obtained an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of his God and Saviour. He was buried in the graveyard near to the church where he preached, and where his tombstone may yet be seen.

As far as can be judged from the accounts which have come down to us, there is reason to believe that, both in piety and talents, Mr. Tennent was not inferior to any of his brothers, and that if he had lived to the usual period of human life, he would have been a "burning and a shining light" in the Church. The people of his charge were greatly attached to him, and exceedingly lamented his death. There is still extant the fragment of an old manuscript book, kept by the Session of his church, in which is contained the following entry:—

"A mournful providence and cause of great humiliation to this poor congregation, to be bereaved, in the flower of youth, of the most laborious, successful, well qualified and pious pastor this age afforded, though but a youth of twenty-four years, five months and eleven days."

Tennent, Rev. William, Sr., was born in Ireland, in 1673. He received a liberal education, but at what college or university is not known. It is probable, however, that he obtained his learning at Trinity College, Dublin, as he belonged originally to