

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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Church at Frankfort, Ky., by the Presbytery of West Lexington, June 18th, 1847, and labored there as pastor until released, September 2d, 1852; removed to Baltimore, Md., and supplied the Fayette Street Church (Independent) in that city nearly one year, 1852-3; then organized the Central Presbyterian Church in the same city, and was installed its pastor May 10th, 1853, and was released therefrom October 27th, 1856; was Professor of Pastoral Theology and Church Government in Danville Theological Seminary, Ky., 1856-57; was pastor of the Second Church at Louisville, Ky., where he was installed April 27th, 1858, and released June 16th, 1881, owing to the failure of his health. He died in Louisville, Ky., October 5th, 1881, in the sixty-fifth year of his age, and in the faith and hope of the gospel he had preached. Dr. Robinson was a gentleman of fascinating manners, and of a kind, benevolent spirit. He excelled as a preacher, and won great popularity. His sermons were Scriptural, logical, instructive and impressive, indicating a strong, independent intellect, thorough preparation, and a heart earnestly desirous of doing good. He was a vigorous writer, firm in his convictions of truth, and always ready to defend it. His power of off-hand speaking was great, and his delivery of his discourses in the pulpit was so earnest and emphatic as to largely augment their force and effectiveness. He took an active part and exerted a strong influence in the judicatories of the Church. His life was one of active and extensive usefulness.

Robinson, Rev. William, was born near Carlisle, England, a little after the beginning of the eighteenth century. On his arrival in America he took charge of a school in Hopewell, N. J. It seems probable, also, that he taught a classical school in Delaware, having Samuel Davies for one of his pupils. After his conversion he soon resolved to devote himself to the work of the ministry, and with reference to this, prosecuted his academical and theological studies at the Log College, while he went on with his school. He was licensed to preach the gospel, by the New Brunswick Presbytery, May 27th, 1740, and on August 4th, 1741, was ordained at New Brunswick *sine titulo*.

In August, 1742, Mr. Robinson received a call to settle at Neshaminy, as successor to the Rev. William Tennent, but declined it. The next Winter he was sent as an evangelist, by the Presbytery of New Castle, to visit the Presbyterian settlements in the valley of the Shenandoah, and on the south side of James river, in Virginia, and the numerous settlements of North Carolina, on the Haw. He passed the Winter in Carolina, and, in consequence of imprudent exposure, contracted a disease from which he never recovered. On his return, he preached with great effect to the Presbyterian settlements in Charlotte, Prince Edward, Campbell and Albemarle counties. Here he was waited upon by a deputation, that persuaded him, instead of pursuing his contemplated route to the

head of the Shenandoah, to return to Hanover, where he preached, July 6th, 1843, the first sermon from a Presbyterian minister ever heard in Hanover county; and continued preaching, with great acceptableness, for four successive days. The people, from gratitude for his services, constrained him to accept a handsome present in money, which, however, he appropriated toward the education of Samuel Davies, afterward the illustrious President Davies, for the ministry.

Mr. Robinson subsequently kept at his work, part of the time in the State of New York, and part of the time in Maryland, and a rich blessing seems everywhere to have attended his labors. He was called to the pastorate of the congregation of St. George's, Del., but, in April, 1747, before he had yet been installed over his charge, his earthly course was finished. There remains little documentary testimony concerning him, but there is a uniform tradition that he was an eminently devout and benevolent man, and one of the most vigorous and effective preachers of his day.

Robinson, Rev. William M., was born in Indiana county, Pa. He graduated at Jefferson College in the Fall of 1841; and passing through the regular three years' course in the Western Theological Seminary, he was licensed to preach the gospel on the 19th of June, 1844, by the Presbytery of Blairsville.

On the 1st of December, following, not wishing to build on another man's foundation, he commenced preaching in a new field in Licking county, O., within the bounds and under the direction of the Presbytery of Zanesville, by which he was ordained an evangelist on the 14th of January, 1846. In due time two churches were organized, Hebron and Brownsville; and in this field he labored, with a good degree of encouragement, for ten years and six months. In the Spring of 1855 he was called to the pastorate of the First Church of Newark, O., successor to Rev. Dr. Wm. Wylie. This pastorate continued seven years, during which the congregation was considerably increased, and the membership just doubled. Then, for one year and nine months, he was the stated supply of the Church in Wellsburg, W. Va., Washington Presbytery.

In the Spring of 1864 he accepted a call to the newly organized Second Church of Mercer, Pa., in the Presbytery of Erie. Entering upon his labors the first Sabbath of April, he was installed on the 14th day of June. Eight years and one month were spent in this charge, and connected with these years of labor there was very much that was encouraging; and the charge was resigned, when God, in His providence, seemed to call him and his family to Allegheny, in the Spring of 1872.

On the second Sabbath of July he commenced preaching in the Providence Church, Allegheny; accepted a call to become their pastor, and was installed on the first Sabbath evening of November. This pastorate still continues.