

PENNSYLVANIA

A HISTORY

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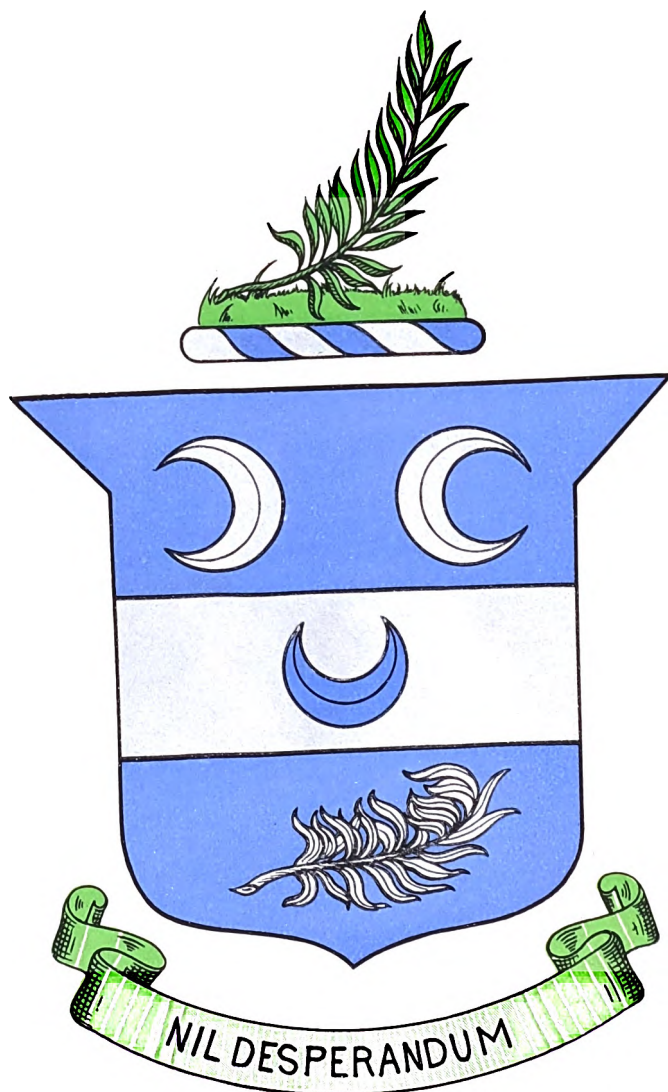
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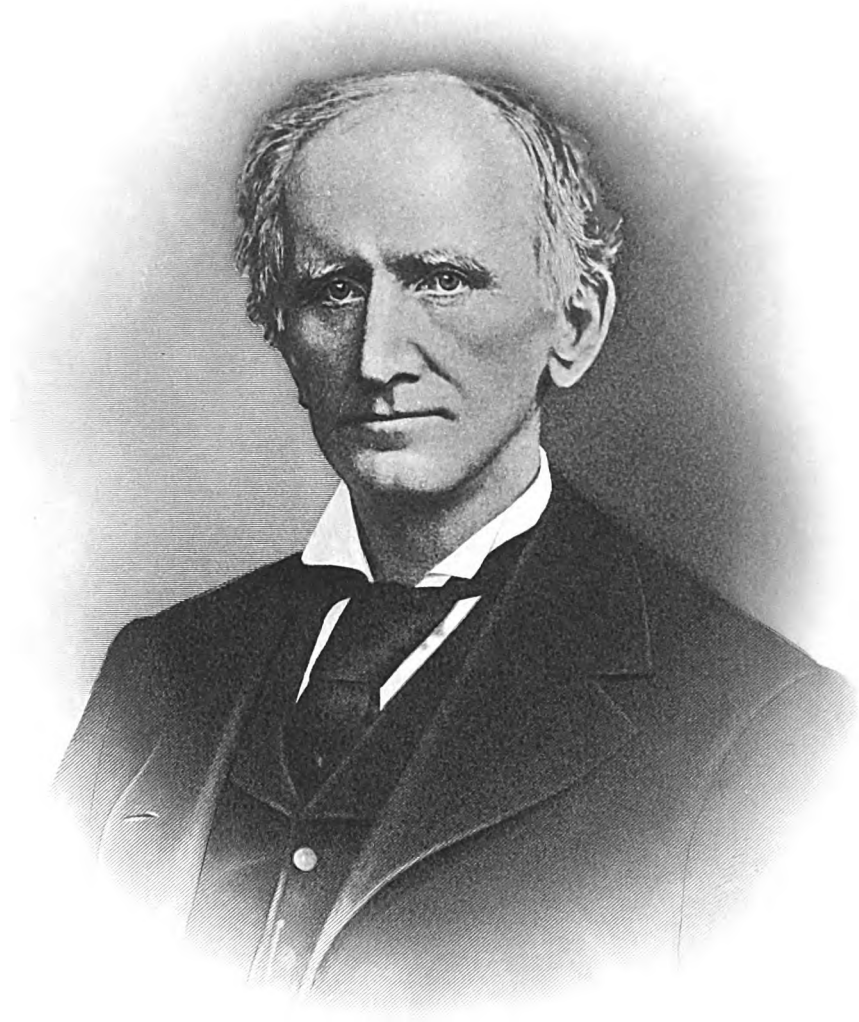
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Alfred Nevin, D. D., L. L. D.

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immediately began to practice his profession in Philadelphia, and for ten years steadily widened his clientele. In 1890 he was retained by the late John Wanamaker, the great merchant, to look after his interests from a legal point of view. In this work Mr. Nevin has continued, and he is now vice-president, secretary and director, as stated above, of both the Philadelphia and the New York stores. He was vice-president and director of the West End Trust Company until its merger with the Real Estate Title Insurance and Trust Company and the Land Title and Trust Company, November, 1926, at which time he became a director of the merged companies, known as the Real Estate-Land Title and Trust Company; he is also trustee of The First Penny Savings Bank, both of Philadelphia. On April 23, 1923, he was appointed a member of the Board of City Trusts. Although a Republican and interested in good government, Mr. Nevin is not politically active. He is a member of the Zeta Psi Fraternity, the University Club, the Philadelphia Country Club, and the Merion Cricket Club. He is a communicant of both the Tenth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, and the Presbyterian Church of Bryn Mawr.

William L. Nevin married, December 6, 1906, Mary Grace Hall, daughter of Louis W. and Eliza Cameron (Warford) Hall, of Harrisburg, the father, a direct descendant, through the Hall family, of William Maclay, first United States Senator from Pennsylvania, and of John Harris, Colonial patriot and founder of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Nevin is a member of the Colonial Dames of America. Mr. and Mrs. Nevin have one daughter: Frances Hall.

ALFRED NEVIN, D. D., LL. D.—Of prime significance to the development of the Presbyterian church in Pennsylvania and to the spread of religious education not only in that State but throughout this country was the professional career and the personality of Alfred Nevin. His whole life was given over to active ministerial and to editorial work in connection with notable Presbyterian publications. He was born of admirable Scotch-Irish stock. Toward the close of the eighteenth century two brothers of the name of Nevin came from England to America, one settling on the Hudson River in New York, the other, Daniel Nevin, adopting as his home Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania. The Nevin family arms are given as:

Arms—Azure, on a fesse between an increscent and a decrescent, in chief and in base a palm branch argent, a crescent of the first.

Crest—On a mount a palm branch vert.

Motto—*Nil desperandum* (Never despair).

Daniel Nevin was born August 28, 1744, and died in 1813. He lived at Herron's Branch, near Strasburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and married Mrs. Margaret (Williamson) Reynolds, sister of the noted Dr. Hugh Williamson, one of the framers of the United States Constitution, and daughter of John and Mary (Davidson) Williamson. Among the children of Daniel and Margaret Nevin were: John and David. The latter was the father of Rev. Alfred Nevin. David Nevin was born February 2, 1782, and died May 27, 1848, having been a merchant who built up quite an important business. David Nevin served in the defense of Baltimore in the War of 1812 and won the title of major. He further served the new State by representing Cumberland County in the Reform Convention of 1837-38 which remodelled the State Constitution. He married Mary Peirce.

Alfred Nevin, son of David and Mary (Peirce) Nevin, was born in Shippensburg, Cumberland Valley, Pennsylvania, March 14, 1816. The boy began his collegiate education at Dickinson College, completing it at Jefferson, from which institution he graduated in 1834. Alfred Nevin's first choice of a life career was the law, and he won admission to the bar in 1837 as a graduate of Judge Reed's Law School at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with the degree of Bachelor of Law. His heart, however, was with the ministry. For that he prepared thoroughly, as was his wont, by a course at Western Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1840. In April of that same year he was licensed by the Presbytery of Carlisle. Declining calls to several churches in Western cities, Rev. Nevin assumed charge, in May, 1840, of Cedar Grove Presbyterian Church, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. In five years he built up an energetic and enthusiastic congregation there. The next seven years he performed the same service of the German Reformed Church of Chambersburg, and for the subsequent five years devoted himself to the second Presbyterian Church of Lancaster City. While he was ably fulfilling his third charge the excellence of his work became more widely known, and he was chosen moderator of the Synod of Philadelphia at its meeting in Hollidaysburg, at the same time continuing his work in Lancaster City. Dr. Alfred Nevin was appointed by President Lincoln as chaplain of the Satterlee Hospital, a United States Government hospital, situated in West Philadelphia, during the Civil War, it being located in Philadelphia due to the celebrity of that city's physicians and surgeons. In 1857 he organized the Alexander Church of Philadelphia. This charge he resigned in 1861 in order to devote himself to the editorial work in which he so thoroughly believed and for which he was by the compre-

hensive nature of his education well fitted to do. He published the "Standard" until 1866, when ill health prevented his further work on it and it was merged with the "Northwestern Presbyterian," at Chicago. When a rest had restored his impaired health, he began the publication of the "Presbyterian Weekly," later known as the "Baltimore Presbyterian," and he was editor in chief of the "Presbyterian Journal," published by the Rev. J. Ford Sutton, beginning his work with the initial number of that organ. In 1858 he was chosen to address the Alumni of his *alma mater*, and the profundity and eloquence of his delivery on the theme "The Responsibility of American Citizenship" was widely discussed. An austere man, he had a great love for humanity and yearned for its progress. For years Rev. Nevin was a member of the Presbyterian Historical Society, a trustee of Lafayette College, and a founder and trustee of the Presbyterian Hospital of Philadelphia. For a number of times he was commissioner to the General Assembly and by appointment from that body represented the Presbyterian Church in the Massachusetts Congregational Association, the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. In 1855, in recognition of his distinguished services, Lafayette College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity; and the Western Theological Seminary added the further dignity of the degree of Doctor of Laws in 1873. Dr. Nevin was a member of the Historical Societies of Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and of literary societies under the ægis of various prominent American colleges. A scholarly man and a facile writer, he was the author of some twenty volumes, including, among others: "Notes on the Shorter Catechism," "Parables of Jesus," "Churches of the Valley," "The Voice of God," "Popular Commentary on the Gospels and Acts," "Men of Mark of Cumberland Valley, Pennsylvania," "Notes on Exodus," "The Age Question," and "Infidelity Rebuked—Letters to Robert G. Ingersoll." His death occurred September 1, 1890.

Alfred Nevin married, in 1841, Sarah, daughter of Hon. Robert Jenkins, of Windsor Forge, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and they were the parents of a son, William L. Nevin (q. v.).

Sarah (Jenkins) Nevin was a descendant of a distinguished American family. The Jenkins arms were: Per pale, azure, and sable, three fleurs-de-lis or; their crest: a battle axe, handle or, head proper. The name derived from Jenks or John, and the termination—"ings" (belonging to)—thus indicates the son of John. The family under discussion is of the Welsh origin, with David Jenkins as progenitor, born in Wales, who immigrated to

America in the year 1700, or thereabouts. An old family Bible gives his place of settlement as "near Great Valley Church," Chester County, Pennsylvania. He died before October 5, 1745, having married Margaret (probably Rees), by whom he had at least one son, John. This son, John Jenkins, was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1711, and died at "Windsor," Pennsylvania, in 1777. Settling in Conestoga Valley, near Churchtown, Lancaster County, in 1733, he erected the Windsor Iron Works, which were among the first in the State. He and his family were members of the Episcopal church. John Jenkins married, about 1730, Rebecca Meredith, daughter of David and Aurelia Sarah (Rush) Meredith, who died September 5, 1771, at the age of sixty-four. It was the first of their ten children who carried the line, Major David Jenkins, born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, July 2, 1731, who died June 27, 1797. He purchased the Windsor Forges, which he operated throughout his life. A man of public spirit and influence, he was a member of the Committee of Safety of Lancaster County; in January, 1775, he was a delegate to the Provincial Convention; on June 25, 1776, he represented the county in a conference held in Lancaster; in July, 1776, he was a member of the representatives from the Associators of Pennsylvania. In all current references he is called "Major." Major David Jenkins married Martha Armor, of Pequea, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, who died April 9, 1802. One of their sons, Robert Jenkins, continued the line, and was the father of Sarah, born July 1, 1817, who married Alfred Nevin, subject of this sketch. Hon. Robert Jenkins, son of Major David and Martha (Armor) Jenkins, was born July 10, 1769, and died April 18, 1848. He was a man of exceptional abilities and wealth, with large influence in the community. Inheriting from his father the Windsor Iron Works, with about 3,000 acres of land, he operated it throughout his life and increased his holdings. He found time, however, for important public service, as representative in the Pennsylvania Assembly and in Congress, 1807 to 1811. Hon. Robert Jenkins married, in 1799, Catherine M. Carmichael, daughter of Rev. John Carmichael, an honored minister and active patriot during the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Jenkins died September 3, 1856, at the age of eighty-two.

The man of first rate mental endowment and educational equipment who devotes his best to the ministry is working in a not over-crowded field for the betterment of humanity. Man's spiritual progress is his goal. To Alfred Nevin came in full measure the urge so to work, and success rewarded his altruism in various ways throughout life.