

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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Germans) have taken their places. These, generally, belong to other denominations, and have deserted this ancient temple of the Most High. Then, again, other churches have sprung up in the neighboring towns, and many of those who formerly attended at Rocky Spring can now enter the sanctuary nearer their homes, without the inconvenience of riding several miles, as was formerly necessary. All these circumstances have conspired to produce the present forsaken and desolate condition of the church, and its doom seems inevitable. A few short years only will have elapsed before the stranger will stand by the tottering walls on the hill-top, and sadly meditate upon the past history of the sacred pile. Then the descendants of the old congregation will have gone, and no one will be able to recount the many stirring events connected with it in former years, or reverentially commemorate its departing glory.

Rodgers, Rev. James L., is a native of Shippensburg, Pa. He graduated at Jefferson College, Pa., in 1847. After completing his theological studies at Princeton Seminary he was installed, August 31st, 1851, pastor of Mt. Joy and Donegal churches, in Lancaster county, Pa. Here he labored for a few years, acceptably and successfully. Mr. Rodgers, who has a fine capacity as an instructor, has for a long time been teaching advanced scholars in his flourishing Institution, Springfield, Ohio, and was for a year a stated supply at Yellow Spring Church.

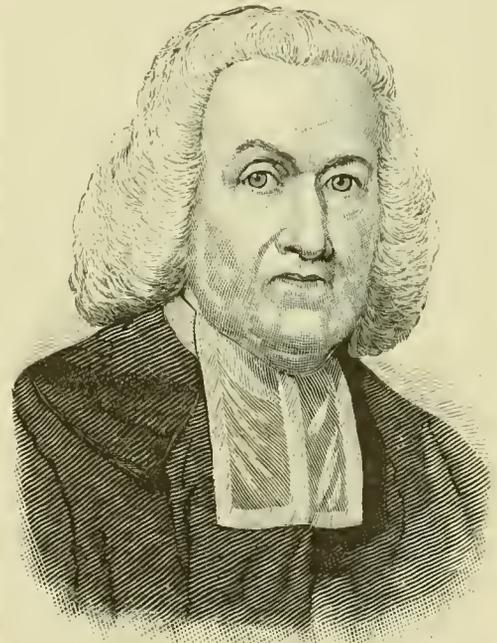
Rodgers John, D. D., was born in Boston, August 5th, 1727. His parents removed to Philadelphia in 1728. During the first visit of Whitefield to Philadelphia, in 1739, while preaching at night on the court-house steps, young Rodgers pressed near, and held a lantern for his accommodation. Absorbed and deeply interested, he became so much agitated as to be scarcely able to stand, the lantern fell from his hand, and was dashed to pieces. When little more than twelve years old he became hopefully pious.

Mr. Rodgers, resolving to enter the ministry, became a student, in 1743, in the school under the care of the Rev. Samuel Blair, at Fagg's Manor. He was licensed by the Presbytery of New Castle, October 14th, 1747. He spent the summer of 1748 in Somerset county, Md., where, in a very uncommon degree, his labors were blessed. He was installed pastor at St. George's, Del., March 16th, 1749. Here the congregation rapidly enlarged; a new house of worship was erected, and was soon too strait for them. The Forest Church, near Middletown, had a third part of his time. In these congregations he was very zealous and successful, nor did he neglect the vacancies hopelessly sinking out of existence all along the Peninsula.

Mr. Rodgers, having declined, in 1754, an invitation to visit New York with a view to settlement, he was called thither in January, 1765, and under the advice of Synod he accepted the call. His pastoral

relation to St. George's was dissolved May 18th, 1765, and he was installed in his new charge September 4th. A considerable revival of religion almost immediately ensued; a large number were brought to the knowledge of the truth.

In the close of February, 1776, Dr. Rodgers, with many others, removed their families from New York, expecting that a speedy effort would be made to seize the city and hold it for the Crown. He became chaplain of Gen. Heath's brigade, in April, and on resigning, spent the winter in Georgia. On his return to New York the parsonage was gone, having been consumed in the great fire; the Wall Street Church had been converted into barracks, and the Brick Church into a hospital, and left in a ruined state. Dr. Rodgers preached in St. Paul's and St. George's Episcopal



JOHN RODGERS, D.D., FIRST MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

churches, which had been kindly offered for his use, alternately, from November, 1783, till June, 17—.

Dr. Rodgers was the Moderator of the first General Assembly, in 1789. After 1803 he ceased to preach more than once on the Sabbath. He preached for the last time in September, 1809. On May 7th, 1811, in his eighty-fourth year, he entered into rest. His influence, in his old age, was most healthful, and kept alive in our Church a remembrance of the years of the right hand of the Most High, a sense of the importance of revivals, and a longing for their return. He lived to see the gloomy clouds that hung over our land so ominously for years after the Revolution, roll away, and to witness the enlargement and prosperity of our Church, beyond all the most sanguine expectations of his youth.