

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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sembly, at its sessions in Peoria, Ill. It was at Dr. Morrison's suggestion, while in India, that the first week of January was set apart for united prayer for the conversion of the world to Christ. He lived and labored successively at Allahabad, Agra, Sabathu, Simla, Ambala, Lahore, Rawal Pindi and Dehra Doon. He was a man of rare devotion to his work, doing the one thing only, of living to advance the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Through many trials he stood bravely at his post, until his Master called him home. He died of Asiatic cholera, September 16th, 1881, at Dehra Doon, India. His dying words were, "It is perfect peace; I know whom I have believed."

Morrison, Robert Hall, D. D., the son of William and Abigail (McEwen) Morrison, was born in "Rocky River Congregation," Cabarrus county, N. C., September 8th, 1798. His grandfather, Robert Morrison, emigrated from the Isle of Lewis, Scotland, about 1750, and settled in North Carolina. Robert Hall, the grandson, pursued his classical studies in Rocky River Academy, under Rev. John Makemie Wilson, D. D. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina, in 1818, in the class of President James K. Polk, Governor Mosely, of Florida, and Bishop Green, of Mississippi. After graduating he studied theology under his pastor, Dr. John M. Wilson, and was received under care of Concord Presbytery, September 1st, 1818; licensed by the same, September 6th, 1820, and ordained, by the same, pastor of Providence Church, April 21st 1821, and immediately elected Commissioner to the Assembly, at Philadelphia. He was dismissed to Fayetteville Presbytery, April 3d, 1822, and labored as pastor of Fayetteville Church for three years. About this time the College of New Jersey gave him the degree of A. M. During his stay in Fayetteville he edited a paper—called the *Religious Telegraph*, perhaps. In 1827 he returned to Concord Presbytery, and took charge of Sugar Creek Church, preaching a portion of his time in the neighboring village of Charlotte.

In 1835 he introduced into Concord Presbytery the resolutions that led to the establishment of Davidson College, and receiving an appointment as Agent, together with Rev. P. J. Sparrow, raised \$30,000 for that purpose. At the opening of the College he was called, as its first President, to organize the Institution. He began work there in February, 1837, and faithfully and wisely reduced the enterprise into working order, as a Manual-labor College. The manual-labor feature was dropped after a couple of years, as impracticable. In 1838 the University of North Carolina conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. In 1840, in consequence of impaired health, Dr. Morrison resigned the presidency of Davidson College, and retired to his farm in Lincoln county, where he still survives. He continued to preach at several neighboring churches until 1880, when he ceased, through the infirmities of age.

Dr. Morrison was an impressive, elegant and instructive preacher, loving the Church and its Head, and laboring for its advancement as long as shattered nerves would allow. His influence in the Church was great, and probably none but he could have succeeded in carrying into effect the often tried enterprise of establishing a good college in western North Carolina. His piety, zeal for the glory of God, eloquence, and influence with public men, succeeded in securing a desirable charter for the College, and his untiring patience and acquaintance with affairs enabled him to put the scheme in successful operation.

Morrison, Rev. William N., now in the seventy-third year of his age, resides in Asheville, N. C., laid aside, as he has been for several years, from the active duties of the ministry, by the infirmities of age and disease. He is the son of John Morrison, who was, for many years before his death, an efficient and venerated ruling elder in Rocky River Church, in Cabarrus county, N. C. His academical course was taken under his eldest brother, Rev. James Morrison, in Rockbridge county, Va. After graduating at Washington College, Va., he went to the Theological Seminary at Princeton in 1831, but his health failing there, he intermitted his studies for a time, and then completed them at Union Seminary, Va. He was licensed to preach April 30th, 1835; ordained by Presbytery of Morgantown, November 11th, 1837; stated supply of Goshen and New Hope churches, N. C., 1836-7; pastor of Goshen, 1837-40; stated supply of New Hope, 1837-41; stated supply of Swannanoa, Reem's Creek, and Flat Creek, 1841-54, and teacher and Sunday-school missionary, Asheville, 1854.

For several short periods of time, Mr. Morrison was the only Presbyterian minister west of the Blue Ridge, in North Carolina. Very few of those who called him and grew in grace under his arduous ministry remain, but their children and children's children rise and call him blessed. He has been a faithful servant in the Lord's vineyard. "The revelation of the 'great day' only," writes a hand guided by affection, "will make known the toils and trials through which he and his family have passed to sow the seed of the gospel; but he will soon be called up higher, to receive from Him who 'gave Himself for us,' the 'Well done, enter into the joy of thy Lord,' the hope of which sustains him under all the infirmities of declining years."

Morse, Rev. Richard Cary, was born September 19th, 1841, in Hudson, N. Y., graduated at Yale College in 1862, and at both Union and Princeton Theological Seminaries in 1867. October, 1867, to December, 1869, was assistant editor of the *New York Observer*. January 15th, 1869, was ordained by the Third Presbytery of New York. In January, 1870, accepted an invitation of the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associa-