

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.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1864, BY D. R. B. N., FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN ENCYCLOPÆDIA PUBLISHING CO.,
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"These persons, with two or three others, all heads of families, without previous consultation or conference, absented themselves at the same time from the worship of the parish church. They were convinced that the gospel was not preached by the parish minister, and they deemed it inconsistent with their duty to attend upon his ministrations. Four of them were summoned on the same day, and at the same place, to answer to the proper officers for their delinquency. For the first time they here learned their common views. Confirmed in them by this unexpected coincidence, they thenceforth chose to subject themselves to the payment of the fines imposed by law rather than attend church where they felt that they could not be profited.

"They agreed, at first, to meet every Sabbath, alternately at each other's houses, to read and pray. Soon their numbers increased. Curiosity attracted some and religious anxiety others. The Scriptures and Luther on Galatians were first read. Afterward a volume of Whitefield's sermons fell into their hands (1743). 'My dwelling-house,' says Mr. Morris, 'was at length too small to contain the people. We determined to build a meeting-house, merely for reading.' The result was that several were awakened, and gave proof of genuine conversion. Mr. Morris was invited to several places, some of them at a considerable distance, to read the sermons which had been so effective in his own neighborhood. Thus the interest that had been awakened spread abroad.

"The dignitaries of the established Church saw the parish churches deserted, and took the alarm. They urged that indulgence encouraged the evil, and hence invoked the strong arm of the law to restrain it. The leaders in the movement were no longer regarded as individual delinquents, but a malignant cabal, and, instead of being arraigned merely, before the magistrates, they were cited to appear before the Governor and Council.

"Startled by the criminal accusation which was now directed against them, of the nature, extent, and penalties of which they had indistinct conceptions, they had not even the name of a religious Denomination under which to shelter their dissent. At length, recollecting that Luther, whose work occupied so much space in their public religious readings, was a noted reformer, they declared themselves Lutherans.

"But it so happened that, on the way to Williamsburg, to appear before the Governor, one of the company, detained by a violent storm at a house on the road, fell in with an old volume on a dust-covered shelf, which he read, to while away the time. Amazed to find in it the expression of his own religious sentiments, so far as they had been definitely formed, he offered to purchase the book, but the owner gave it to him. At Williamsburg he, with his friends, more carefully examined the work, and all were agreed that it expressed their own views. When they appeared before the Governor, therefore, they presented

this old volume as their creed. The Governor, Gooch, himself of Scotch origin and education, looked at the volume, and found it to be the Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. He consequently denominated the men arraigned before him Presbyterians, and dismissed them, with the gentle caution not to excite disturbance. One of the party firmly believed that this leniency on the part of the Governor and the Council was due, in part, to the impression made by a violent thunder-storm, then shaking the house in which they were assembled, and wrapping everything around them alternately in darkness and in sheeted flame."

Morrison, Rev. George, was born at Whiteclay Creek Farm, in New Castle county, Del., January 15th, 1797, the oldest of six children of Douglass and Elizabeth (Wilson) Morrison. He pursued his classical studies under the Rev. Dr. Russell, Principal of the Newark Academy, and pastor, and his theological studies with the Rev. Dr. Samuel Martin, of Chanceford, York county, Pa., one of the eminent men of his generation. His licensure to preach the gospel was received from the Presbytery of New Castle, in 1822. In the same year he was called to the charge of the Bethel Church, in Harford county, Md., and about this time also purchased a farm in Baltimore county, at Sweet Air, at which place he shortly afterwards established a classical boarding-school, which he conducted in conjunction with his ministerial labors at Bethel and other points in Baltimore and Harford counties. After a successful and arduous ministry of fifteen years, he died, April 19th, 1837, and his remains are interred in the graveyard of the old and historic church of Bethel. Mr. Morrison continued pastor of Bethel Church through his entire ministry. He was an exemplary and useful man. His simplicity of manner, honesty, candor, integrity, fidelity and constancy in friendship, opened every heart to receive him without jealousy or suspicion. His visits to the families of his church were profitable beyond what is common. His discourses, which were plain and Scriptural, were always delivered with an earnestness and warmth which showed the deep sense which he had of his solemn station, as standing up in Christ's stead, and entreating sinners to be reconciled to God. He was a pure, old style adherent to the doctrines and order of the Presbyterian Church as stated in its Standards. He knew no sophistry. The metaphysics of the Bible were all the metaphysics he ever studied, and all his pride was spent in understanding them. His preaching was not with the enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power."

Morrison, Rev. George, the son and fourth child of Rev. George and Elizabeth (Lovell) Morrison, was born at Sweet Air, Baltimore county, Md., January 30th, 1831. He graduated at Princeton College, in 1852. In the Autumn of the year of his graduation, he established a classical school at Sweet