

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 1884, BY D. R. B. N., FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN ENCYCLOPÆDIA PUBLISHING CO.,
IN THE OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING CO.,
No. 1510 CHESTNUT STREET.

maica, L. I., N. Y., 1816-22; pastor of the First Church, Albany, N. Y., 1822-29; Agent of the Board of Education, 1830-32; stated supply of the First Church, Wheeling, Va., for some months, then pastor until 1870, though for a few years preceding his resignation, through the infirmities of age, the active duties of the pulpit and pastorate devolved upon his junior co-pastor, the Rev. D. W. Fisher. Dr. Weed was an able, earnest, faithful and successful preacher. He contributed occasionally anonymous articles to the religious periodicals of the Church, including the *Biblical Repertory*, but avoided regular authorship. For the use of his own Bible class, he published a series of questions on the Confession of Faith, which was afterwards published by the Presbyterian Board of Publication. He died at Philadelphia, December 14th, 1870.

Weir, James Wallace, was born at Harrisburg, Pa., August 9th, 1805. His great-grandfathers, Weir and Wallace, fought together in the siege of Derry; their grandchildren (Samuel Weir and Mary Wallace) met on the bank of the Susquehanna a hundred years after, and were united in marriage.

In 1824 Mr. Weir undertook to edit a small religious paper, and with this view learned type-setting. Whilst thus engaged, he received an appointment in a bank at Harrisburg, which he accepted. For five years he was clerk in the Branch Bank of Pennsylvania, located there; for eleven years he was Teller in the Harrisburg Bank, and for thirty-one years was Cashier of the same Institution, which is now known as the Harrisburg National Bank, and which, under his cashiership, greatly prospered.

Mr. Weir was a writer of force and varied ability, and the author of several poems of much merit. The principal productions of his pen are a "Treatise on Sabbath-school Instruction," "Duties of Laymen," and "Social Prayer," all of which were received with marked favor, and recommended by gentlemen of high literary standing.

Mr. Weir was an elder of the Presbyterian Church at Harrisburg, from 1834 until his death; was connected with the Sunday school about fifty years, and was Superintendent of the school of that Church for over forty years. He was one of the first, firmest and most influential friends of the anti-slavery and temperance causes. In 1859, he was elected a corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and long continued to promote its interests in every way in his power.

Mr. Weir resided, with the exception of six months, in the city of his birth, and his steadfast residence only tended to increase his influence and to endear him more and more to his neighbors. On his seventieth birthday the personal friends of the distinguished financier united in an ovation of respect to him, such as is not often paid to men who had a purely private character. No man better deserved it than James Wallace Weir. No man in the State had a

more unsullied reputation, and no man in any community, reaching the age of seventy, had a purer personal reputation. Uprightness, benevolence, energy, geniality, courage in duty, fidelity in earth's various relations, all sanctified and adorned by religion, eminently marked his symmetrical character.

Welch, Ransom Bethune, D.D., LL.D., is a native of Greenville, N. Y. He graduated from Union College in 1846, and studied theology at Andover and Auburn. Ordained and installed at Gilloa, N. Y., by the Classis of Schoharie, 1854; Gilloa, 1851-6; Catskill, 1856-69; Professor of Logic, Rhetoric and English Literature in Union College, 1860-76, and since 1876, has been Professor of Christian Theology in Auburn Seminary. He received the degree of D.D., from Rutgers College in 1868, also from the University of the City of New York, 1868, and the degree of LL.D., from Maryville College, 1872. Dr. Welch is an eminent scholar, a forcible writer and an instructor of marked ability. He has published "Notes on Theology," "Faith and Modern Doubt," also many articles, addresses, etc.

Welch, Thomas R., D. D., son of John Welch



THOMAS R. WELCH, D. D.

and B. J. Rice, was born in Jessamine county, Ky., September 15th, 1825. Having pursued preparatory study at Bethel Academy, in Nicholasville, he entered Centre College, May, 1844, and was graduated, A. B., September, 1846. After a year spent in reading law and teaching school, he passed to the Theological Seminary at Princeton, in September, 1847, where he remained two sessions and was then licensed to preach by the Presbytery of West Lexington, Sep-

tember, 1849. During the next year he supplied the pulpit at Warsaw, Ky., after which he resumed his theological studies in the New Albany (Ind.) Seminary, from which he received the usual certificate, May, 1851. Proceeding at once to take charge of the Church at Helena, Ark., he remained there eight years, when he was called to the Church at Little Rock. His ordination took place at the hands of the Presbytery of Arkansas, in session at Batesville, April 11th, 1852.

He became pastor of the First Church at Little Rock, the capital of the State, in December, 1859. There he still abides, beloved of men and approved of God.

His *alma mater* conferred on him the degree of D.D., in 1870. In 1872 he was Moderator of the General Assembly at Richmond, Va. In 1877 he was a member of the First General Presbyterian Council at Edinburgh. In 1880 he represented the State of Arkansas at the Centenary Sunday-school Celebration in London. He is President of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas College, and a Director of the Southwestern Presbyterian University at Clarksville, Tenn., of which Institution he was, a year ago, elected a Professor and Vice-Chancellor; a position he declined, in obedience to the decision of his Presbytery that he should not leave his pastoral charge.

Dr. Welch has had a busy life, and made an enviable record. Of fine presence, genial manners, ready sympathy, he finds welcome everywhere. Especially are they attached to him who have experience of his wise and faithful pastoral ministry in seasons of perplexity, wandering, sickness or sorrow. A well-grounded theologian, a clear thinker, a lucid expositor, he is a model preacher of the gospel, rightly dividing the Word, shunning not to declare all the counsel of God, feeding the flock, and warning and entreating them who are without.

By long residence, abundant labors, eminent administrative ability, Dr. Welch is the Presbyterian Nestor of Arkansas, and no man in the State is held in higher esteem or wields a stronger influence.

Wellford, Hon. Beverly Randolph, third son of Dr. Beverly R. Wellford, President of National Medical Association, 1853, and Professor of *Materia Medica*, in the Medical College of Virginia, 1854-70; was born in Fredericksburg, Va., May 10th, 1828. Mr. Wellford graduated in the Centennial Class, 1847, of the College of New Jersey, and began the practice of law in Fredericksburg, Va., in September, 1849. In 1854 he removed to Richmond, Va., where he continued the practice of his profession, and was elected, by the General Assembly of Virginia, Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, including the city of Richmond and county of Henrico, in March, 1870, and re-elected by the General Assembly, December, 1878, for an additional term of eight years. He was baptized in the Presbyterian Church, of Fredericksburg, Va., of which both his parents were members,

under the ministry of Rev. Samuel B. Wilson, D.D., who died when a Professor in Union Theological Seminary. Judge Wellford was received as a communicant in the same church, on profession of faith, in 1853, and afterward removed to Richmond, where he was ordained as ruling elder, in the First Presbyterian Church, in 1857; was elected by the Southern



HON. BEVERLY RANDOLPH WELLFORD.

General Assembly, in 1866, a member of the "Committee of Publication," which position he still fills.

Wentworth, Stephen Girard, belonged to that large and well-known family which came to this country from England many years ago. He was born in Williamstown, Mass., October, 1811. Early in life, at the age of nineteen, and without means, he came to Monroe county (now), W. Va., where he remained for six years. In 1837 he moved to Brownsville, Saline county, Mo., where he resided for three years. He removed to Lafayette county, Mo., in 1840, where he has since lived, most of the time in Lexington.

Mr. Wentworth united with the (O. S.) Presbyterian Church of Lexington, Mo., in 1844, then under the ministry of Dr. J. L. Yantis. He was, in 1847, elected deacon, and served the Church faithfully as treasurer for many years. In 1872, having "obtained a good degree," he was chosen ruling elder, which office he held while he lived.

By industry, energy, frugality and wisdom, he soon began to acquire property, which he not only kept and increased, but used wisely and well. Besides sharing in every good word and work in his church and community, and conferring many private benefac-