

THE NATIONAL  
CYCLOPÆDIA OF AMERICAN  
BIOGRAPHY

BEING THE

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

AS ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIVES OF THE FOUNDERS, BUILDERS, AND DEFENDERS  
OF THE REPUBLIC, AND OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE  
DOING THE WORK AND MOULDING THE  
THOUGHT OF THE PRESENT TIME

EDITED BY

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REVISED AND APPROVED BY THE MOST EMINENT HISTORIANS, SCHOLARS, AND  
STATESMEN OF THE DAY

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**LEIGH, Hezekiah Gilbert**, clergyman, was born at Durant's Neck, Perquimans co., N. C., Nov. 23, 1795, son of Richard and Charlotte (Spruill) Leigh, grandson of Gilbert and Elizabeth (Foster) Leigh, and cousin of Benjamin Watkins Leigh, U. S. senator from Virginia. His family, of Scotch-Irish extraction, is descended from James Leigh, an early settler of the James river section of Virginia, where its members resided until 1765. In that year his grandfather, Gilbert Leigh, removed to Edenton, N. C., an old colonial town on Albemarle Sound, then the seat of government of North Carolina, and in about eight years amassed a comfortable fortune as a contractor on public buildings under the colonial government. About 1774 he purchased lands in Perquimans county, where he resided until his death in 1790. Dr. Leigh attended schools at Murfreesboro and Edenton, and began active life as a school teacher. He enlisted at the outbreak of the war of 1812, and at its close studied surveying, but his principal work was teaching until his twenty-second year, when he was converted, and immediately offered his services to the Virginia Methodist conference. In February, 1818, he was received on trial, remaining a member until the creation of the North Carolina conference in 1836. His first circuit was Bedford county, Va., and his second, Wake county, N. C., including the city of Raleigh. He was in Norfolk, Va., in 1821; in Petersburg in 1822-23, and during this period inaugurated the movement which later developed into Randolph-Macon College. During the first years of his efforts for the college, he was aided by Gabriel P. Disosway, a merchant of Petersburg, who thus shares with him the honor of founding the oldest Methodist college in the southern states. He held pastorates successively at Bedford, Raleigh, Gloucester, Norfolk, and Petersburg, and was presiding elder of the Meherrin, James river, Petersburg, Henderson, and Raleigh districts. Within six years after his reception on trial he was elected a delegate to the general conference, and was re-elected to each succeeding conference until the end of his life. In 1845 he was a member of the convention assembled at Louisville, Ky., under the "plan of separation" for the organization of the Methodist Church, South. The general conference of 1824 adopted a resolution recommending that "each annual conference establish a seminary of learning under its own regulations and patronage;" and at the session of the Virginia at Oxford, N. C., March 2, 1825, Dr. Leigh was made a member of the committee to consider and report on the plan. As a result of his labors, the conference in 1829 adopted resolutions that a college be built, and appointed a committee to select a site. The charter was obtained from the Virginia legislature, Jan. 15, 1830, and on this document Dr. Leigh's name heads the list of trustees. The location chosen was at Boyd-

ton, Va., both on account of the convenient situation and also in the hope of getting some substantial aid from the Virginia state treasury, which, however, was never received. Several generous people contributed largely to the endowment at various times, but there was a long struggle before the institution was firmly established. In 1868 it was removed to Ashland, Va., where a career of prosperity was fairly begun, with new buildings and equipment. The college was named for John Randolph, of Roanoke and Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina, and the blending of the two names was for the purpose of giving to both Virginia and North Carolina an identity of interest in the institution. Dr. Leigh was twice special agent of the conference to collect funds for the college, and its early success was largely due to his earnest efforts. He was also one of the first board of trustees for Greensboro Female College, and an active worker in founding Trinity College. In 1830 he purchased an extensive plantation near Boydton, Va., where he made his home during the remainder of his life. His powers as a preacher were strengthened by vigorous loyalty to Christian teaching, and his presentation of the great doctrines of religion was logical and complete, ever carrying conviction to the minds of his hearers. He was married on Jan. 5, 1830, to Mary Jane, daughter of Richard Crump, of Northampton county, N. C., and had two daughters and four sons. He died at Boydton, Va., Sept. 18, 1853.

**PIERSON, Arthur Tappan**, clergyman and author, was born in New York city, March 6, 1837, son of Stephen Haines and Sarah Ann (Wheeler) Pierson, and a descendant of the Rev. Abraham Pierson, who emigrated to America from England in 1639. He was graduated at Hamilton College in 1857, where he received the degree of A.M. three years later; and in 1860 he was graduated at the Union Theological Seminary. In May of the latter year he was ordained by the New York presbytery, and during the summers of 1859 and 60 had charge of the Congregational church at Winsted, Conn., whence he went to Binghamton, N. Y., serving three years. In 1863 he became pastor of the Presbyterian church at Waterford, N. Y., which charge he resigned in 1869, to undertake the leadership of the famous Fort Street Presbyterian Church, Detroit, Mich. In 1876, his church edifice, one of the finest in the United States, was totally destroyed by fire, but he at once leased the opera house, where he preached for sixteen months with great success. After nine months in Indianapolis, Ind., he took charge of the Bethany Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa., in 1883, and remained there about eight years. In 1888 he was prominent as a delegate-at-large to the London conference on missions, and made a tour of Scotland in the interests of missions. The latter was so successful that it was followed by a similar preaching tour through England, Scotland, and Ireland (1889-90). In October, 1891, he assumed charge of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, of London, during Charles H. Spurgeon's absence at Mentone, and, upon the death of the latter, continued in charge, serving two years. He visited England ten times between 1889 and 1905, at the instance of an interdenominational committee of leading ministers and representative laymen. He was appointed lecturer on missions at Rutgers College, in 1891, and Duff Lecturer on Missions in Scotland in 1893. He became editor of the "Missionary Review of the World" in 1888. This is

the leading missionary magazine of England and America—being interdenominational and international. Dr. Pierson has made it a power at home and abroad. His more important books are "The Crisis of Missions" (1886); "Many Infallible Proofs" (1886); "Evangelistic Work in Principle and Practice" (1887); "Keys to the Word" (1887); "The Inspired Word" (1888); "The Divine Enterprise of Missions" (1891); "Miracles of Missions" (1891-1901); "New Acts of the Apostles" (1894); "Life Power" (1897); "Lessons in the School of Prayer" (1895); "Acts of the Holy Spirit" (1895); "Shall We Continue in Sin" (1897); "In Christ Jesus" (1898); "Catharine of Siena" (1899); "Life of George Muller" (1899); "Heart of the Gospel" (1892); "Heights of the Gospel" (1892); and "Hopes of the Gospel" (1893). "Seven Years in Sierra Leone" (1899); "Forward Movements of the Last Half Century" (1900); "The Modern Mission Century" (1901); "Seed Thoughts for Public Speakers" (1901); "The Gordian Knot" (1902); "The Keswick Movement" (1903); also several volumes of sermons. Dr. Pierson was married in New York, July 12, 1860, to Sarah Frances, daughter of Williston H. Benedict. His children are, Helen Monroe Pierson Curtis of Kyoto, Japan; Laura W. Pierson, of Tucson, Arizona; Louise B. Pierson (now deceased), formerly of Calcutta, India; Delavan L. Pierson, managing-editor of the "Missionary Review"; Anna W. Pierson; Edith M. Pierson Evans, of Philadelphia; and Farrand Baker Pierson, of Costa Rica, Central America.

**WOODBURN, James Albert**, educator, was born at Bloomington, Ind., Nov. 30, 1856, son of James and Martha Jane (Hemphill) Woodburn. His first American ancestor was James Woodburn, a native of county Derry, Ireland, of Scotch-Irish descent, who settled at Newcastle, Pa., in 1763. His son, Dorance Beatty Woodburn, was married to Rachel Johnston, of Chester county, S. C., and became the grandfather of James A. Woodburn. He was educated in the public and high schools of Bloomington, Ind., and at the Indiana University, where he was graduated A.B. in 1876. For six years he taught in the Bloomington high school, and in 1890 became professor of American history and politics at Indiana University. He is author of "The American Republic and its Government" and "Political Parties and Political Problems" (1903). In 1903 he was awarded the John Marshall prize of Johns Hopkins University, in recognition of his notable contributions to historical and economic literature. He is a member of the American Historical Society and of the American Political Science Association. The degree of Ph.D. was awarded him by Johns Hopkins University in 1890. On Nov. 30, 1893, he was married to Caroline Louise Gelston of Ann Arbor, Mich. They have two children.

**OSBORN, Abraham Coles**, educator, was born at Scotch Plains, N. J., Feb. 20, 1831, son of Jonathan and Amelia (Van Deursen) Osborn. His grandfather, John B. Osborn, was a soldier in the revolutionary war, and his grandmother, Mary Darby, is celebrated in history as one of the prominent women of that period. When he was about eleven years of age his parents removed to North Wilna, Jefferson co., N. Y., and settled on an extensive dairy farm. In 1849 he left home to seek an education, spending one term at the Carthage (N. Y.) Academy, and a year at the Wesleyan Seminary, Gouverneur,