

CENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHY.

MEN OF MARK

OF

CUMBERLAND VALLEY, PA.

1776—1876.

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DANIEL MCKINLEY, D. D.



HE REV. DANIEL MCKINLEY, D. D., was born in Carlisle, Pa., December 7th, 1800, in which place, and its immediate neighbourhood, he spent the period of his youth.

He was very early the subject of deep religious impressions, and so soon as his tenth year, thought he was the subject of special grace. He united with the Church of Carlisle, under the pastoral care of the Rev. George Duffield, D. D., who, perceiving his ardent piety and promising talents, encouraged him to pursue a course of liberal education with reference to the Gospel ministry, which he did at Dickinson College, being assisted therein pecuniarily by members of Dr. Duffield's congregation. During his course at college, a deep and powerful revival of religion occurred in the church of which he was a member, and in it the college largely shared, and it is the testimony of those who were most deeply interested in these scenes, that young McKinley's efforts were untiring and invaluable.

Mr. McKinley graduated at college in the summer of 1824, and entered the Theological Seminary at Princeton the autumn of the same year. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Carlisle in the autumn of 1827, and was soon after installed as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Bedford, where he remained about four years, when he was compelled by bronchial affection to resign his charge, and desist from the labours of the ministry for about two years. The church in Bedford was gradually strengthened under his ministry, but there was no marked outpouring of God's spirit, such as attended his labours in subsequent years.

When the Second Presbyterian Church in Carlisle was organized, in 1833, Mr. McKinley was chosen as its pastor, and being encouraged by the improving state of his health, he accepted the call, and served the congregation for about five years. His labours in that field were eminently successful. He was zealous, earnest and untiring in his work. Considerable religious interest was manifested at several periods of his ministry; and during his pastorate there, seventy-six were added to the church on profession of faith. At the close of his labours there, the church was established and prosperous, and he greatly endeared himself to all classes of the congregation. About this time vigorous efforts were being made to arouse the church to the

importance of the work of Foreign Missions, which was then comparatively in its infancy, and Mr. McKinley, on account of his well-known missionary zeal and fitness for the work, was urged to embark in it as an agent. This he consented to do, and for upwards of three years he served the board with a vigour, efficiency and success, which told powerfully upon the progress of the cause. He aimed especially to convince professing Christians of their duty to devote to the Lord a definite proportion of their stated income, and he may thus be regarded as one of the pioneers of systematic beneficence.

In the autumn of 1841, Mr. McKinley was chosen pastor of the Presbyterian Church, in Chambersburg, and he continued to sustain this relation for about nine years. About one year after his installation, a powerful revival of religion took place in that church, as the result of which thirty-two were added to the church at the succeeding communion on examination, and the effects of it were felt for years afterwards. Throughout all Mr. McKinley's pastorate at Chambersburg, he was eminently faithful, and during the years of his labours, one hundred and four were added to the church on profession of faith.

In the fall of 1850, he left Chambersburg to take charge of the Sixth Church, Pittsburgh, a new enterprise, and one which was supposed to afford a good field for the peculiar talents which he possessed. In this, however, he was partially disappointed, and after one year's labour, he asked to be released from his pastoral relation to the church and returned to the Presbytery of Carlisle.

This Presbytery had just then entered vigorously upon the work of church extension within its bounds, and in behalf of this enterprise enlisted the services of Dr. McKinley, which contributed greatly to its success.

After spending a year in this service, Dr. McKinley became Agent and Evangelist of the Board of Domestic Missions. For this he was well fitted, and in it he was eminently successful, until laid aside by the disease which proved fatal; a disease which was undoubtedly hastened in its development by his eagerness to labour, and his readiness to endure hardships and exposures. He knew not how to spare himself in his Master's cause, and especially when he saw tokens of the presence of God's spirit, he seemed to forget entirely the frailty of the earthly tabernacle.

Dr. McKinley was present in a number of extensive revivals of religion, in the interior of Pennsylvania. In these scenes he was in his element. His services were always eagerly sought by the brethren, and many interesting incidents in connection with his labours survive

in the memories of those who were present at, or were subjects of these visitations of God's grace.

In the spring of 1855 he was obliged to desist from labour, by a return of his old tendency to bronchial affection, aggravated by other painful and threatening symptoms. Under the progress of a disease which baffled all skill, he departed this life in Chambersburg, December 7th, 1855, whither he had gone hoping to be able to attend the sessions of the Synod of Baltimore, but where, by reason of rapid decline, he remained to die.

There is no record of Dr. McKinley's death-bed experience and triumphs. The nature of his disease prevented any expression of what may have been his feelings. But his life was his witness, and his monument a life marked by eminent consecration, zeal, and success in his Master's work. He was, indeed, an exemplary Christian, and most devoted minister. His piety made a deep impression upon all with whom he had intercourse, and his efforts to save souls filled multitudes with thankfulness and praise. His mortal remains slumber in the grave yard at Carlisle, under a stone erected to his memory by members of the church in Chambersburg.

In 1831, he was married to Miss Mary Wyeth, of Harrisburg, and one daughter survives him, the wife of the Rev. James F. Kennedy, D. D., the gifted and popular Vice-President of Wilson Female College.