

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 PRE-
SENT TIME

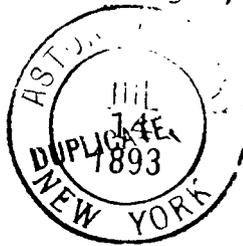
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VOLUME III.

NEW YORK
JAMES T. WHITE & COMPANY
1893

1/8 STATE
DUPLICATE
1892



Rep. Reg. No. 4100 '02.

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FROM THE PRESS OF
DANIEL G. F. CLASS,
NEW YORK.

and secured from the privy council there a disallowance of the act. But the juries in Virginia, influenced by the eloquence of Patrick Henry and the countenance of Gov. Dinwiddie, who hated Camm, gave nominal damages, and President Camm again appealed to the privy council. But in 1767 Lord North, to President Camm's disgust, dismissed the appeal on the ground that the action had been wrongly laid. This closed a controversy of thirteen years' duration. In 1769 he married Betsy Hansford, daughter of Charles Hansford, a grandson of the brother of Thomas Hansford, one of Nathaniel Bacon's lieutenants. On the outbreak of hostilities between Virginia and the mother-country President Camm would not recognize the authority of the new government, and in the spring of 1777 was removed by the board of visitors, now largely dominated by native-born Virginians. He died the following year, and his wife a year later. He has numerous descendants in Virginia. According to the inventory of his estate, he died worth £7,258 10s., in personal property.

MADISON, James, eighth president of William and Mary college, was the first under the new order of things brought about by the revolution. He was born in Augusta county, Va., Aug. 27, 1749, the son of John Madison, clerk of Augusta county,

and a supposed descendant of John Madison, a common ancestor of James Madison, president of the United States. He went first to an academy in Maryland, thence in 1768 to William and Mary college, where on July 29, 1772, he received the gold medal awarded as a prize by Lord Botetourt for classical learning. He was writing master at the college until May, 1773, when he was appointed professor of natural philosophy. He studied law under George Wythe, but abandoned the profession after a single case, and aided by £50 from the board of visitors, visited England in 1775, and took orders. In November, 1775, he again attended as professor of natural

philosophy at the college, and in October, 1777, he was president of the institution, being then only twenty-eight years of age. Mr. Madison supported with great zeal the cause of the revolution, and in conjunction with Thomas Jefferson, a member of the college visitors, procured an entire reform of the course pursued at William and Mary college. Under their auspices the elective system of study was introduced, and by the creation of the chairs of medicine and law the college was made a university. Dr. James McClurg was called to the former, George Wythe to the latter, and George Washington was elected chancellor. Thus the college became the first in America to practice the elective system and to support a chair for the study of municipal law. Madison, after peace was declared with Great Britain, was made first bishop of the Episcopal church of Virginia, and probably this fact contributed to the distrust with which the college continued to be treated by the people. The Episcopal church inherited in a great degree the odium of the old establishment, and the college suffered from these prejudices, though there was no longer any legal connection between church and college. Added to this, as another cause of depression, was the fact that all the old laws of the legislature affording revenue to the institution were repealed. The college was left to its unaided resources, which, outside of the fees of the students whose number was small, consisted of the crown lands, without much value at the time.

Bishop Madison gave the labors of a life to the college. He was married in 1779 to Sarah Tate of Williamsburg, a granddaughter of William Cocke, secretary of the colony. She died Aug. 20, 1815, leaving one son, John Catesby Madison, and one daughter who married Robert G. Scott, a distinguished lawyer of Virginia. A brother of Bishop Madison, George Madison, became governor of Kentucky. Bishop Madison died March 6, 1812. His remains lie interred in the chapel of the College of William and Mary.

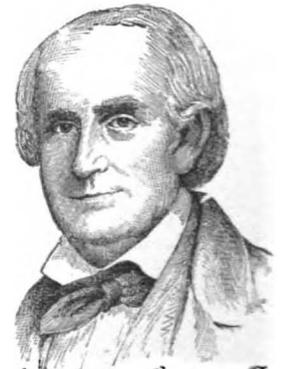
BRACKEN, John, ninth president of William and Mary college, was a clergyman who appears as master of the grammar school in November, 1775. He retained the position until the grammar school was substituted in December, 1779, by a school of modern languages of which Charles Bellini was appointed professor. At the Episcopal convention in May, 1786, held in Richmond, Bracken received ten votes for bishop. He was for many years pastor of Bruton parish church in Williamsburg. At a meeting held July 20, 1790, by the directors of the hospital for the maintenance and cure of persons of unsound minds in Williamsburg (the oldest insane asylum in the United States, established 1768), Dr. Bracken was made president to succeed James Madison, who was then in England seeking consecration as bishop. In 1792 he became professor of "humanity" in William and Mary college; on Madison's death in 1812 became president, and in 1814 was elected bishop of the Episcopal church, an office, however, which he declined the following year, probably on account of failing health. He died July 15, 1818.

SMITH, John Augustine, tenth president of William and Mary college, was born in Westmoreland county, Va., Aug. 29, 1782, son of Rev. Thomas Smith of Copel Parish in that county. He was graduated from William and Mary college in 1800, studied medicine and settled as a physician in New York city. In 1809 he became lecturer on Anatomy at the College of physicians and surgeons, and editor of the "Medical and Physiological Journal." In 1814 he was elected president of William and Mary college. The faculty then consisted of Dr. J. Augustine Smith, president; William Nelson, professor of law and police; Dr. T. Jones, professor of chemistry and natural philosophy, and Ferdinand S. Campbell, professor of mathematics. Dr. Smith was the first layman to hold the presidency, and in 1824 he deemed it necessary to remove the college to Richmond as the best means to rid the college of its ancient popular disadvantages and enable it to make a new start. But in this Dr. Smith incurred the opposition of John Tyler, on the board of visitors, who voiced the local feeling, and Thomas Jefferson, who was then busy with the scheme of founding the university at Charlottesville, feared the effect of the removal upon the liberality of the legislature to which he was then appealing for pecuniary aid in favor of his pet enterprise. The united opposition defeated Smith's measure, and in 1825 he resigned. He resumed practice in New York city, and from 1831 to 1843 was president of the College of physicians and surgeons. He published numerous addresses, lectures, and essays including, "In-



J. Madison

Johannus Bracken



J. Aug. Smith Pres

sulting surgeon to the Woman's, French, Presbyterian, Cancer, and other hospitals. He is also honorary member of the Gynecological and Obstetrical societies, of London, Edinburgh, Berlin, and many other of the European cities.

ABRAHAMS, Woodward, business man, was born in Cecil county, Md., Oct. 2, 1814, being the fourth of the family in this country to bear the name. His uncle, William Abrahams, was one of the defenders of the three-gun battery, on the Patapsco river, during the war of 1812. His father, Woodward Abrahams, was a sea captain who settled upon a farm bordering the Susquehanna, after several years of sea-faring. Woodward Abrahams, Jr., spent his early days upon the farm and then learned the printer's trade, becoming interested in a printing establishment in Petersburg, Va. He was for a time one of the publishers of two Baltimore journals, the "Eastern Express" and the "Kaleidoscope," but of late years he has devoted himself principally to the management of an extensive ice business. He is interested in charitable works and



is a patron of the fine arts, his own art collection being one of the best known in Baltimore. He has in preparation a history of Freemasonry.

SMITH, Charles Henry ("Bill Arp"), humorist, was born at Lawrenceville, Ga., June 15, 1826, of Scotch-Irish parents. He began to acquire an education at a manual-labor school, attended Franklin college, Athens, now the University of Georgia, studied law for two months, and was admitted to the bar. He removed, in 1850, to Rome, Ga., where he was associated with Judge J. W. H. Underwood, in the practice of law, until the breaking out of the war. He was a member of the military family of Gen. G. T. Anderson ("Old Tige"), for two years, after which he was assigned by Mr. Davis to judicial duty with Judge Eugenius A. Nisbet of Macon, a duty which he faithfully performed until the federal Gen. Wilson dissolved the court. Mr. Smith began to write humorous letters in 1861, to amuse the soldiers, and they were decidedly popular, but it was not until after the war that his talent fully displayed itself. The people of the South were undone, but with characteristic American spirit they were inclined to take a cheerful view of events, and so "Bill Arp" became their mouth-piece. With a smile he nipped up shams, and he wrote the truth with a hand so firm and a touch so light that he turned the thoughts of the people from their individual



misfortunes. Perhaps no author has ever more thoroughly represented the people he wrote for, or has ever had a more sympathetic audience. Two volumes of his letters were published, both of which were very popular. Of late years he has written a weekly letter for the "Atlanta Constitution." The humor in the "Bill Arp" letters has been called homely. It is that and something more. It is rich and mellow. It embodies a definite knowledge of human nature, and has the touch which "makes the whole world kin." If the author of the "Bill Arp"

letters had been possessed of a desire to engage in creative works, his success would have been instantaneous. He has everything but the incentive. In 1877 he retired from the practice of law, and became a farmer, working with his boys until they grew up and married, or left the farm for more inviting occupations. His home is in the village of Cartersville. He has had ten children. "The crop is laid by," as he says, but he has had grandchildren around him of late years. He has had success as a lecturer. His latest volume is entitled "The Farm and the Fireside."

WYTHE, George, signer of the declaration of independence, was born near Hampton, Elizabeth City, Va., in 1726. He learned little at school, but was well taught by his mother. Orphaned and wealthy before he came of age, he gave way to the temptations of youth, but at thirty suddenly changed his way of life, and from that time maintained the highest character. He was admitted to the bar in 1757, where he soon gained a high position. From 1758 he was a member of the house of burgesses, and in November, 1764, was one of a committee to draw up a petition to George III. and remonstrances to the two houses of parliament with reference to the threatened stamp act. Wythe prepared the paper intended for the commons in so plain and strong a manner that it required much toning down before it could be adopted and used. As war approached, he was among the foremost to rouse a spirit of resistance, joining, for a time, a body of volunteers. But his services were more needed in the council than in the field, and in August, 1775, he was sent to the Continental congress, where he sat for two years. Here he broke with the crown as well as with parliament in February, 1776, and in July was prompt to sign the declaration of independence. In November, 1776, he was appointed, with Jefferson, Pendleton, and two others who did not act, to revise the Virginia laws, in view of the change from a colony to a state. In June, 1779, this committee reported 126 bills. In 1777 he was made speaker of the house of delegates and a judge of the court of chancery. From 1776 to 1789 he held the chair of law at the College of William and Mary. When his court was reorganized in 1786, he became the sole chancellor of the state. He was a member of the convention which framed the federal constitution in 1787, and the next year of the Virginia convention, which ratified it. He was the first judge to decide, against much popular clamor, that British claims for debts contracted by Americans before the war were recoverable, displaying in this action "scrupulous impartiality and rigid justice." He received the degree of LL.D. from William and Mary in 1790. His "Decisions" appeared in 1795, the second edition of which, published in 1852, has a memoir of him by B. B. Minor. He was much beloved by his law pupils, among whom were two presidents and Chief Justice Marshall; Henry Clay, for four years clerk of his court, was also indebted to him for many kindnesses. He was quick to note "the latent powers of great men, and help them to great careers;" his benevolence, sweetness of temper, and simplicity of character, were as notable as his rigid integrity, legal learning, and proved ability. In later life he freed his slaves and provided for them. Jefferson, his pupil and friend, began a sketch of Judge Wythe, which was used in Sanderson's "Biography of the Signers." His powers were unimpaired, and he was still chan-



His powers were unimpaired, and he was still chan-

cellor when he died by poison at Richmond June 8, 1806. A nephew was tried for the murder and acquitted.

MANNING, John Alexander, manufacturer, was born in Troy, N. Y., Aug. 8, 1838. His father, William H., was about the first manufacturer of paper from manilla rope, the strongest paper made. The early education of the son was received in the Troy academy, but at the age of seventeen he was obliged to leave his school studies, and aid his father in the management of his rapidly growing business. At the time of his father's death in 1855, he had but one moderate-sized mill, but under the wise foresight and driving energy of the son, two other mills were built. Mr. Manning has been for many years the largest manufacturer of rope manilla paper in the world, shipments being constantly made to all parts of the globe. He was the first to make a satisfactory paper for flour sacks, now so universally used throughout the United States. In addition to the management of his immense manufacturing interests, Mr. Manning is director of the Troy city bank, trustee of the Troy club, trustee of Troy Savings bank, treasurer



of the Star knitting mills of Cohoes, and treasurer and manager of the Adirondack pulp company of Gouverneur, N. Y. He married, in 1861, Mary B. Warren, daughter of George B. Warren of Troy, N. Y.

FARMER, Aaron D., type-founder, was born at Bolton, Tolland county, Conn., on Jan. 18, 1816. His education, being that of his time and locality, was limited. When only fourteen years of age he went to New York in search of employment, and with rare good fortune, found his way to the type-foundry of Elihu White, which had been established in 1810 at the corner of Lombard and Thames streets. He entered there as an apprentice in 1830, and proved himself so efficient and industrious that his employer gradually promoted him, finally making him manager of the manufacturing department. Mr. White was succeeded by the firm of Charles T. White & Co., and this house in turn (1857) by Farmer, Little & Co., which soon employed from 200 to 275 men. From the day when Mr. Farmer became manager of Mr. White's manufacturing department, he has given his special attention to that important branch of the business, and many wonderful mechanical processes have been developed under his eye and hand. All the varieties of plain and ornamental type, borders, ornaments, rules and dashes, and all the type-casting machines, steel punches,



matrices, and other appointments of a thoroughly equipped type-foundry have been produced under his skilled direction. For more than half a century he has labored in this department with the same application which he would exact of an employee. Mr. Farmer was married to Sarah Burns, of New York city, by whom he has had two daughters and one son. The latter, William W. Farmer, having been brought up in his father's foundry, has thoroughly acquainted himself with the various details of the business, in which he is now partner. Mr. Aaron

Farmer has been a steady adherent of the republican party from its foundation, but has never been an active politician or an aspirant for office. The firm name of Farmer, Little & Co., is familiar to thousands of newspapers in all sections of the country.

CARROLL, Howard, journalist and author, was born in Albany, N. Y., in 1854. His father, Gen. Carroll, a gallant and cultured young Irishman, who early gained distinction as one of the ablest civil engineers in the country, was killed while leading a charge at the battle of Antietam, in the civil war. The boy thus early left an orphan was educated in the old Henry street grammar school, New York city, and subsequently in Hanover, Germany, and Geneva, Switzerland. Returning to New York when nineteen years of age, he found employment as a subordinate reporter on the New York "Times," but rapidly developed so marked a talent for journalism that he was quickly promoted from one position to another, until he became the principal political and traveling correspondent of that journal. It is notable that when he was only twenty-three years of age, he was the special Washington correspondent of the "Times," and enjoyed the confidence of such men as President Grant, James G. Blaine, Roscoe Conkling, Simon Cameron, Chester A. Arthur and James A. Garfield. He wrote over his own signature, "H. C.," and his letters, especially those from Washington, the South and West, and from different parts of Europe, attracted wide attention. His work in Charleston, S. C., and Memphis, Tenn., and in the Mississippi cities, during the yellow fever epidemic, was fearless and effective, and during the race-troubles in the cotton states, which he has since characterized as "the war of 1876," Mr. Carroll gained a national reputation because of his untiring advocacy of Gov. Packard of Louisiana, and Gov. Chamberlain of South Carolina. His writings at this time were particularly influential because of the fact that he was just as outspoken in his denunciation of republican corruption as he was



of democratic outrage and murder for political effect. During the administration of President Arthur, Mr. Carroll, who was his close personal friend, was offered the position of private secretary, and also that of minister to Belgium, but he declined them both. In the memorable Folger-Cleveland campaign in New York state, Mr. Carroll was nominated for congressman-at-large on the republican ticket against Gen. Slocum, democrat, and he ran nearly 80,000 votes ahead of his ticket, although he was of course defeated with the rest of the republican candidates of that year. Mr. Carroll is the author of two books, "A Mississippi Incident" and "Twelve Americans." He has also written a number of plays, one of which, "The American Countess," has been produced in all the large cities of the country with much success. In recent years he has engaged extensively in business, being the managing director of the Starin transportation company, as well as director in a number of other large enterprises. He is also president of the New York riding club, was one of the founders of the New York press club, and is a member of various social and political organizations in New York city. His journalistic training has greatly benefited him in his business career.

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