

RIGHT REV. DR. CUMMINS.

The Right Rev. George David Cummins was born in Smyrna, Delaware, December 11th, 1822. He was educated at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., and there obtained his degree in the year 1841. He was ordained Deacon by Bishop Lee, of Delaware, in October, 1845, and Presbyter by the same Bishop in July, 1847. Princeton College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in the year 1856. His first parish was Christ Church, Norfolk, Va.; the next, St. James' Church, Richmond, Va.; the next, Trinity Church, Washington, D. C.; the next, St. Peter's Church, Baltimore, Md.; and the last, Trinity Church, Chicago, Ill. While in charge of this last parish, he was elected Assistant Bishop of Kentucky, and was consecrated in Christ Church, Louisville, of his diocese, November 18th, 1866. The Bishop of Vermont performed the consecratory ceremony, assisted by the Bishop of Kentucky (Smith); Iowa (Lee, H. W., who also preached the sermon); Assistant Bishop of Indiana (Talbot); Tennessee (Quintand); Missionary Bishop of Nebraska, (Clarkson), and the Bishop of Pittsburgh (Kerfoot). His later history is well known. On the 8th day of October, 1873, Bishop Cummins made his memorable address before the Evangelical Alliance, then in session in the City of New York. Four days afterward (Oct. 12), he assisted in the administration of the Holy Communion, in Dr. John Hall's Church, in a service which will never be forgotten by those who had the great privilege of participating in it. Bishop Cummins ever referred to it afterwards, as one of the sweetest and most blessed of the experiences of his life. Little did he or his associates then dream of the eventful issues of that occasion. Soon after appeared Bishop Tozer's letter of appeal and complaint to Bishop Potter, of New York. On the 10th of December, Bishop Cummins sent his letter of resignation to the senior member of the House of Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Bishop Smith, of Kentucky. The latter, on the 22nd of the same month, responded by a formal notice that in six months Bishop Cummins would be deposed from his office. But on the 2nd of December, 1873, the Reformed Episcopal Church was organized in the city of New York by seven clergymen and seventeen laymen. Bishop Cummins was elected the Presiding Bishop of the new organization, and Rev. Dr. Cheney the Missionary Bishop of the Northwest. The consecration of the latter



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followed on the 14th of the same month, Bishop Cummins performing the consecrating services, aided by the other clergymen of the Church. From that date his life and talents were given exclusively to the work of extending and strengthening the Reformed Episcopal Church. He travelled from Canada to the extreme Southern States, and his eloquent voice of warning and appeal was heard in the East and the West. His theme was ever the same—the Cross of Christ—no sacrifice save His; no altar save that of Calvary.

With the exception of a brief period, during which his labors were interrupted by ill health, Bishop Cummins was diligently and almost incessantly engaged in the discharge of the duties of his high office. What has been accomplished by him and his associates, is best seen in the present condition of the Reformed Episcopal Church, whose rapid development and extension in England, the United States and Canada have surprised its greatest friends. The history of his work has been spread before the world, both by the religious and secular press, so that few are altogether unfamiliar with the success which rewarded his efforts. One of the very last official acts of the Bishop was the delivery of an address before the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to which he had been accredited as a representative of its youngest sister. Neither body will soon forget the expression of love and sympathy in that fraternal greeting. There was inspiration in his eloquence. There is forever a sacredness in the words of the benediction with which he closed. Bishop Cummins seemed to have been impressed with a belief that his work was soon to be concluded. With rejoicing he had obeyed the call of his Master in sowing the seed, but the full fruitage he was not to enjoy on this side of eternity. In what manner he first received an intimation of the approaches of the solemn shadow of death over his life, we cannot know. But in an address delivered in May, 1876, at the time of the dedication of the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, in Baltimore, he uttered the following words:—"Now I have done my work, and am ready to die whenever the Heavenly Father wills it."

And on the 26th June, 1876, to the great loss of the Church, and the deep sorrow and regret of his many friends, after but a few days' illness, Bishop Cummins departed this life at Lutherville, near Baltimore, Md., at the age of 54 years. When near his end and when asked what mea-

BISHOPS OF THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH.



RT. REV. DR. CHENEY.



RT. REV. DR. FALLOWS.