156

ELIPHALET DYER.

merely from the constructions and reasonings of fallible men, are urged as essential to Christian faith and piety, that they become greatly injurious, or objectionable. Christian teachers should be careful not to make any doctrinal point essential, except there is most evident and unequivocal authority for it in the teachings of Christ and his inspired apostles. The publications of Dr. Dwight were very numer-Besides sermons, he published lectures on ous. infidel philosophy, travels in New England, containing much information of public men, of towns and their statistics, and history, and of the manners of the people-a system of Christian theology; and a poem, with the title of "the Conquest of Canaan." He was one of the founders of "the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions;" and an early and efficient member of "the American Bible Society." He died in 1816, while he held the office of President of Yale College, which he had then filled for twenty years.

DYER, ELIPHALET LL. D., a native of the State of Connecticut, received his education in Yale College, with the class of 1744, and engaged in the profession of law at Windham, in that State. He was reputed one of the ablest lawyers in that part of New England, and held the office of Chief Justice of the highest tribunal in Connecticut for several He sat in the first Continental Congress vears. which convened at Philadelphia, in September 1774, and was composed of men the most distinguished in all the colonies at that eventful period, for their patriotism and wisdom. Though a small State, Connecticut has always furnished able and upright men in the councils of the nation. Trumbull, Sherman. Huntington, Wolcott, Griswold, Hillhouse, Tracy, Ellsworth, Dana, and Pitkin, were distinguished as members of the federal government, either in the Biographical Notices of Distinguished Men of New England, 1842

ELIPHALET DYER.

157

House of Representatives or in the Senate. Judge Dyer reached the age of eighty-five, and died in the year 1807. He always gave his influence in favor of learning, good morals, religious institutions, and social order. If not so brilliant or eloquent as a few others of his State and time, he displayed the more useful qualities of decision, moderation, and good judgment; and seemed to aim at the faithful discharge of duty both in public and private life.

14



Digitized by Google