



*Yours in Christ,
J. J. Schmucker.*

LIFE AND TIMES

OF

Rev. S. S. Schmucker, D. D.,

First Professor of Theology in the Lutheran Theological Seminary,
at Gettysburg, Pa.

BY

P. ANSTADT, D. D.,

Editor of Teachers' Journal, author of Communion Addresses, Luther's Smaller Catechism, Illustrated, Luther's Smaller Catechism, Pictorial Edition, Helps to Family Worship, Recognition of Friends in Heaven, Etc., Etc.

"I have lived, and am dying, in the faith of Jesus."

~~CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY~~

~~LIBRARY~~

~~SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS~~

YORK, PA.
P. ANSTADT & SONS,
1896.

WITHDRAWN

11434

13415

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1896, by
P. ANSTADT & SONS,
In the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

DEDICATED
to the
Surviving Relatives, Friends
and
Students
of
Rev. S. S. Schmucker, D. D.,
by
The Author.

CHAPTER SECOND.

1799—1818.

FAMILY RECORD OF S. S. SCHMUCKER—HIS CHILDHOOD—
 EARLY PIETY—REMARKABLE ANSWERS TO PRAYER—
 STUDY AT THE PENNSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY—PRINCIPAL
 OF YORK COUNTY ACADEMY—NAMES OF STUDENTS—
 DIARY—PRAYERS—CRITICISM ON HIS STRICT MORALITY
 BY DR. MORRIS—VINDICATED BY DR. DIEHL—DR.
 BAUGHER.

Samuel D. Schmucker, Esq., writes as follows in regard to his father's family record :

My father, Samuel S. Schmucker, was the son of the above named, John George Schmucker, and was born at Hagerstown, Pa., February 28, 1799.

My father had nine children, who grew up to age ; namely Rev. Mosheim G. Schmucker, dead ; Caroline E., wife of Dr. P. B. Sadtler ; Rev. Dr. Beale M. Schmucker, dead ; Ellenora G., wife of Rev. A. T. Geisenhainer ; M. Josephine, widow of Rev. B. C. Sueserott ; Rev. George M. Schmucker ; Catherine M., widow of Wm. A. Duncan, Esq., Alice, widow of J. Cassatt Nealy, Esq.; Samuel D. Schmucker, Esq.

It is somewhat singular that every one of my father's children, who grew to manhood, or womanhood, became a clergyman, or a lawyer, or the wife of a clergyman or lawyer. Three or four of my father's sisters married clergymen and one married a lawyer.

He was married three times. His first wife was Miss Elenora Geiger, of Hagerstown, Md. The marriage took.

place February 28, 1821. She was the mother of his eldest son Mosheim G., but died soon after her child was born; namely, July 3, 1823, after an illness of 6 months. An extract of the touching and tender account of her sickness and death, by the bereaved young widower, will appear on a subsequent page of this volume.

His second wife was Miss Mary Catharine Steenbergen of Virginia. She was the mother of the other children whose names are given above.

The Steenbergens and the Beales were prominent families in the Shenandoah Valley, and owned large tracts of beautiful lands, lying contiguous to each other.

His third wife was Miss Esther M. Wagner, of Germantown, Pa.

DR. S. S. SCHMUCKER'S FAMILY RECORD.

The following Record was written by the Doctor's own hand, and copied by the writer from his Family Bible.

Rev. J. G. Schmucker, D. D., was born August 18, 1771, in Michaelstadt in Grafschaft Erbach in Oberdeutschland. He ascended to a better world on October 7, 1854, at Williamsburg, Blair County, Pa., and was buried at York, Pa., on the 12th., aged 83 years, 1 month and 20 days.

S. S. Schmucker, son of John George Schmucker, was born at Hagerstown, Md., on the 28th of February in the year of our Lord 1799.

S. S. Schmucker and Elenora Geiger, daughter of John Geiger of Hagerstown, Md., entered into the holy state of matrimony, February 28th, 1821. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Benjamin Kurtz.

Samuel Mosheim Schmucker was born at New Market, Shenandoah County, Va., January 12th, 1823, was

baptized by Rev. Mr. Foote, Mrs. Mary Williams acting as sponsor. Died in Philadelphia, and was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery in 1863.

His mother, Mrs. E. Schmucker, died July 3rd, 1823, after an illness of 6 months, which was specially blessed to her own sanctification.

S. S. Schmucker and Mary Catherine Steenbergen, of Shenandoah County, Va., daughter of Wm. Steenbergen, of Shenandoah County, Va., were married October 12th, 1825.

Their daughter, Caroline Elizabeth, was born August 20th, 1826, at 10 o'clock, P. M., at Mt. Airy, Shenandoah County, Va., and was baptized by Rev. J. G. Schmucker, on the 6th day of December, 1826, at Gettysburg, Pa.

Their son, Beale M. Schmucker, was born August 26th, 1827, at 5 o'clock, P. M., in Gettysburg, Adams County, Pa., and was baptized by Rev. J. G. Schmucker, September 26th, at the same place.

Mary Catherine was born July 4th, 1829, at 2 o'clock, A. M., baptized by Rev. J. G. Schmucker, August 14th, 1830, aged 13 months and 10 days. Both her birth and death occurred in Gettysburg, Pa.

Elenora Susan, was born February 10th, 1831, at 9 o'clock, A. M., at Gettysburg, and baptized by Rev. J. G. Schmucker.

Virginia King, was born on the 5th of December, in the year 1832, and baptized by Rev. J. G. Schmucker.

Mariah Josephine, was born on the 22d of October, in the year 1833, baptized by Rev. F. Ruthrauff.

George William Spener, was born July 16th, 1836 at Get-

tyzburg, and was dedicated to God by baptism on the 24th of August of the same year by Rev. J. G. Schmucker.

Mary Steenbergen, was born November 14th, 1838, at Gettysburg, was baptized by Rev. Benjamin Keller, and departed this life March 13th, 1839 at 11 o'clock, P. M.

Catherine Williamson, was born December 26, 1839 at Gettysburg, and was baptized by Rev. H. I. Smith, (Professor of Seminary.)

Alice, was born March 3rd, 1842, at Gettysburg, and was baptized by Rev. Professor Baugher.

Samuel Davis, was born February 26th, 1844, and was baptized by Rev. Samuel Sprecher, April 19th.

Charles Gustavus Adolphus, was born February 9th, 1846, at Gettysburg, and was baptized by Rev. Prof. Baugher. Died of Pneumonia, March 28th, 1862.

February 11th, 1848, departed this life, in the full triumph of Christian hope, Mrs. Mary Catherine Schmucker, the mother of the above twelve children. During her brief illness of two weeks, she was specially favored with manifestations of the divine presence, and as death approached, appeared to be wrapped up in bright anticipations of heaven.

S. S. Schmucker and Esther M. Wagner, of Germantown, Pa., were married, April 28th, 1849, by Rev. Wm. Eyster.

HIS CHILDHOOD.

Dr. Schmucker believed in Baptismal Grace, but never believed in what is commonly called Baptismal Regeneration. But if any one ever could lay claim to such an effect

of this Sacrament in his own person, Dr. Schmucker might justly have done so. From his very childhood he manifested an extraordinary degree of piety and faith in God, as is evident from his daily habit of secret prayer. A very remarkable instance of this early devotional frame of mind is given by himself in his diary as follows :

“I recollect that while I yet lived in Hagerstown, and when I could not have been more than nine years of age, that the Lord had his work progressing in my heart. I was with some of my companions, playing in a hay stable. In the course of our play I took out my pocket knife and comb, and fearing that I might lose them, laid them on the joist. When we left the hay loft I put the knife and comb into my pocket, and we transferred the scene of our youthful gambols to a neighboring field. After spending some time at this place, we prepared to return to our homes. I was extremely distressed, when I discovered that I had lost my knife, and all my companions having gone home, I remained on the spot, seeking for what I had lost. At length, finding all search in vain, I recurred to my usual expedient, prayer, and had not prayed long before it came into my mind, that I could find it on the joist of the stable, where we had first played. Notwithstanding I was confident of having taken it from that place, I returned and to my astonishment and surprise, found them in precisely the same place, where I had first laid them. This phenomenon, as I then believed it to be, can be easily accounted for by the laws of Mental Philosophy, but is still a pleasing evidence of the intimacy then existing between me and my God.”

A similar characteristic is also related of his father, told me by one of the daughters, as follows :

“Dr. Schmucker when a young man traveled on foot from his home in Virginia to Philadelphia, to pursue his

studies with Dr. Helmuth. He stopped at a tavern to get a drink of water, and left his valise (which contained his all) outside on a bench. Coming out he found it was gone ; after looking around, not knowing what to do, in his distress he thought he would have to go back to his home in Virginia again. But before he commenced his return journey, he retired into a grove near by and prayed to God for guidance, and while he was on his knees praying, it appeared to him that he saw the very spot where his valise had been hidden. Immediately he returned to the tavern, asked the landlord to go with him, saying he knew where his valise was, the landlord accompanied him to the barn, raised a board in the floor, and there was the valise just as he had seen it during his prayer."

A similar anecdote is related by Dr. A. H. Lochman, about his father, Dr. George Lochman, which we will also copy :

"When George was a boy his father determined that he should learn his business and thus help to support the family. By the depreciation of the continental currency he had lost the little means he had possessed. The importunities of the son, however, made an impression upon him, and he consented to allow him to acquire a knowledge of the languages. On a certain occasion a new book was to be purchased. The previous week he had bought a dictionary and other books which he required. He was afraid to mention it to his father, lest he might refuse to furnish him with the money. In this difficulty he resorted to prayer. As he was returning from school he simply stated his case to his Heavenly Father, and asked his assistance. 'After I had prayed,' he said, 'my mind became easy, and taking a feather which was lying in my path, I blew it in the air and ran after it. As it was descending I blew it up again, when a slight breeze caught it and bore it away

before me. I followed it. It fell down into the street and lighted upon a silver dollar, the price of the book I wanted to buy. I took it up, praising God, brought it home, told my father all the circumstances.' The old man was much affected, and as he brushed away the tears from his eyes he said, 'George, this dollar may not be ours, but take it. God has sent it. We will make inquiry, and if the owner is found I will give him another.'

Dr. Schmucker was in his eleventh year when he came to York, and no doubt received his early elementary training in the common schools then existing in Hagerstown and in York. But his principal training was in the York Academy, then under the management of Mr. Beatie, and which is still existing in a very flourishing condition.

His desire to study for the ministry was awakened at a very early age, and amid conflicting impulses and doubts, grew constantly stronger. In a most kindly letter written in Latin to him, when but thirteen years old, Dr. Helmuth urged him to come to the University of Pennsylvania. In 1814 he entered the Freshman class at the University and remained there to the close of the Sophomore year.

"It was not an unusual thing in those days at some of the leading institutions of the country for college students to take some theological studies along with the regular college curriculum. So young Samuel Schmucker spent some of his time, while at the University, in the study of theology, under the tuition of Dr. Helmuth, at that time the most prominent theological instructor of our church in this country. He then spent one year, under the direction of his father in theological study, before entering the Seminary at Princeton. He had also employed much of his time during the vacations, while a student at the University, in theological reading."—*D.*

After he had returned to York, July 16, 1816, he took

charge, August 5, of the Classical Department of the York Academy. He had in the first session seventeen boys, and afterwards twenty-eight under his care. The school had very much deteriorated, in so much that there were only four students left in the Classical Department.

York County Academy has been in existence over a hundred years. In 1787 the building was erected, and with few slight changes, is still standing and in use. The state appropriated \$2,000.00. The Lutherans of York have been its patrons from the beginning, and most of the young men, who entered the ministry out of Lutheran churches in York, received their preparation for college in this institution. In consequence it has been a great feeder for the college at Gettysburg.

We notice the following names of Lutherans in its Board of Trustees: Rev. George Schmucker, D. D., Chas. Barnitz, C. A. Morris, Dr. John Morris, George S. Morris, Philip Smyser, Jacob Emmet, Charles Weiser, Rev. Solomon Oswald, Jacob Hay, Rev. A. H. Lochman, D. D., Edward G. Smyser, Rev. Jonathan Oswald, D. D., M. B. Spahr, Lewis Carl, Rev. W. Baum, D. D., Rev. A. W. Lilly, D. D., Jerre Carl, Rev. A. H. Fastnacht.

Prof. Geo. W. Gross, Ph. D., a member of the Lutheran Church, and a graduate of Pennsylvania College, is the Principal of the York County Academy at this time, with an enrollment of sixty male students.

Dr. Schmucker's diary, dated August 5, 1816, has this entry in Latin:

"The following youths were received into the York Academy to be taught Latin and Greek:

1. Geo. August Barnitz,
2. Samuel Spangler,
3. John G. Moritz,
4. William Kurtz,

5. Henry Ness,
6. James Kelly,
7. Ferdinand Spangler,
8. William Roberts,
9. Alexander Boner (*Transfuga*),
10. Alexander Small,
11. Alexander Barnitz,
12. Geo. Spangler,
13. Thomas Cathcart,
14. William Wilson,
15. Jacob Florence,
16. William Florence,
17. Geo. Pentz."

November 6 he writes in his diary :

"On the 26th ult. an examination of the York Academy was held. I had exerted myself considerably during the whole of the quarter, to bring this disorganized school into proper order, and am convinced, that in this institution no set of boys have ever made greater progress in the short space of three months. After the examination had been conducted in the most pleasing arrangement, regularity and decorum, and the scholars had acquitted themselves with honor, the President, after a consultation with the other trustees, arose and expressed their unbounded pleasure at the manner in which the exercises had been performed. After enlarging a little on the importance of some of the individual studies, he said that he had never seen a more excellent examination in this Academy, and hoped, that the Tutor, as well as the scholars, might continue in this present truly laudable state of industry.

The premiums were awarded as follows : To Geo. A. Barnitz a Tacitus, and to William Wilson a book of Bible Stories, the former costing \$1.12½ and the latter 50 cents.

A holiday was given until Monday following, and the school was dismissed. *Laus Deo.*

Last night I slept with Mr. David Geiger, my former fellow student at the University.

Mr. Geiger intends to return to Hagerstown, and as soon as he can sell his inheritance, left him by his father, intends to go to the state of Kentucky, to settle in Louisville, where, if the Lord spare my life and health, I hope to see him before two years, in the capacity of a Missionary Preacher.

Mr. Schuh has left Philadelphia in perfect harmony with every body, except the silly M. He intends to go to the western parts of Ohio, and is furnished with recommendations from Dr. Helmuth and Dr. Schaeffer. By my interposition father likewise gave him a recommendation to all the clergy in the state of Ohio. Mr. Schuh is an industrious, honest, moral and well informed young man, about twenty-two years of age, though only 4 ft. 6 in. high. May the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ rest upon him."

At this point he has inserted a number of prayers in his diary, which we will copy, as showing the state of his spiritual condition at this time:

Nov. 6. O Lord God, I am a sinner, and the iniquity of my ways will bring me to eternal ruin, if thy saving hand be not exerted in my favor. Though I am guilty of no crime against the world, or to my knowledge any individual, my heart is yet prone to evil and my ways are far from God. There was a time, O Lord, when I was much nearer to thee, than at present I am. Thou hast promised that "Whatsoever we ask of thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ shall be granted, that the Father may be glorified." Now Lord, I beseech thee to change my heart, and give me a new and purified spirit! O Lord, numbers are rushing with me the road to perdition. Stretch forth thine

all powerful hand, and arrest us in our mad career. We are seated in the chariot of iniquity, and are driving head-long to the gulf of destruction. Many times hast thou called us, but we heeded not thine admonitions; nothing but thy divine interposition, O Lord, will save us!

Nov. 19. O Lord, blessed be thy holy name, that thou hast preserved us to this day; that thou has prolonged the duration of our existence until the present moment. How many have during the last night been transposed from time to eternity! For how many was the race run and the thread of life cut off! We, Lord, are yet spared; and to thine unmerited kindness and forbearance are we indebted for it! We have erred and gone astray; we have sinned against thee; "there is not one that doeth good, no not one." We are going the way of the iniquitous, and the path of the Lord we know not. Soon will the earthly race be run, and we go to another world, to receive the reward of our labor. O God, our works have been of the flesh, and from the flesh we would inherit eternal damnation. But thou hast promised, that thou wilt hear the penitent, and the death of the sinner thou wilt not. In thy promise alone do we repose the hope of our salvation,—in the promise of HIM, who died for man, that he might never die! O that we might see the folly of our ways and fly to thee for assistance! But our nature is corrupted and we are prone to sin. But do thou, Lord, pardon our manifold transgressions; and as men will not obey thy commands; but are full of sin, do thou rule us with a rod of iron, and put a bit into our mouths, which will certainly bring us to reason. Yet, O Lord, thy punishments are severe, I feel the hand of the Lord upon me; I am sorely afflicted and ready to bend down under the load of affliction. "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death." "O Lord, wilt thou not deliver me?"

Nov. 20. On the morning of this day, O merciful Creator, how should I glorify thy name, that thou hast spared me until this day. My life has been an uninterrupted scene of ungodliness, and my heart knows not God. With guilt upon my head, contrition in my heart, Oh how could I have met and stood before my judge, had I died during the last night. Thou, O Lord, hast spared my life, and on the morning of this day hast condescended to assuage in some degree, the misery of my condition, and given another day for the salvation of my soul. O Lord, blessed be thy name, for the unmerited blessings which thou hast been pleased to bestow upon me. Grant that it may not arise in evidence against me on the great and awful day of Judgment. That I may apply it to the working out of the salvation of my soul, and the abstraction of my mind from the idleness of this world. Lord, I desire to be saved; my soul longs to be wrested from the flames in which it is now consuming. But I am weak and miserable, for the grace of God is not upon me. Within these five years, to the best of my recollection, thou Lord knowest, I have made about 100 attempts and commencements at conversion, but the work was always prevented by my own evil doings. I did not permit God to direct me, but was always determined to go according to my own head. Lord, now I am convinced of my own inability, and come entirely to thee. Do thou direct me; be thou my leader, and form my heart, such as thou wilt have it should be. Thy blessed word teaches us, that salvation of souls is not the work of man; nay, if all the angels in heaven united their strength, it would not be sufficient for the salvation of one soul! Man is mortal; angels approach the divine nature to an amazing degree, and are therefore far greater than man; but angels are incompetent to the salvation of a soul; how can man, who is so far inferior to angels, do anything towards the accom-

plishment of this divine purpose! O Lord, therefore I will submit solely to thy direction, and trust in thy promise, that thou wilt convert me, and conduct all things in such a manner, as finally to end in my salvation. Amen.

These prayers were not intended by the author for publication. They were, no doubt, portions of his daily private devotions during a considerable period of time, and were written by his own hand in his diary to fix their impression on his heart and mind. They not only show his spiritual condition while under conviction of sin, but they give us the key-note to his whole subsequent spiritual life and conduct.

Nov. 16. When I undertook the care of the Classical Department of York Academy, I determined to conduct everything on that principle of independence, which I have ever endeavored to maintain. Accordingly, instead of inserting into the public prints a long and circumstantial advertisement, as many of my friends advised me to do, I sent but these few lines for publication :

“The public are respectfully informed, that the Classical Department of the York Academy is again opened, where scholars may apply for admission.”

I might, perhaps, have received a few more scholars by a pompous advertisement; but this I deemed too much like begging parents to send their children. In this manner I have continued to conduct the school, and though there were but four Latin and Greek scholars when Mr. Beatie left the Academy, there are now seventeen pupils.

Dec. 9. Miss Betsey arrived at York about the 6th ult. She has remained at our house and at Mr. Barnitz's ever since. In all my intercourse with her, which has necessarily been considerable, I have found her to be of an amiable disposition. In her first acquaintance she is very prudently reserved, but with her friends and acquaintances

she is communicative, though by no means disagreeably loquacious. There was a day when she was charmingly beautiful. But alas, time and disease have been making very visible ravages on her frame. She is no longer that charming, beautiful female, which she formerly was; like a poppy, whose top has been overcharged with rain, she bends under the weight of her afflictions. As when a flower in the valley has been rooted up by the share of the unconscious rustic, falls on the plain and there withers and dies, thus Miss H. affords another striking, and at the same time afflicting evidence of the frailty and weakness of our frame, and of the transitory nature of this life. By these reflections we are forcibly reminded of a beautiful and appropriate verse in that admired production of Gray, "Elegy written in a country church yard."

" Full many a gem of purest ray serene,
The dark, unfathomed depths of ocean bear,
Full many a flower is born to bloom unseen,
And waste its fragrance on the desert air."

Dec. 12. On the day, which my own books will show, and which is about six weeks since, I happened to have a conversation with Mr. Seibert about the education of his son. He told me that the cause of his having discontinued the study of Latin, was his pecuniary embarrassment, mentioning at the same time, that he was sincerely sorry for not having been able to pay Mr. Saml. Murill an amount which was due to him for some time. As "to do good" is an object which I always had in view, it grieved me to see his boy lose a good education on account of the indigence of his father, and I immediately offered to teach him gratis. His father sent him the next day. At first I was really astonished to hear that he had been in Virgil; for far from being able to give any of the necessary rules for the gender, declension and conjugation, etc., of Latin words, he

could not decline. stella! Yet this boy had been at Latin half a year, and quit only a few weeks! He now recites tolerably well. I have no doubt of his being a smart boy.

Dec. 16. To-day I paid Mrs. Davidson a visit, and had a conference with her relative to the admission of her son into the first division. She seems to be a woman of extensive information, and likewise of very affable disposition. She said that she had intended to send him after the last examination, but had been prevented by an intended journey to Baltimore; that she had no objection, but on the contrary, felt an anxiety to have him under my care; that Rev. Cathcart had expressed a very favorable opinion of my administration, etc. At my departure she thanked me for the trouble of calling, and said, she would be very happy to see me at any time at her house. I thanked her and departed.

Dec. 17. The gentlemen formerly constituting the musical club existing in this place were, Dec., *Anno Domini* 1800, John Barnitz, Geo. Barnitz, Jacob Doll, Jacob Cremer, David Doll, John Moritz, Sr., John Stroman, John Hay, Henry Mundorff, John Herr, Geo. Mundorff, Henry Pickil, Chas. A. Barnitz, Harry Hay, Wm. Lenhart.

A book of music belonging to them is now in my possession.

Dec. 19. This day I bought a second-hand flute from Mr. White for \$2.00. I shall probably commence the study of music, though not with any intention of spending much time at it.

Yesterday Mr. White left York for Columbia, with an intention of commencing the practice of the law in that place. He is a man whose actions flow from the purest principles, although unacquainted with the world. May he continue to walk in the path of virtue, and may success

attend his endeavors. May the blessing of the Lord God be and rest upon him.

The following certificate was given Mr. Schmucker on his resignation of the York Academy :

YORK, 12th Aug., 1818.

It is hereby certified, that Mr. Samuel S. Schmucker has taught in the York Academy for some time past, with great acceptance. He has conducted himself not only with propriety and decorum, but in an highly exemplary manner, and being now about to leave this place, he is recommended to the friendship and attention of the inhabitants in whatever place he may reside.

By order of the Board of Trustees.

W. BARBER, Sec.

ROBERT CATHCART, Pres.

