

ington, congress granted extraordinary powers to President Reed, which he exercised with great discretion. He retired to private life at the end of his term in 1781, but was commissioner on the claim of Connecticut to the Wyoming lands in northern Pennsylvania, and in 1784 was again elected to congress, but never took his seat, owing to failing health. He died March 5, 1785. (For a fuller sketch of Pres. Reed, with portrait, see Vol. I., page 74.)

MOORE, William, president of the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania (1781-82), was born in Philadelphia in 1734, of English ancestry, his father having come from the Isle of Man. At the opening of the revolution he was a merchant in his native city. Being a man of great energy and force of character, he at once became an ardent friend of the patriot cause, and was appointed in 1776 a member of the committee of safety, and on March 13, 1777, was placed on the newly organized board of war, in both of which bodies he was a very active member. The next year he was elected to congress, but declined to serve, preferring to become a member of the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania, to which he was soon afterward elected, and immediately became its vice-president; upon the retirement of Joseph Reed, he succeeded

him as its president. The war still being in progress, President Moore upon assuming the duties of office was proclaimed "captain-general and commander-in-chief in and over the commonwealth of Pennsylvania." His term as councilor expired in October, 1782, and he was obliged, on account of the limitation fixed by the constitution, to retire, hence could not be a candidate for re-election. He was commissioned a judge of the court of errors and appeals in 1783, and the following year was chosen a member of the state assembly. In February, 1784, he was elected a director of the Bank of Pennsylvania, and in July following was chairman of a meeting of citizens of Philadelphia that was convened for the purpose of originating measures for placing the public debts upon a permanent foundation. He was a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania in 1784-89, and during his entire career was an intimate friend and associate of Robert Morris, the financier of the revolution. President Moore was married to Sarah, daughter of Thomas Lloyd, and was a brother-in-law of Thomas Wharton, Jr., the first president of Pennsylvania. Col. Thomas Moore, his son, enjoyed the close friendship and social intimacy of Washington during his administration as president. He was married to Sarah Stamper, and their daughter Eliza became the wife of Richard Willing, of Philadelphia, whose descendants have since been prominent in that city. Elizabeth, the only daughter of President Moore, was married to Marquis de Marbois, who for six years represented the French government in this country, and during that time negotiated the treaty for the cession of the territory of Louisiana to the United States. President Moore died July 24, 1793.

DICKINSON, John, president of Pennsylvania (1782-85), was born in Talbot county, Md., Nov. 8, 1732, second son of Samuel and Mary (Cadwalader) Dickinson. His father was an extensive planter and proprietor of this vast estate, Crosia-doré, received by grant to Walter Dickinson, his earliest American ancestor, in 1659, and still in possession of the family after two centuries and a half (1898); his mother was a daughter of John C. Cadwalader of Phila-

delphia, and a sister of Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, one of the most noted American physicians of the eighteenth century. The family had been well known in England for several generations previous to the emigration to America, in 1654, of the three sons of Charles Dickinson of London. Settling first in Pennsylvania, the descendants of the three brothers have spread widely throughout the middle and southern states. Another family of the name, represented by Jonathan Dickinson, president of the College of New Jersey, and presumably related to the branch just mentioned derives descent from Nathaniel and Philemon Dickinson, who settled at Salem, Mass., about 1630. The southern branch were Quakers; the Massachusetts branch, firm Puritans. In 1740 his father removed from Maryland to Delaware, where he purchased an estate near Dover, and served as judge of the county court. Here the son was trained under the private tutorship of William Killen, a young Irishman who afterward became chief justice and chancellor of Delaware. When he was eighteen years old he was entered as a student-at-law in the office of John Morland, then the most conspicuous member of the Philadelphia bar. In 1753 he entered the Middle Temple in London, England, and continued there for three years. In 1757 he returned to Philadelphia and entered upon the practice of his profession, spending much of his time, for the next few years, in the study of English constitutional history and of political science. At the end of five years he occupied a recognized position at the bar, and after that rose rapidly in reputation and in increase of business. In October, 1760, he was chosen a member of the assembly of the "Lower Counties," as the state of Delaware was then called. (Prior to the revolution this state had the same governor as Pennsylvania, but a different assembly.) In 1762 he was elected to the Pennsylvania assembly, from the city of Philadelphia. The questions which engaged attention in the assembly were fundamental, involving the fate of the proprietary governments of the province—that of the descendants of William Penn, and of the charter which had been granted to Penn by King Charles II. of England. These questions were discussed with masterly ability by Dickinson on the side of the proprietary governors, and by Drs. Franklin and Galloway on the side of the province. This discussion covered the whole theory of colonial government, especially the phase of it met with in Pennsylvania, and Franklin found in young Dickinson a foeman worthy of his steel, although the latter took the unpopular and ultimately the losing side in the contest between the assembly and the Penns, losing his seat in the legislature, and not regaining it until 1770. When, after 1763, the interference of the English ministry in American affairs took the shape of raising a revenue from the colonies by imposing taxes upon them by act of parliament, he printed (1765) a pamphlet, "The Late Regulations Respecting the British Colonies on the Continent of America Considered." This was the year when the discussion of the fundamental principles of English liberty in the colonies began, and Mr. Dickinson's contribution to it was of the earliest. When the colonial congress, called to oppose the stamp act, met at Philadelphia, October, 1765, he became one of the delegates, and a leader in its deliberations; after the repeal of the stamp act, February, 1776, accompanied by the declaratory act which as-



Wm Moore.



John Dickinson