

# NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

# PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

*April 25, 1876,*

BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.



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THE following Report contains notices of thirty-one alumni, all of whom, with two exceptions, have died since the first day of April, 1875. The oldest of these (the Rev. Benjamin Gildersleeve, D. D.,) was aged 84 years, 5 months and 15 days; the youngest, 35 years. Five of the 31 died at an age beyond 80; eleven beyond 70; twenty beyond 60; twenty-four beyond 50; twenty-eight beyond 40; only three under 40. The *average* ultimate age of the 31 is *sixty-three*. In nearly every case, these deceased alumni were zealously engaged in preaching the Gospel until laid aside by the diseases which removed them from earth. Of nearly every one it is distinctly reported to the Committee that he died in a calm and peaceful hope of a glorious immortality; several are declared to have died in an exulting and triumphant faith on their Redeemer.

WILLIAM E. SCHENCK,  
W. HENRY GREEN,  
HENRY C. CAMERON,

*Committee on Necrology.*

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## I. REV. BENJAMIN JOHNSON LOWE.

The Rev. Benjamin J. Lowe was born in Lebanon, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, January 11, 1795, and was graduated from Princeton College in 1814, during the Presidency of the Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D. In the year following he entered Princeton Theological Seminary, and was graduated therefrom in 1818, after a three years' course of study. He was licensed April 29, 1818, by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and was dismissed the same day

and after a week of great suffering, died peacefully, Oct. 14, 1875, aged 48 years. His remains were interred in Bellefontaine Cemetery near St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Forman was a man of great gentleness and amiability of character combined with unusual firmness and sound judgment. He was an excellent scholar, a popular preacher, and a beloved pastor. To his brethren in the ministry he was greatly endeared. His life was not long, but it was well lived.

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## XXV. REV. JONATHAN CLARKSON GIBBS.

The Rev. Jonathan C. Gibbs, a colored man, was born in the city of Philadelphia, in the year 1821. In May, 1843, he was received under the care of the Board of Education, and was at that time a member of the First African Church, of Philadelphia. He was graduated from Dartmouth College, N. H., in 1852, and soon after entered Princeton Seminary, where he studied in 1853 and 1854. Early in 1855 he was licensed by the Presbytery of Philadelphia. June 27, 1855, he was received under the care of Troy Presbytery (New School), by which a call from the Liberty Street Church in the city of Troy, N. Y., was placed in his hands, and he was ordained and installed as its pastor, July 12, 1855. In 1857 he asked the Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relation, in order that he might go to labor in Africa, but, January 13, 1858, the Presbytery, after hearing commissioners from the Liberty Street Church, who opposed the request, advised Mr. Gibbs to withdraw his application, which he did. June 29, 1859, Mr. Gibbs asked to be released on the ground of inadequate support, and a prospect of greater usefulness elsewhere, and the pastoral relation was on that day dissolved. January 3, 1860, he was received from the Presbytery of Troy into the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and was installed pastor of the First African Church, in the last named city, April 10, 1860. Here he labored usefully for six years, until after the close of the civil war, when he felt it to be his duty to devote his efforts to his own race in the Southern States. His pastoral relation was accordingly dissolved April 2, 1866, and he immediately afterwards began his labors among the freedmen at Charleston, S. C., as a Missionary of the General Assembly's Committee on Freedmen. December 10, 1866, he united with the Presbytery of Catawba. This Presbytery was divided by the Synod of Baltimore, and January 8, 1868, the Presbytery of Atlantic was organized, Mr. Gibbs becoming one of its original members. When the Presbytery of East Florida was organized, he also became one of

its original members, and remained therein from the close of 1870 until his death. He was appointed November 6, 1868, Secretary of State for Florida, by the Governor of that State, and reputedly held that office for four years. Afterwards, until the time of his death, he was successfully and honorably engaged in the responsible and arduous duties of Superintendent of Public Instruction, for the same State. He died suddenly, of apoplexy, at Tallahassee, Florida, August 14, 1874, in the 55th year of his age. Mr. Gibbs was a man, of superior talent, and of finished education, a devoted minister of Christ, earnestly and intelligently laboring for the interests of religion, and particularly and zealously for the elevation and improvement of his own race. By his death both the Church and the State in which he was laboring at the time, sustained a heavy loss.

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#### XXVI. REV. ROBERT ALEXANDER BROWN.

The Rev. Robert A. Brown was born at Montreal, Canada, Dec. 13, 1830. He came to the United States when twelve years of age, and lived first in Washington, D. C., afterwards in Wilmington, Del., where he pursued his studies. He was hopefully converted when about fourteen years of age. At 19 years of age he removed to Philadelphia, and in 1850 became connected with the Spring Garden Church, then under the pastoral care of the Rev. John McDowell, D. D., who was thenceforward his fast friend. After teaching in that city a year or two, he received from Princeton College the honorary degree of Master of Arts in 1853, and in the same year entered the Theological Seminary, where he remained two years. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Philadelphia in April, 1856, and during the summer of that year supplied the Second and Arch St. churches, which held united services during the vacation of their pastors. Dec. 10, 1856, he was received into the Presbytery of Chicago, accepted a call to become pastor of the North Church in that city, and Dec. 14, 1856 was ordained and installed. This pastoral relation was dissolved July 21, 1857. Soon after he received and accepted a call to Hagerstown, Md., and was installed by the Presbytery of Carlisle, Oct. 17, 1858. His pastoral relation there was dissolved Oct. 2, 1861, but he continued to labor at Hagerstown as a Stated Supply until the spring of 1862. April 15, 1863 he was dismissed to the Presbytery of Donegal, and after serving as a supply the church of Columbia, Pa., for a year, accepted a call to become its pastor and was installed April 13, 1864.