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NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 9TH, 1899.

BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

PRINCETON, N. J.

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DIRECTOR.

JOHN HALL, D.D., LL.D.,

Son of William and Rachel (Gillis) Hall, was born July 31, 1829, at Ballygorman House, Market Hill, County Armagh, Ireland. He united with the Mountmorris Presbyterian Church at the age of twelve. His preparatory studies were pursued in the local academy of his home, and he received his academic and theological education in the college at Belfast, graduating in arts in 1846 and in theology in 1849. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Belfast in June, 1849, and ordained as a missionary in the Camlin district, County Mayo, by the Presbytery of Connaught, Oct. 9, 1850. He labored there until called to the First Presbyterian Church in Armagh, over which he was installed June 30, 1852, remaining until 1858, when he became pastor of the church of St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin, and served this church until 1867. It was during this pastorate that he received from Queen Victoria the honorary appointment of Commissioner of Education for Ireland; and while at Dublin he became the owner and editor of "The Evangelical Witness," the only paper of its sort in Ulster. In 1867 he was sent to this country as a delegate from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and visited the Assemblies of both the Old and New School branches of the Church. The impression produced by this visit led to his receiving a call to the pastorate of the Fifth Avenue Church of New York City, then vacant. He accepted the call, and was installed Nov. 3, 1867, serving this church for a period of thirty-one years, until his death, which occurred Sept. 17, 1898, at Bangor, Ireland, of heart failure, in the 70th year of his age. He received the honorary degree of D.D. from Washington and Jefferson College in 1865, and from Princeton College in 1885; the degree of S.T.D. from Columbia College in 1886, and the degree of LL.D. from Washington and Lee University in 1885, and later from Trinity

College, Dublin. Dr. Hall was a director of Princeton Seminary from 1868 until his death, a period of thirty years, and a trustee of Princeton University during the same time. He was also a trustee of Wells College, N. Y., of Wellesley College, Mass., and of Vassar College, N. Y. He was a member of the Evangelical Alliance, of the American Tract Society, of the American Bible Society, of the New York City Mission and Tract Society, of the Presbyterian Board of Church Election and of the Board of Home Missions, of which last he was the president from 1881 until his death, scarcely ever failing to preside at the popular meetings of the General Assembly, held in the interest of Home Missions. He was also chairman of the Church Extension Committee of New York Presbytery. He was Chancellor of the University of the City of New York from 1881 to 1891. He was frequently a commissioner to the General Assembly, and was the chairman of many of its important committees, but was unwilling to have his name proposed for the moderatorship. Among Dr. Hall's published writings are: "Family Prayers for Four Weeks," New York, 1868; "Papers for Home Reading," New York, 1873; "God's Word Through Preaching," the Lyman Beecher lectures before the Theological Department of Yale University, New York, 1875; "Familiar Talks to Boys," New York, 1876; "A Christian Home," Philadelphia, 1883; and in conjunction with George H. Stuart, "American Evangelists," 1875. He also delivered a course of lectures before the Baptist Theological Seminary at Rochester, N. Y., on "The Religious Uses of Property," a copy of which in its published form was sent to every Baptist minister in the country. He was a frequent contributor to *The New York Ledger*, and to *The Sunday-School World*, and wrote many articles for the religious press. His services for addresses and sermons on special occasions were in constant demand.

Dr. Hall was married June 15, 1852, at Camlin, Ireland, to Mrs. Emily (Bolton) Irwin, who with three sons and one daughter survives him. One of his sons is the Rev. Thomas C. Hall, D.D., Professor in the Union Theological Seminary of New York City.