

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 8TH, 1900.

BY THE SECRETARY.

PRINCETON. N. J.

C. S. ROBINSON & CO., UNIVERSITY PRINTERS.

1900.

PROFESSOR.

WILLIAM HENRY GREEN, D.D., LL.D.,

Son of George Smith and Sarah (Kennedy) Green, was born January 27, 1825, at Groveville, Burlington County, N. J. He united with the First Presbyterian Church at Easton, Pa., at the age of fifteen. His preparatory studies were pursued at Easton under the Rev. John Vandever, and he graduated from Lafayette College in 1840. For the next two years he was a tutor in Lafayette College. Entering the Seminary at Princeton in 1842, he took the full three years' course there, graduating in 1846. He interrupted his course for one year, 1843-44, that he might accept the position of adjunct professor of mathematics in Lafayette College. He was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, February 3, 1846, and ordained an evangelist by the same Presbytery May 24, 1848. Immediately upon his graduation from the Seminary he was appointed instructor in Hebrew, thus beginning his career as a teacher in the Princeton Seminary in 1846. He was an instructor for three years, during which period he served both the Presbyterian Churches of Princeton as stated supply; the First Church, for six months after September 26, 1847, alternating with the late A. Gosman, D.D.; the Second Church, from February, 1848, to September, 1849, when he was called to the pastorate of the Central Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, over which he was installed May 16th of that year. This relation was dissolved July 7, 1851, that he might accept a call to the chair of Biblical and Oriental Literature in Princeton Seminary. In 1859 the title of this chair was changed to that of Oriental and Old Testament Literature, and this chair he continued to occupy without interruption until his death, fifty-four years after his appointment as an

instructor in the Seminary, and forty-nine years after his return to Princeton to assume the work of a full professorship in the same institution. He was Librarian of the Seminary from 1851 to 1871. For a number of years before his death Dr. Green suffered from an incurable disease, which slowly sapped his strength, and after repeated rallies from periods of great weakness, he finally succumbed to the heavy and protracted drain upon his physical resources, and died at his home in Princeton February 10, 1900, in the 76th year of his age. He received the degree of D.D. from Princeton University in 1857, and from the University of Edinburgh in 1884; and the degree of LL.D. from Rutgers College in 1873. Dr. Green was moderator of the General Assembly in 1891. In 1868, upon the retirement of President Maclean, he was elected to succeed him as the President of Princeton University (then the College of New Jersey), but he declined. He was the chairman of the Old Testament section of the American Committee for the Revision of the English Version of the Bible, continuing at the head of this committee until his death. He was a trustee of Princeton University from 1868 until his death. Dr. Green's literary activity was very great, and was confined almost absolutely to his special department of study, beginning with a review of Keil on Joshua, published in the *Biblical Repertory and Princeton Review* in 1850, and continuing for fifty years. Most of his contributions to periodical literature appeared in the above review and in its successors, the *Presbyterian Quarterly and Princeton Review*, the *Presbyterian Review* and the *Presbyterian and Reformed Review*. During nine years, 1883-92, Dr. Green wrote the critical notes on the International Sunday School Lessons, that appeared in *The Sunday School Times* of Philadelphia. Only a few of his published writings can be mentioned here*: his "Grammar of the Hebrew Language," first published in 1861; "The Pentateuch Vindicated from the Aspersion of Bishop Colenso," 1863; "A Hebrew Chrestomathy," 1872; "The Argument of the Book of

* For complete bibliography see Professor W. H. Green's Semi-Centennial Celebration, N. Y., 1896, pp. 181-193.

Job Unfolded," 1874; "The Hebrew Feasts," 1885; "The Higher Criticism of the Pentateuch," 1895; "The Unity of the Book of Genesis," 1895; "General Introduction to the Old Testament, The Canon," 1898; "General Introduction to the Old Testament, The Text," 1899. On May 5, 1896, the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. Green's appointment as an instructor in Princeton Seminary was celebrated in Princeton with appropriate addresses in Alexander Hall, on the University campus. The exercises were held in connection with the annual commencement of the Seminary, and were attended by many distinguished representatives of other institutions. The proceedings were published in a volume, to perpetuate the occasion.

Dr. Green was twice married: (1) June 24, 1852, at Philadelphia, Pa., to Miss Mary Elizabeth Colwell, who died March 29, 1854; (2) April 28, 1858, at Allegheny, Pa., to Miss Elizabeth Hayes, who survives him with two daughters by the second marriage, one the wife of Prof. William Libbey, the other the wife of Prof. J. Mark Baldwin, both of Princeton University.