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NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 6TH, 1902.

BY THE SECRETARY.

PRINCETON, N. J.

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

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logical Seminary of the Northwest (now McCormick) from 1864 to 1866, and again from 1868 to 1872. He was moderator of the Synod of Harrisburg and of the Synod of Pennsylvania in 1887. He was a commissioner to the General Assembly at Nashville in 1855; at New Orleans, 1858; at Pittsburgh, 1865; at Baltimore, 1873; at Saratoga Springs, 1890; at Detroit, 1891, and at Philadelphia, 1901. He was called upon to lead in prayer by the moderator after the reading of the Necrological Report in the last Assembly. In 1873 he was a member of the committee of conference appointed by the General Assembly to confer with a similar committee from the Southern Assembly on the subject of closer fraternal relations. In the Assembly of 1890 he was the chairman of the committee on Revision that reported the plan for the revision of the Confession of Faith, and was the author of the resolution reported to the Assembly and unanimously adopted, instructing the committee not to report anything impairing the integrity of the Reformed or Calvinistic system of doctrine as set forth in the Confession of Faith. He was the author of the biographical sketches of prominent ministers of the Presbytery of Carlisle, contained in the second volume of the History of that Presbytery. His other publications consisted of sermons and his editorial work when in Chicago.

Dr. Erskine married, Oct. 7, 1874, in Newville, Pa., Miss Helen Mar McKeehan, who with two daughters survives him.

GEORGE TYBOUT PURVES D.D., LL.D.,

Son of William and Anna (Kennedy) Purves, was born Sept. 27, 1852, in Philadelphia, Pa. He made a public confession of his faith in the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, during the pastorate of Albert Barnes, at the age of fourteen. His preparatory studies were pursued in the Classical Academy of the Rev. John W. Faires, D.D., Philadelphia, and he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1872. The year following was spent in study at home. Entering the Seminary at Princeton in 1873 he took the full three years' course, graduating in 1876, and then remaining for a fourth year of graduate work under Professors William Henry Green and Caspar Wistar

Hodge. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, May 2, 1876, and ordained by the Presbytery of Chester, April 27, 1877, being at the same time installed pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Wayne, Pa. This relation was dissolved March 4, 1880, that he might accept a call to the Boundary Avenue Church of Baltimore, Md., over which he was installed March 16, 1880. From this second charge he was released June 20, 1886, as he had been called to the First Church of Pittsburgh, Pa., over which he was installed Oct. 17, 1886, and from which he was released June 13, 1892, that he might accept a call to the chair of New Testament Literature and Exegesis in Princeton Theological Seminary, rendered vacant by the death of Prof. Caspar Wistar Hodge. Dr. Purves had been elected to the chair of Church History in Princeton Seminary in 1888, but had declined. He was inaugurated a professor in the Seminary Sept. 16, 1892; but his energies could not be confined within the limits of his professional duties. He soon began a series of evening services alternately in the two Presbyterian Churches of Princeton, which were largely attended, beside preaching frequently in the chapel of the University. In the fall of 1895 he became the stated supply of the First Church of Princeton, and was installed its pastor, Nov. 19, 1899. This relation was of brief duration. The long time vacant Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York City called Dr. Purves to its pulpit early in the year 1900, and he felt constrained to give up his professorship and the other congenial spheres of labor in Princeton for the New York pastorate. He was released from the First Church, April 10, 1900, and resigned his chair in the Seminary in May. His installation over the Fifth Avenue Church took place May 22, 1900. Disease had laid hold of him before he left Princeton, and steadily undermined his strength, without, however, in the least diminishing his energy or his effectiveness as a preacher. In the summer of 1901 it became evident that his condition was critical, yet there was little intimation that his end was so near. He died suddenly in New York, Sept. 24, 1901, of heart failure, within three days of the completion of his 49th year, and was buried in the Princeton Cemetery. He

received the honorary degree of D.D. from Washington and Jefferson College in 1888, and from the University of Pennsylvania in 1894, and that of LL.D. from Lafayette College in 1895. Dr. Purves was frequently called to prominent pulpits in the Church, and several times to chairs in theological seminaries. He declined such a call to the chair of Systematic Theology in McCormick Seminary. For a time, while a pastor in Pittsburgh, he performed the duties of a similar chair in the Western Theological Seminary of Allegheny, Pa. He was a commissioner to the General Assembly at Saratoga Springs, 1884; at New York, 1889; at Saratoga Springs, 1894, and at Philadelphia, 1901. At this last he was a prominent candidate for the moderatorship. He delivered the lectures on the L. P. Stone foundation in Princeton Seminary in 1888, and these were published in 1889 under the title, *The Testimony of Justin Martyr to Christianity*. His other publications were: *Simon Peter in the School of Christ*, 1891; *St. Paul and Inspiration*, 1893; *The Apostolic Age*, 1900, beside many articles in the *Presbyterian and Reformed Review*, *The Westminster Teacher*, and *The Bible Student*. He was one of the editors of the last.

Dr. Purves married, Oct. 11, 1881, at Wayne, Pa., Miss Rebecca Bird Sellers, who with two sons and four daughters survives him.