

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 10TH, 1904.

BY THE SECRETARY.

PRINCETON, N. J.

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

1904.

TRUSTEE.

JOHN DUNLAP WELLS, D.D.,

Son of Solomon and Marion (Dunlap) Wells, was born Oct. 25, 1815, in Whitesborough, N. Y. He made a public confession of his faith in the Presbyterian Church of Whitesborough at the age of seventeen. From the age of fifteen to eighteen he was a clerk in the office of the Oneida Cotton Factory at Yorkville, N. Y. His preparatory studies were pursued in the Washington County Academy at Cambridge, N. Y., and also in the Mt. Pleasant Academy, Sing Sing, under the Rev. N. S. Prime, D.D. He entered Union College, Schenectady, in the sophomore year and graduated from that institution in 1838. He left college early in that year to take charge of the Greene Academy at Huntsville, Ala., but was given his diploma with the class of '38. He closed his connection with the Greene Academy in the summer of 1840 and entered the Seminary at Princeton in the fall of that year. He was soon obliged to leave, however, on account of ill health and engaged in teaching in Philadelphia. He re-entered the Seminary in 1841, taking the full three-years' course and graduating in 1844. He was licensed by the Presbytery of North River, Nov. 10, 1843. Immediately after leaving the Seminary he took charge of the private chapel of Mr. James Lenox at New Hamburg, N. Y., serving it until November, 1844. The next month he began services in the "Lenox" Chapel on Madison Avenue and 29th Street, New York, and continued to serve it until 1847. From December, 1847, until the summer of 1849, he was principal of the parish school of the First Presbyterian Church of New York. He was ordained by the Presbytery of New York, Jan. 20, 1850, and at the same time installed pastor of the South

Third Street Church of Williamsburg (now a part of Brooklyn). This, his only regular pastoral charge, he held until his death, a period of nearly fifty-four years. He died Oct. 31, 1903, in Brooklyn, of heart disease, six days after having completed his 88th year. His death was most peaceful. He was visiting a parishioner, and having asked her a question, quietly closed his eyes, laid one hand upon the other, and was at rest. He was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, Brooklyn. He received the honorary degree of D.D. from Union College in 1864. Dr. Wells was a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Foreign Missions from 1854 and of the Board as now constituted since 1869, and its president from 1885 until his death. He was a trustee of Princeton Seminary from 1875 until his death. He was a commissioner to the General Assembly at Philadelphia in 1861, at Chicago in 1871, and at Springfield in 1882. Since 1881 he had the assistance of his son, Rev. Newell W. Wells, an alumnus of the Seminary, as co-pastor. This unusual relation continued harmoniously until broken by the father's death. The golden jubilee of his pastorate was celebrated in January, 1900. Dr. Wells published "The Last Week in the Life of David Johnson, Jr.," 1860; re-issued as "Saved by Grace," 1888; "Little Walter of Wyalusing," 1862; "The Pastor in the Sick Room," 1893; "Fruits and Flowers," a poem, beside many sermons. He was a most ardent friend of the Seminary and attended with the utmost regularity to his duties as a Trustee.

Dr. Wells was married May 1, 1849, in New York City, to Jessie Henderson, who died Dec. 23, 1871. Two sons and three daughters survive him.