

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

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BY THE SECRETARY.

PRINCETON, N. J.

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JOSEPH BUCK STRATTON, D.D.,

Son of Nathan Leake and Hannah (Buck) Stratton, was born Dec. 24, 1815, in Bridgeton, N. J. He made a public confession of his faith in the Tenth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, under the Rev. Dr. Boardman, at the age of twenty-four. His preparatory studies were pursued in the High School at Lawrenceville, N. J., under the Rev. Isaac N. Brown, and he graduated from Princeton College in 1833, being but eighteen years old. After leaving Princeton he engaged in the study of law and was admitted to the Bar of Philadelphia in 1837. He practiced law for the next three years. His conversion and identification with the Church of Christ as an avowed believer led to his dedication of himself to the service of his Master in the Christian ministry, and he entered the Seminary of Princeton in 1840, taking the full three years' course there and graduating in 1843. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Philadelphia Jan. 6, 1843, and ordained by the Presbytery of Mississippi Dec. 31, 1843, being at the same time installed pastor of the church of Natchez, Miss. This was his only pastorate and continued more than fifty years, the relation being dissolved April 14, 1894, after which Dr. Stratton was pastor emeritus until his death. Thus his connection with the church as pastor and pastor emeritus covered a period of sixty years. He died at Natchez Oct. 11, 1903, of paralysis, in the 88th year of his age. He was buried in the city where he had labored so long. He received the honorary degree of D.D. from Princeton University in 1856. Dr. Stratton was one of the most prominent ministers in the Southern Presbyterian Church. He was a commissioner to the General Assembly that met in Baltimore in 1868; in Columbus, Miss., in 1874, and in Lexington in 1883. He was elected Professor of Church Government and Pastoral Theology in Danville Seminary in 1858, but felt obliged to decline. He was sent by the Southern Assembly as a delegate to the Northern Assembly to announce the consummation of fraternal relations between these bodies, which duty he performed at Saratoga Springs in 1884. Among other writings he published "Truth in the Household," 1857; "Memorial of a Quarter Century Pastorate," 1869; "Anniversary Discourses," 1869;

"A Plea for the Rights of Christ's Body," 1870; "Confessing Christ," 1880; "Following Christ," 1884; "Prayers for Families," 1888. Beside these, many sermons and other discourses were published, and he wrote many articles for the religious press.

Dr. Stratton was married twice: (1) Oct. 8, 1844, in Philadelphia, to Mary Vanuxem Smith, who died Dec. 22, 1848; (2) Nov. 16, 1852, in Natchez, Miss., to Caroline M. Williams, who with one son by his first wife survives him.

See Article by J. W. Henderson in the *Southwestern Presbyterian*, Nov. 26, 1903.

JOHN DUNLAP WELLS, D.D.

See Page 264.

THOMAS FRASER, D.D.,

Son of the Rev. Thomas and Margaret (McKnight) Fraser, was born Nov. 18, 1820, in Dalkeith, Scotland. He was brought to this country in early life and on June 29, 1839, at the age of eighteen he made a public confession of his faith in the Reformed (Dutch) Church of Sharon Springs, N. Y. He was prepared for college by his father and graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1841. In October of the same year he entered the Seminary at Princeton, withdrawing at the close of April, 1842. He spent the following year in private study, returning to Princeton in the fall of 1843, completing his course there and graduating in 1845. He was licensed by the Presbytery of New York, April 7, 1845, and ordained an evangelist by the same Presbytery, May 8, 1846. He engaged in home missionary work in Wisconsin from 1845 to 1852, exploring the destitute regions of that state and founding churches. He was then stated supply at Newbern, N. C., 1852-53, and at Little Rock, Ark., 1854-60. From 1860 to 1867 he engaged in home missionary work at Santa Rosa, Bodega, Tomales, Bloomfield and Two Rocks, Cal. During the year following he supplied the First Church of Portland, Or., and then from October, 1868, to October, 1883, was the synodical missionary for the Synod of Pacific. He was professor of systematic theology in the San Francisco Theological Seminary from 1886-92. During six months of the year, 1893, he supplied the Makawo Church