

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 10TH, 1904.

BY THE SECRETARY.

PRINCETON, N. J.

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buried in Greenwood Cemetery, New York City. He received the honorary degree of D.D. from Olivet College, Mich., in 1875. Dr. Baker was in many respects an ideal minister, being a good preacher, a wise administrator and a faithful pastor. He was prominent in the general affairs of the Church. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Princeton Seminary from 1888 until his death, and its president from 1899 until his death. He was president of the Board of Education from 1889 until his death. He was corresponding secretary of the Pennsylvania Bible Society, and president of the Christian League of Philadelphia. He was an active member of the Presbyterian Historical Society, and was also a member of the New England Society. He was prominently identified with the judicial case of Dr. Briggs, being chairman of the Assembly's committee, having that case in charge. He was a commissioner to the General Assembly at Chicago in 1871; at Brooklyn in 1876; at Saratoga Springs in 1883; at Philadelphia in 1888; at Washington in 1893 and at Philadelphia in 1901. He declined an election to a secretaryship of the Board of Foreign Missions, as well as that of the Board of Education. While in Detroit he was instrumental in founding the Helping Hand Society and the Farrand School for Nurses. He was successful in the attempt to raise a fund of \$100,000 as an endowment for the First Church of Philadelphia, thus assuring its continuance as a down-town church. During the Civil War he was the chaplain of a three months' regiment. He wrote occasionally for the religious press. His services as a Director and as President of the Board of Directors were of very great value, and he took an active interest in the affairs of the Alumni Association of the Seminary, of which he was the president for the year 1893-94.

Dr. Baker was married Nov. 30, 1864, in New York City, to Gertrude Frelinghuysen Magie, who died Dec. 26, 1889.

WILLIAM EDWARD SCHENCK, D.D.,

Son of John Conover and Ann Brookes (Hutchinson) Schenck, was born March 29, 1819, in Princeton, N. J. He made a

public confession of his faith in the First Presbyterian Church of Princeton at the age of twenty. He pursued his preparatory studies in the Princeton Academy under the Rev. Robert Baird, D.D., and then at the Edge Hill Seminary, Princeton, under Prof. Robert B. Patton. He graduated from Princeton University in 1838, and then studied law for a year with James S. Green, Esq., in Princeton. He entered the Seminary at Princeton in 1839, taking the full three years' course and graduating in 1842. He was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, April 27, 1842, and ordained by the same Presbytery, Feb. 28, 1843, being at the same time installed pastor of the Presbyterian church at Manchester (now Lakehurst), N. J., from which he was released April 23, 1845. Previous to this pastorate he had for six months in 1842 engaged in missionary work in the coal fields of Pennsylvania, at Port Clinton, Tamaqua, Summit Hill and other places. After giving up his pastoral charge at Manchester he immediately began supplying the Hammond Street Church in New York City, and was installed its pastor May 16, 1847. This relation was dissolved Feb. 21, 1848. His next only other pastorate was over the First Church of Princeton, from May 7, 1848, until March 30, 1852. In the latter year he was induced to accept an invitation to become the superintendent of Church Extension in the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and labored as such for two years. In 1854 he was elected secretary of the Board of Publication of the Presbyterian Church, whose offices were in Philadelphia. This determined his work and his residence for the rest of his life. From May, 1863, until June, 1870, he was also editor of this Board. In 1870, at the reunion of the two branches of the Church, in the division of the work of the Board he became its Corresponding Secretary and continued as such until May, 1886, when he resigned, owing to the increasing infirmities of age. He resided in West Philadelphia until within a few years before his death, when he made his home with a son at Oakmont, Pa. There he died, Dec. 14, 1903, of general debility and heart failure, in the 84th year of his age. He was buried in the Princeton Cemetery. He received the honorary degree of D.D. from

Jefferson College in 1859. Dr. Schenck was one of the most widely known ministers in the Presbyterian Church and was a frequent attendant at the General Assembly, because of his connection with one of its Boards, and often addressed that body. He was the permanent clerk of the Old School General Assembly from 1863 until 1870. He was a Director of Princeton Seminary from 1865 until his death, thirty-eight years, and was the secretary of that Board from 1870 until 1899. He was an earnest and untiring friend of the Seminary and was one of those who founded its Alumni Association in 1872, of which he was the first secretary. This office he held for twenty-five years, resigning in 1897 and being elected Honorary Secretary for life. For many years he prepared most of the sketches of the deceased alumni for the Necrological Reports. Early in his career he declined a call to the First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster, Pa., and a little later one to the First Church of Brooklyn. Dr. Schenck travelled extensively in Europe and in the western part of his own country. Among his published writings are:—"Children in Heaven; or The Infant Dead redeemed by the Blood of Jesus"; "Nearing Home. Comforts and Counsels for the Aged"; "Aunt Fanny's Home"; "Historical Account of the First Presbyterian Church of Princeton, N. J."; "The Parting Commendation"; "God our Guide", a sermon afterwards published as a tract; "The Faith of Christ's Ministers", a sermon commemorative of the Rev. Benjamin H. Rice, D.D.; "A memorial sermon on the Life and Labors of the Rev. Phineas D. Gurley, D.D."; "The Fountain for Sin and Uncleaness"; "Nearing Home," and other sermons and addresses. He edited the General Catalogue of Princeton Seminary, issued in 1881, and prepared the annual reports of the Board of Publication for thirty-one years, and the Biography of the Class of 1838 of Princeton College (1889). He was also a frequent contributor to the Princeton Press, the New York Observer, the Presbyterian, and other secular and religious journals. He was a member of the Reunion Committee of the Presbyterian Church from 1867 to 1870 and was a trustee of the General Assembly from 1865 to 1887.

Dr. Schenck was twice married : (1) April 18, 1843, in Manchester, N. J., to Jane Whittemore Torrey, who died March 9, 1856 ; (2) April 3, 1862, in Elizabeth, N. J., to Mary Blake Kittle, who died May 12, 1900. Two sons and four daughters by his first wife survive him.

See Sketch by Col. H. W. B. Woodhull in "Biography of the Class of 1838 of Princeton College," pp. 128-135.