

Necrological Report

PRESENTED TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

MAY 9th, 1883.

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BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.



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I.

LYMAN HOTCHKISS ATWATER, D. D., LL. D.

A usage which needs no defence claims a place in these pages for Dr. Atwater, an *ex officio* Alumnus of the Seminary, who has been since 1860 a member, and since the death of Dr. MacDonald in 1876, Vice-President of the Board of Trustees.

The son of Lyman and Clarissa (Hotchkiss) Atwater of Cedar Hill, Hamden (now a part of New Haven), Conn., Dr. Atwater was born there, Feb. 23, 1813. At the age of 14, he entered Yale College as Freshman, and was graduated with the second honor at the Commencement in 1831. Although so young, he had already taken deep interest, and shown marked ability in those philosophical studies, in which as Theological Student, Pastor, College Professor and Author, he was to gain such eminence. The following year he entered the Theological Department at Yale, held a mathematical tutorship in the College the last two years of his theological course, was licensed by the New Haven West Association in 1834, and at the end of his course in 1835, received and accepted a call to the old and important First Church in Fairfield, Conn., whose pastor he became by ordination and installation, July 29, 1835, and continued to be until his removal to Princeton, N. J., in 1854. In this relation he not only won and held a good name at home, but made himself known and felt more widely, especially by his theological, philosophical and ecclesiastical ability and decision.

At the age of 27 he made his first theological contribution, in 1840, to the pages of the Princeton Review, to which he was to be for more than 40 years one of the most prolific, versatile and characteristic contributors. His articles, numbering more than 100, would have filled more than three entire volumes of the old Review, of which he was for the last years of its existence, an editor.

In 1854, Dr. Atwater was appointed to that Professorship of Metaphysics and Moral Philosophy in the College of New Jersey, which with some changes in its form and scope, he occupied with great usefulness and distinguished honor for the remainder of his

life. An appointment to the Chair of Systematic Theology at Allegheny in 1863, failed to move him from Princeton. He often rendered valuable service to the Church in Ecclesiastical bodies, both in his earlier and in his later connections,—notably in the Bushnell controversies in New England, and in the discussions and negotiations which preceded and culminated in Presbyterian Reunion in 1869. During the latter years of his life he had come to be recognized as one of the authorities of the country on economic and financial questions. What he was, more locally and personally to the College and the community in which his daily life was lived and his daily work done, as Professor, parishioner, citizen, friend, can be known only to those who have lived with him in these many-sided relations, in which the great philosopher, theologian and ecclesiastic do not always shine.

The honorary degree of D. D. had been conferred upon him in 1851 by the College of New Jersey, while he was still a country pastor; and to this his Alma Mater added in 1873 a Doctorate of Laws.

For some years. Dr. Atwater had needed to take special precautions in respect to health. An attack of pneumonia in October last, aggravated and brought to an issue, deeply-seated affections of the kidneys and heart, and ended his useful life, Feb. 17, 1883, six days before the completion of his seventieth year.

In October, 1835, Dr. Atwater was married to Susan (daughter of Elihu) Sanford, of New Haven, Conn., who died April 23, 1879. Their children, three sons and a daughter, survived them.

II.

JAMES SMITH.

James Smith, son of Hugh and Elizabeth (M'Cormick) Smith, was born near Newburg, Cumberland Co., Pa., June 12, 1793. He received his preparatory training at Hopewell Academy, near Newburg, under Mr. John Cooper. He united on profession with the Middle Spring Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Carlisle, October 13, 1816, the Rev. John Moody, D. D. being then its pastor. He was graduated from Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.,