

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

Princeton Theological Seminary,

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

April 25, 1876.

BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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PHILADELPHIA:

GRANT, FAIRES & RODGERS, PRINTERS, 52 & 54 N. SIXTH STREET.

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in South Carolina he became a member of Harmony Presbytery, with which he continued in connection until his death. In early life he was a preacher of much power. Lately he has been better known as a contributor to theological journals. He was a life-long student. The eminent Prof. Tayler Lewis wrote of him as "one of the most learned men in the country." In 1870 the University of New York conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He died at the residence of his son-in-law, E. Delafield Smith, Esq., in New York, after only four days' illness, from a sudden attack of pneumonia, May 27, 1875, aged 84 years. His last moments were characterized by many expressions of a serene and triumphant faith.

III. REV. BENJAMIN GILDERSLEEVE, D. D.

Dr. Benjamin Gildersleeve was born near Norwalk, Conn., January 5, 1791. His father was an officer in the Army of the Revolution. When about seventeen years of age he taught in a school near Norwalk, and in his twentieth year had the entire charge of a school at Green's Farm, Conn. While here he was hopefully converted, and united with the Church. He was graduated at Middlebury College, Vt., in 1814, a large number of men afterwards eminent being members of his class. The same year he removed to Georgia and began to teach in Mount Zion Academy. In 1817 he entered Princeton Seminary, and remained here a little over one year. In 1819, together with N. S. S. Beman, his college classmate, (afterwards the Rev. Dr. Beman, of Troy, N. Y.,) and J. N. Wailes, he commenced editing a paper called "*The Missionary*," of which he soon took the exclusive control. In 1820 he was ordained by Hopewell Presbytery, at Athens, Ga. In 1826 he removed to Charleston, S. C., and became editor of "*The Christian Observer*," which post he held until 1845. In the latter year he removed to Richmond, Va., where he was sole editor of "*The Watchman and Observer*" until 1856, and after that until 1860, was associated with the Rev. Moses D. Hoge, D. D., and the Rev. Thomas V. Moore, D. D., as editor of "*The Central Presbyterian*." During his residence in Richmond he preached wherever he found an open door, especially in the Virginia Penitentiary, where his labors were greatly blessed. After leaving the editorial chair, he removed to Washington County, in the south-western part of Virginia. Here, although he was never an installed pastor or received a stipulated salary, he preached the Gospel with untiring assiduity and faithfulness. In all sorts of weather, and in every place where

he could find hearers, he was abundant in labors. At about 75 years of age blindness began to come upon him. When he discovered that he was likely soon to lose his sight entirely, he applied himself with wonderful success to the task of memorizing large portions of the Bible and the best hymns. He became able to repeat accurately entire Epistles. Thus he was able to continue his ministry long after his eyesight was entirely gone. During these last years of his labors God poured out His Spirit and gave him the joy of leading many souls to Christ. At last he yielded to the importunities of his children and went to Tazewell County, Va., to reside with his son, Dr. J. R. Gildersleeve. Here he passed the last years of a serene old age, preaching occasionally until January, 1874. He died June 20, 1875, in his 85th year, having been stricken down with paralysis five days before. He has left, especially in those portions of Virginia where he spent his later years, a fragrant memory.

IV. REV. SAMUEL LAWRENCE.

The Rev. Samuel Lawrence was born in the city of Philadelphia, December 28, 1795. Before he was seventeen years of age he became a member of the Second Presbyterian Church in that city, then under the pastoral care of the Rev. Drs. Ashbel Green and J. J. Janeway. It is believed that he was for a time a student in Princeton College, but for some reason did not graduate, although in 1823 he received from that institution the honorary degree of Master of Arts. He entered Princeton Seminary in 1820 and remained there two years. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Philadelphia in 1823, and for the year following served as Stated Supply to the united congregations of Bridgeton and Greenwich, in New Jersey, the territory of the Presbytery of Philadelphia then extending over all the southern part of that State. Upon the separation of those churches he was called to the pastoral charge of the latter, and ordained and installed by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, in November, 1824. He continued to serve the church at Greenwich with success and acceptance for twenty-four years, until April 21, 1847, when the pastoral relation was dissolved on account of his failing health. Meanwhile the Presbytery of West Jersey had been organized, November 5, 1839, and Mr. Lawrence was one of its original members. In this Presbytery he continued to labor after leaving Greenwich, visiting its wide destitutions and feeble churches with great usefulness until April 16, 1850, when he was dismissed with resolutions expressive of the profound respect