

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

Princeton Theological Seminary,

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

April 29th, 1879.

BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

PHILADELPHIA:

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charge, Oct. 12, 1843. This was his only pastoral charge. Thenceforth he resided about eighteen years at Beverly, in Randolph Co., and labored as a missionary in that and several adjacent counties, ranging over a wide extent of wild and mountainous country, preaching in court-houses, jails, school-houses, barns and private houses,—wherever any would gather to hear the word of God. There was no minister nearer on the West than Clarksburg, and on the South-west than Parkersburg. Much of the wide region he traversed was a mountain wilderness; often his only road was an obscure path, dangerous rivers were to be forded, and many of the best people were living in log cabins, often in a single room. But he enjoyed the work, gladly breaking the bread of life to the hungry and the starving.

The breaking out of the Civil War in 1861 stopped his work, and his mission field became a scene of strife. Having removed his family from Beverly to Craigsville in Augusta Co., he occasionally supplied, during the war, the churches of Windy Cove, Warm Springs and Lebanon. Since 1865, he has preached as opportunity offered. He also generally taught school in the winter season. For several of his last years he suffered severely from chronic throat disease. He died at Craigsville, Augusta Co., Va. Jan. 25, 1879, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. He was ill about five days. His sufferings were intense, but he was conscious to the end, and was calm, peaceful and resigned.

Mr. Thomas had made the Word of God his principal study, and was remarkably familiar with it, yet he had extensive and varied general knowledge. He was a thorough Presbyterian, and always ready to give a reason for the faith that was in him. As a preacher, he was earnest in manner, convincing in argument and sound in doctrine. He was remarkably kind and sympathetic, and very tender in his intercourse with the sick and the afflicted.

Mr. Thomas married, June 24, 1841, Miss Janetta Ann Ramsey, daughter of Samuel Lyle Ramsey, of Augusta Co., Va. She has survived her late husband, with three sons and four daughters.

XXII.

ISAAC WILLIAM KER HANDY, D. D.

The subject of this sketch was born in Washington, D. C., Dec. 14, 1815, and was the son of James Henry and Maria Ann Pitts (Gilliss) Handy. He received his early education from various teachers in Washington, one of whom was Salmon P. Chase, after-

wards Chief Justice of the United States. He was also a pupil for awhile at Charlotte Hall, Md. He was graduated from Jefferson College, Pa., in 1834. He united with the Fourth church in Washington city, on profession of his faith, at about eighteen years of age. He entered Princeton Seminary in November, 1835, and studied there between one and two years. He was licensed by the Presbytery of the District of Columbia, April 3, 1838, and was ordained by Lewes Presbytery, Nov. 22, 1838, and installed the same day as pastor of the churches of Buckingham, Blackwater and Laurel. Here he labored six years until released Oct. 11, 1844. He next went to Missouri, where he labored with an earnest missionary zeal and much success for two or three years at Warsaw and vicinity. He then received a call from the two churches of Drawyers at Odessa, Del., and Port Penn, Del., and without being installed served them as pastor elect from June 15, 1848, to June, 1851. He next became pastor of Drawyers church at Odessa, and the Forest church at Middletown, Del., where he labored from June 15, 1851, to April 10, 1853. From 1853 to 1855 he labored as an itinerant missionary on the Eastern peninsula of Maryland. His next pastorate was at Portsmouth, Va., where he was installed over the First church April 16, 1857, and labored as supply and pastor ten years most successfully and acceptably until he was released Aug. 8, 1865, to accept the charge of the churches at Orange C. H. and Gordonsville, Va. With these churches he remained five years. Having been called to become pastor of Augusta church in Va., he was installed there May 13, 1870, and continued until released by death. For several years he had been a sufferer from bronchial disease, but about two months before his death, while in Philadelphia, the unsuspected presence of Bright's disease of the kidneys was developed, and he rapidly sank away. His death occurred in Philadelphia, Pa., at the residence of his son, Mr. Moses P. Handy, June 14, 1878, in the 63d year of his age, peacefully trusting in Christ. His remains were taken to Virginia, and buried at the Augusta church.

From the division of the Presbyterian church in 1861, Dr. Handy adhered throughout the rest of his life to the Southern General Assembly. He was a man of clear and strong convictions, and of great tenacity of purpose, yet kind, genial and gentle in his intercourse with all around him. During the civil war he was for fifteen months a political prisoner at Fort Delaware in 1863 and 1864, during which time he preached every day and conducted Bible classes. A revival occurred in the prison under his labors, in which seventy-five Confederate officers professed conversion, some of

whom afterwards entered the ministry. He was eminently brave, pious, cheerful, energetic and affectionate.

Dr. Handy was many years a trustee of Delaware College at Newark, Del. ; a member of the Presbyterian Historical Society, of the American Scientific Association, and of the Maryland Historical Society. He had a wide and well-earned reputation for accurate research.

He was thrice married, first to Miss Mary Jane Rozelle Purnell, daughter of Moses Purnell, Esq., of Berlin, Md., Oct. 28, 1839. She died in Missouri, Feb. 29, 1848. Secondly, to Miss Sally Selby Martin, daughter of John T. Martin, M. D., of Snow Hill, Md., June 7, 1850. She died October 14, 1853. Third, to Miss Rebecca Hill Dilworth, daughter of John D. Dilworth, Esq., of Newcastle Co., Del, Dec. 6, 1855. She survived Dr. Handy. He also left five sons and three daughters.

Dr. Handy was a man of excellent natural endowments, and they were well cultivated and wisely used. He was a warm-hearted friend. His manners were vivacious, genial and winning. Although decided in his own views, his sentiments and conduct were generous and liberal. As a Christian he was eminent, possessing genuine humility, strong faith, ardent hope. As a minister, he ever watched for souls. His own heart and soul were ever enlisted in the service of Christ.

XXIII.

WILLIAM WALLACE HILL, D. D.

Dr. Hill was born in Bath Co., Ky., Jan. 26, 1815, and was the son of Thomas and Jane (Meter) Hill. His preparation for college was made, first, near Mount Sterling, Ky., under Mr. Walker Bourne, and, secondly, at Paris, Ky., under Mr. Ebenezer Sharp. He united with the Springfield church in Bath Co., Ky., in 1828, when nearly fourteen years of age. He was graduated from Centre College, Ky., in 1835, entered Princeton Seminary the same year, remained there between two and three years, and was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, April 24, 1838. Then, returning to his native State, he was ordained by the Presbytery of Louisville, Oct. 3, 1838, and the same day installed as pastor at Shelbyville, Ky. He served this church faithfully, and was greatly beloved by it; but, after a few years, his voice and his health failed, and he was released from his charge, Sept. 13, 1842. He then accepted an invitation to take the editorial charge of *The Protestant*