

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 7TH, 1907.

BY THE SECRETARY.

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DIRECTOR.

JOSEPH TAIT SMITH, D.D.. LL.D.,

Son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Donnell) Smith, was born Nov. 6, 1818, in Mercer Pa. He made a public confession of his faith in the Presbyterian church at Canonsburg, Pa., at the age of sixteen. His preparatory education was pursued in the Mercer Academy and he graduated from Jefferson (now Washington and Jefferson) College in 1837. He studied theology privately with the Rev. Samuel Tait. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Erie, April 14, 1841, and ordained by the same Presbytery, April 20, 1842, being at the same time installed pastor of the church at Mercer, Pa. This relation was dissolved April 18, 1849. He was pastor of the Second Church of Baltimore, Md., from June 22, 1849, to Nov. 14, 1860. During the next two years he was professor of Church Government and Pastoral Theology in the Danville Theological Seminary, after which he was pastor of the Central Church of Baltimore, Md., from March 16, 1862, to April 18, 1893, the dissolution taking effect June 25. He thus completed thirty-one years of service in this church. He was made pastor emeritus. He continued his residence in Baltimore until 1904, when he moved to Harrisburg, Pa., residing with his son, the Rev. J. Ritchie Smith, D.D., until his death, which occurred April 11, 1906, of the infirmities of age, at Harrisburg, in his 88th year. He was buried in Baltimore. He received the degree of D.D. from Hampden Sidney College in 1850 and from Princeton University in 1897, and the degree of LL.D. from Washington and Jefferson College in 1887. Dr. Smith was a director of Princeton Seminary from 1869 until 1901 and the President of the Board from 1899 to 1901, when he

thought it advisable to sever his connection with the Board because of his advanced age. He was moderator of the General Assembly at Omaha in 1887. He was also moderator of the Synod of Baltimore at one time. He was a commissioner to the General Assembly at Philadelphia in 1853, at St. Louis in 1866, at Cincinnati in 1867, at Detroit in 1872, at Omaha in 1887, at Philadelphia in 1888, at Detroit in 1891, and at Washington in 1893. He was chairman of the General Assembly's committee on fraternal relations with other churches, a matter in which he took the deepest interest. Among his published writings are an address delivered at the commemoration of the centennial of Professor Charles Hodge, an account of the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his installation over the Central Church of Baltimore, and a brief essay, All souls by nature immortal, in a volume entitled, That unknown country.

Dr. Smith was married Oct. 1, 1845, in Canonsburg, Pa., to Elizabeth Craft Letterman, who died Aug. 6, 1901. Three sons survive him, one of these being the Rev. J. Ritchie Smith, D.D., an alumnus of the Seminary.

N. B.—Although Dr. Smith was not a director of the Seminary at the time of his death and not an alumnus, this sketch is inserted because of his long and devoted service to the Seminary.