

# NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

# PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 7TH, 1895.

BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

PRINCETON, N. J.

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**SAMUEL DAVIES ALEXANDER, D.D.,**

Son of the Rev. Archibald and Janetta (Waddel) Alexander, was born May 3, 1819, in Princeton, N. J. He was prepared for college by his older brother, James W. Alexander, and graduated from Princeton College in 1838. He then spent two years as a resident graduate in Princeton, assisting Prof. Henry; three years as a civil engineer and one year in the study of law. At this time he made a public profession of his faith in the First Presbyterian Church of Princeton, and determined to devote himself to the ministry. In pursuance of this purpose he entered the Seminary at Princeton in 1844, took the full three years' course, graduating in 1847. He was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick April 28, 1847, and ordained by the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia Nov. 16, 1847, and at the same time installed pastor of the Richmond Church, Philadelphia. This relation was dissolved Oct. 3, 1849. In August, 1849, he entered upon the duties of assistant secretary of the Board of Education, continuing in that work until April 18, 1850. He was pastor of the church at Freehold, N. J., from Feb. 19, 1851, until April 22, 1856. May 12, 1856, he entered upon what was to be his only other pastorate, that over the Phillips (formerly the Fifteenth Street) Church, New York City. After serving this church for thirty-three years he was compelled on account of his advancing years to resign his charge in 1889. He held the position of *pastor emeritus* from that time until his death, which occurred Oct. 26, 1894, in New York City, of pneumonia, in the 76th year of his age. He received the degree of D.D., from Washington College, Pa., in 1862. Dr. Alexander was stated clerk of the Presbytery of New York from 1869 till his death, and published its history in 1888. He was a Trustee of Princeton Seminary from 1865 until his death, and was for many years a member of the Library Committee of that board. He wrote "Life Sketches from Scottish History," 1855; "History of the Irish Presbyterian Church," 1860; "Princeton College During the Eighteenth Century," 1872, beside the work above mentioned and magazine and review articles. He was unmarried.