

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 5TH, 1885.

The Princeton Press:

C. S. ROBINSON & CO., PRINTERS.

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JOHN CHESTER BACKUS, D.D., LL.D.

John Chester Backus, son of Eleazer F. and Elizabeth (Chester) Backus, was born at Wethersfield, Conn., Sept. 5, 1810; was prepared for College in the Albany Academy; spent two years in Columbia College, N. Y.; was graduated from Yale College in 1830; spent one year at the Law School in New Haven, Conn., during which he was received to the communion of the Centre Church, the Rev. Dr. Bacon, pastor; studied one year in the Theological Seminary at New Haven; and part of a year in Andover Seminary, Mass.; entered Princeton Seminary in 1831, and graduated therefrom in 1835; was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, Feb. 5, 1835; was ordained as an evangelist by the same Presbytery, Feb. 2, 1836; was Assistant Secretary of the Board of Domestic Missions, 1835-36; was ordained and installed pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Baltimore, Md., by the Presbytery of Baltimore, Sept. 16, 1836. To this church he gave the services of his life, until released on account of the infirmities of age, and was made pastor emeritus at the request of the congregation, Oct., 1875. From 1841 he was a director of Princeton Theological Seminary, and in 1861 he was made moderator of the General Assembly. He received the honorary title of D.D. from Hanover College, Ind., in 1848, and that of LL.D. from the College of New Jersey in 1875.

Dr. Backus was a man of great culture, united with marked dignity of character. His long ministry in Baltimore was eminently blessed, not only in the prosperity of his own congregation, but in the influence which he exercised for the growth of Presbyterianism in that city. His exemplary and useful life secured for him universal esteem. He died in Baltimore, Md., April 9, 1884, in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

Dr. Backus was married in Philadelphia, Pa., June 2, 1840, to Miss Letitia C. Caspar.