



Necrological Report

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

Princeton Theological Seminary,

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

April 23d 1878,

BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

April 23d, 1878,

BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.



PHILADELPHIA:

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

1878.

I.

THOMAS BLOOMER BALCH, D.D.

Dr. Balch was born at Georgetown, D. C., Feb. 28, 1793, and was a son of the Rev. Stephen Bloomer and Elizabeth (Beall) Balch. He was prepared for college in the school in Georgetown, taught by the Rev. David Wiley. He was graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1813. He then went to Leesburgh, Va., to visit a brother, and while there united with the Presbyterian Church, then under the pastoral care of the Rev. John Mines, with whom he afterwards studied theology for a year. In the Fall of 1814 he entered Princeton Seminary, where he remained about two years and a half. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Baltimore, Oct. 31, 1816, and was afterwards ordained by the same presbytery Dec. 11, 1817, as an evangelist. From the spring of 1817 to the Fall of 1819 he preached as assistant to his father, who was then pastor of the church at Georgetown, D. C. July 19, 1820, he was installed as pastor of the churches of Snow Hill, Rehoboth and Pitt's Creek, Md., where he spent nearly ten years in happy and useful labor. In 1824, by the action of the Synod of Philadelphia, he and his churches were included in the resuscitated Presbytery of Lewes. He continued to labor in Maryland as pastor of the three churches above named until 1829, after which he lived four years in Fairfax Co., Va., preaching as he had opportunity. Then he removed to Prince William Co., Va., and supplied for two years the churches of Warrenton and Greenwich. April 28, 1836, he was received from Lewes Presbytery into Winchester Presbytery. For one year he was agent for the American Colonization Society and traversed the State for that cause. For nine months he supplied, the church at Fredericksburg, Va., then Nokesville Church, four years, and Greenwich Church (Prince William Co.) Va., two years. Dr. Balch never was settled as a pastor after he left Maryland, but preached in many places and did a large amount of miscellaneous work. He had a strongly literary taste, wrote much on many subjects and published several volumes. At the time of his death he had been writing "Letters of an Octogenarian," which were published in *The Central Presbyterian* of Richmond, Va.

Dr. Balch died Feb. 14, 1878, at Greenwich, Prince William Co., Va., which had been his residence for many years, in his 87th year. His strength had gradually declined for a long

time, but his final illness lasted about three weeks. To the last his mind was clear, and he uttered many expressions of hope and faith up to his last breath.

For some time before his death, Dr. Balch was the oldest living alumnus of Princeton Seminary.

He married in Fairfax Co., Va., Aug. 21, 1820, Susan Carter, daughter of Charles Carter, of Shirley, afterwards step-daughter to the Rev. William Moffitt. She died about six months before him.

II.

SAMUEL *S. DAVIS, D.D.

Samuel S. Davis, was born July 12, 1793, at Ballston Centre, N. Y. His parents were Samuel Davis, M. D., and Mary Dunham, and he was one of a numerous family of children. His early education was acquired in the neighborhood of his home, after which he entered Union College at Schenectady, but his uncle, Rev. Henry Davis, D.D., who was Professor of Greek in Union, having been called (A. D. 1810) to the presidency of Middlebury College, the nephew followed him thither and was graduated at Middlebury College in 1812, but afterwards received his first degree, *ad eundem*, from Union College. After his graduation he took charge of an Academy at Castleton, Vt. In the Fall of 1815 he entered Princeton Seminary, but before the close of the year accepted an appointment as tutor in Union College, and withdrew from the Seminary. After remaining at Union as tutor nearly two years, he returned to the Seminary at the commencement of the winter session of 1817, and after two years of further study was regularly graduated in 1819. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Albany, Oct. 12, 1819, and soon afterwards was commissioned by the Seminary authorities, with the cordial approval of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, to collect funds within its bounds to complete the endowment of a Seminary Professorship which four years before that Synod had resolved to found in connection with the Synod of North Carolina; each Synod having assumed one half of the \$30,000 to be raised. For this object Mr. Davis

* Dr. Davis really had no middle name given him in baptism, but early in life inserted the letter S to distinguish him from his father.