

A DISCOURSE

DELIVERED AT THE FUNERAL OF

REV. JOHN McDOWELL, D. D.,

SENIOR PASTOR OF SPRING GARDEN CHURCH, IN PHILADELPHIA,

By REV. MORRIS C. SUTPHEN,

SURVIVING PASTOR OF SAID CHURCH,

TOGETHER WITH ADDRESSES

BY

REV. DR. CHARLES HODGE, REV. DR. JOHN MACLEAN,

AND REV. DR. H. A. BOARDMAN,

FEBRUARY 18, 1863.

PHILADELPHIA:

WILLIAM S. & ALFRED MARTIEN,

606 CHESTNUT STREET.

1863.

ADDRESS OF DR. HODGE.

THIS is no ordinary occasion. Few, if any, in this assembly, have ever attended such a funeral as this; and few, if any, will ever be called to gather around such a coffin as that. If there be a man now living, in connection with the Presbyterian Church of the United States, of whom such a discourse as that to which we have just listened, could be truthfully and properly pronounced, I know not who it is. I know not where the eye can rest upon a man so complete, as we have heard, in years, in labours, in usefulness, in character; so complete in every aspect,—as the man, the christian, the minister, and pastor.

A man is seldom known, or duly appreciated until he dies. I have known Dr. McDowell for fifty years,—from my earliest boyhood,—and I can truly say, I never knew him as I know him now. I saw him, as it were, week by week, and month by month, in active intercourse, but in only rare and occasional exhibitions of his true self. But here we have him, as it were, a whole man,—his whole life of varied

exertion, and undeviating devotion to the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is, therefore, Christian brethren, with a very unusual degree of reverence we bow before these remains. We may place beside that coffin the ashes of the statesman, the sage, the warrior, and the greatest of men who have lived, but what a contrast do we have! How peculiar the feelings of tenderness, reverence, gratitude, and regard, as we contemplate the character and history of a man who lives, not for time, but for eternity; not for self, not even for the world, or mankind, or his brethren—but for Christ, and Christ's kingdom!

It is natural that, on such an occasion as this, we should find representatives of all the churches and institutions with which our venerated father has been so long connected. I stand here to occupy your attention a few moments, as a representative of the Theological Seminary at Princeton. Your pastor has referred to the labours of Dr. McDowell as one of the founders of that institution, and also the efficient pastor of the various churches he served in Elizabethtown, and in this city. He was one of the earliest, most laborious, and devoted of the servants of that institution, with which I have been so long connected. When it was founded, in 1812, Dr. McDowell was elected one of its directors, and was appointed Secretary of the Board. From that time until the infirmities of the last few years of his life prevented his attention to any public duty, he

was the unwavering, devoted friend of that institution.

I do not mean to occupy the time, but merely come, as do the representatives of other bodies, to lay upon his coffin the simple garland of respect, veneration, and gratitude, felt by all those who are connected in any way with an institution he contributed so much to foster, and so steadily cherished, during the course of his long, honoured, and useful life.