

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

April 24, 1877,

BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.



PHILADELPHIA:

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

1877.

III.

JAMES MADISON MACDONALD, D.D.

Dr. Macdonald was born at Limerick in Maine, May 22d, 1812. He was the son of Major General John Macdonald, a man of mark and influence in that State. In his fourteenth year, James was left an orphan by the death of both his parents. He studied first in the academy of his native town, and afterwards at the Phillips Academy at Andover. In 1828 he entered Bowdoin College in Maine, but at the end of two years removed to Union College at Schenectady, N. Y., where he entered the Junior Class and was graduated with high honor in 1832. He immediately entered the Theological Seminary at Bangor, Maine, but, after passing a year there, went to Yale Theological Seminary and was graduated there in 1835. He was licensed to preach August 6, 1834, and was ordained and installed pastor of the 3d Congregational Church of Berlin, Conn., known as the parish of Worthington, April 1, 1835. In 1837 he accepted a call to the recently formed Second Congregational Church in New London, Conn., where he remained over three years. In 1841 he accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church at Jamaica, Long Island, where he continued to labor with great usefulness and success until 1850, when he took the pastoral charge of the Fifteenth Street Church in New York City. Three years later he removed to Princeton, N. J., and was installed as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church there, Nov. 1, 1853. At this post of duty he continued until his death, April 19th, 1876, a period of over twenty-two years. His ministry at Princeton was greatly honored by the attending power of the Holy Spirit. He died on Wednesday, April 19, 1876, in the 64th year of his age.

Dr. Macdonald was a man of untiring industry. He published a number of sermons at various times, also about six volumes. Among these the best known is probably, "*My Father's House, or, The Heaven of the Bible.*" His greatest and most valuable work, however, has appeared since his decease: "*The Life and Writings of St. John.*" In a high degree his ministrations were able, varied, and evangelical. As a preacher he was solid, dignified, instructive, yet earnest and tender. He was largely successful in winning souls and building up the church in every field of pastoral labor he occupied. He died at the very height of his usefulness. His church had just been enlarged and beautified, and a new lecture-room added. A wonderful visitation of the Spirit had

just been enjoyed among his people in Princeton. He met with the session at the examination and reception of a large number of converts, but did not receive them at the communion table, because then lying ill on what proved to be his death-bed. In the councils of the Church, Dr. Macdonald was universally esteemed wise, prudent and faithful. He was a warm friend, a pleasant companion, affectionate and kind, and greatly beloved by his people and his ministerial brethren. He departed in the exercise of a clear and calm faith in his Redeemer.

IV.

JOHN ROSS.

The life of the Rev. John Ross was a remarkable one. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, July 23, 1783, of Roman Catholic parents, but became an orphan when quite young. At the age of about nineteen years, he left his friends secretly and went to sea. On his way to Liverpool, he was seized by a press-gang and put on board a man-of-war. Afterwards at Barbadoes and elsewhere he was pressed a second and a third time, each time making his escape. His adventures about this time, his numerous desertions and wonderful escapes would make quite a romantic story. He at last reached the United States, and went to work at his early trade of shoemaker at New London, Conn. He was still a bigoted Roman Catholic, but there was no church of that kind then in New London, and by degrees he was brought to the knowledge of himself as a sinner and of Jesus Christ as the only Saviour. Soon his mind was turned to the ministry, and the way was wonderfully opened for him, by the aid of an association of ladies, to obtain an education. He was graduated at Middlebury College, Vermont, in 1811. He entered Princeton Seminary, in 1813, becoming a member of the second class ever formed in that institution, a class of which for the last four years he has been the sole survivor. When he came to Princeton Seminary, Dr. Archibald Alexander was its only Professor, having eleven students under his care. Dr. Samuel Miller came soon afterwards as the second Professor. After remaining at the Seminary over two years, he preached about three months as a missionary in the suburbs of Philadelphia. He was educated for the foreign field and in readiness to go to it, but the Board had not the means to send him. He was therefore sent to Somerset and Bedford, Pa. Having received a call from the church at