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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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DIRECTOR.

JAMES McCOSH, D.D., LL.D., Litt.D.,

Son of Andrew and Jean (Carson) McCosh, was born April 1, 1811, at Carskeoch Farm, near Ayr, Scotland. He made a public profession of his faith at the age of fifteen. He received his early education in the parish school, and when thirteen entered the University of Glasgow, where he remained five years. In 1829 he entered the University of Edinburgh, remaining there also five years, and receiving there his theological training. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Ayr in the spring of 1834, and ordained in October, 1835, minister of the Abbey Church, Arbroath, Scotland. In 1838 he was transferred to the church at Brechin, near Arbroath, which he served with great success until 1843, when as a consequence of the Disruption movement with which he was prominently identified, he gave up his living and organized a Free Church among his old parishioners. He did much at this time to promote the cause of the Free Church in England as well as in Scotland. He remained at Brechin until 1852, when he was called to the chair of logic and metaphysics in the newly-founded Queen's College in Belfast, Ireland. Beside fulfilling his professorial duties, he was examiner for the Queen's University of Ireland; was a member of the Board of Examiners for the India Civil Service, and an examiner for the Ferguson Scholarships. In 1866 he paid his first visit to America, and in 1868 he was elected to the presidency of Princeton College. Accepting this call, he arrived in Princeton with his family Oct. 22, 1868, and took up the work which he prosecuted so successfully for twenty years. It is impossible to give within the limits of this sketch the story of his labors as President of what became under his guidance one of the leading American colleges. Besides being President

he was teacher of philosophy, of psychology, and of the Bible. He resigned his position June 20, 1888, and spent the remainder of his days in quiet retirement in Princeton. Dr. McCosh early became a naturalized citizen of his adopted country, and always took an intelligent and active interest in all public questions. He at once became prominent in the Presbyterian Church, was a leader in its councils and a frequent delegate to the General Assembly. He was one of the founders of the Presbyterian Alliance and a promoter of the Evangelical Alliance. He was especially interested in the Sustentation Fund. All questions of moment that agitated the Church enlisted the services of his pen and tongue. He died Nov. 16, 1894, in Princeton, from the general debility of old age, in his 84th year. He received the degree of A.M. from the University of Edinburgh in 1834; that of D.D. from the same university in 1851; that of LL.D. from the University of Dublin in 1863 and from Harvard University in 1868: and that of Litt.D. from Queen's University, Ireland. There is no room here for an enumeration of Dr. McCosh's published writings. Such a list may be found in *The Princeton College Bulletin*, vol. VII, No. 1, pp. 21-29. It covers a period of sixty-one years, from his twenty-second year until the year of his death. Among his more important works are: "The Method of the Divine Government, Physical and Moral;" "Typical Forms and Special Ends in Creation," which he wrote in conjunction with Dr. George Dickie; "The Intuitions of the Mind," "The Supernatural in Relation to the Natural," "An Examination of Mr. J. S. Mill's Philosophy," "Christianity and Positivism," "The Scottish Philosophy, Biographical, Expository, Critical, from Hutcheson to Hamilton;" "Psychology," 2 vols., and "Realistic Philosophy Defended in a Philosophic Series." Dr. McCosh was a Director of Princeton Seminary from 1869 until his death.

Dr. McCosh was married Sept. 29, 1845, at Brechin, Scotland, to Miss Isabella Guthrie, who survives him, with one son and two daughters.