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NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 7TH, 1889.

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PROFESSOR.

ALEXANDER TAGGART MCGILL, D.D., LL.D.,

Son of John and Mary (Taggart) McGill, was born at Canonsburg, Pa., Feb. 24, 1807, and was graduated at Jefferson College in 1826. After a year spent as tutor at his Alma Mater, and in the study of theology in the Seminary of his church (the Associate Presbyterian), he was obliged by impaired health to go to the South, where he engaged first in teaching, in Baldwin Academy, Milledgeville, Ga. As this occupation proved too confining, he entered upon the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in 1830. By appointment of the Legislature, he was made Surveyor of the Cherokee Land Reservation, in Georgia, and discharged the duties of the office with great efficiency, discretion and courage, and with decided advantage to his health. Returning to Canonsburg in 1831, he completed his theological course; was licensed, and in 1835 ordained by the Seceder Synod at Carlisle, Pa., being installed over four small churches. In 1838 his application for dismissal to the Presbytery of Carlisle (O. S.) having been refused, and he suspended from the ministry, he was nevertheless received by the Presbytery of Carlisle and installed in that place, where he remained until 1842, when he was appointed Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government in the Western Theological Seminary at Allegheny. Here he remained for ten years, declining, meanwhile, many honorable overtures, and performing many additional services for the Seminary, the churches of the vicinity and the church at large. In 1852-53 he held the chair of Ecclesiastical History and Church Polity in Columbia Seminary, S. C.; in 1853-54 his former chair at Allegheny, and in 1854 was chosen by the General Assembly Professor of Pastoral Theology, Church Government and the Composition and Delivery of Sermons in Princeton Seminary. In 1859 his department was changed to Church History and Practical Theology, in 1860 to Ecclesiastical History

and Church Government, and in 1861 to Ecclesiastical, Homiletic and Pastoral Theology, which chair he held until 1883, when, after forty-one years of service in the Seminaries of the Church, and in the 77th year of his age, he became Professor Emeritus. He died in Princeton, January 13, 1889, in the 82d year of his age.

In 1850-62 he was Permanent Clerk of the General Assembly (O. S.), and in 1862-70 Stated Clerk. In 1848 he was Moderator.

In 1842 he received the honorary degree of D.D. from Marshall College, and in 1868 that of LL.D. from the College of New Jersey.

He was married (1) May 18, 1837, to Miss Eleanor A. McCulloch, of Lewistown, Pa., who died March 6, 1873; (2) Aug. 28th, 1875, to Miss Catherine Bache Hodge, of Princeton, who died July 3, 1884. Three sons and three daughters survived him.