

# NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

# PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

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BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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## PROFESSOR.

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### **JAMES CLEMENT MOFFAT, D. D.,**

Son of David Douglas and Margaret (Clement) Moffat, was born in Glencree, in the south of Scotland, May 30, 1811. In early life he had almost no educational advantages. From ten to sixteen he was a shepherd boy, and while watching his sheep eagerly read all the books he could borrow. From 1828 to 1833 he worked in a printing office, and at odd hours studied Latin, Greek, French and German, and made a good start in Hebrew. In 1833 he came to America, landing in New York July 29th. He entered the Junior Class of Princeton College the same year, and graduated in 1835. For two years after graduation he was a private tutor, and then returned to Princeton to become tutor of Greek in the College, holding that position until 1839, when he became professor of Greek and Latin in Lafayette College. In 1841 he went with President Junkin to Miami University, O., to occupy the chair of Latin and Modern History. On Jan. 8, 1851, he was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Oxford, at Sommerville, O., and was ordained Oct. 23, 1851, by the same Presbytery, at Oxford, O. In September of the following year he began teaching Greek and Hebrew in the Theological School temporarily in existence in Cincinnati. In 1853 he returned to Princeton to occupy the chair of Latin and History in the College. When Dr. Maclean was elected President in 1854, Dr. Moffat was transferred to the chair of Greek Language and Literature, retaining for a time the lectureship of History. In 1861 he was elected by the General Assembly to the Helena professorship of Church History in the Theological Seminary at Princeton. In 1888 the growing infirmities of years compelled his resignation of the chair he had so long filled, and he became professor emeritus. For a year longer he performed the duties of this professorship until his successor was elected. After this

time his health failed gradually and he died in Princeton, June 7, 1890, ending peacefully a long and useful life. Dr. Moffat was a man of wide learning and great culture, kind and courteous, of singular purity of character and sweetness of disposition, an upright man, conscientious and enthusiastic in the performance of duty. His literary activity was great. His first publication was a small volume of poems in 1830, before coming to America. His other works are: A Rhyme of the North Country; The Life of Thomas Chalmers; An Introduction to the Study of Æsthetics; A Comparative History of Religions; Song and Scenery, or A Summer Ramble in Scotland; Alwyn, a Romance of Study; The Church in Scotland until the Reformation; Church History in Brief; The Story of a Dedicated Life; and Outlines of Church History, beside articles contributed mainly to the *Princeton Review*.

He was married (1) Oct. 13, 1840, at Easton, Pa., to Miss Ellen Stewart, who died July 15, 1849; (2) Dec. 26, 1850, at Oxford, O., to Miss Mary B. Matthews, who died April 9, 1875. One son by the first wife and four sons and three daughters by the second survive him.