

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

Princeton Theological Seminary,

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

April 29th, 1879.

BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

PHILADELPHIA:

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

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religious books. He died of yellow fever in East Feliciana Parish, near Clinton, La., Sept. 30, 1878, in the sixty-third year of his age, and in the full faith of the gospel.

Mr. Reiley was a very faithful and energetic laborer in the Lord's vineyard. His talents were solid rather than brilliant. He possessed strong good sense, discriminating judgment, clear comprehension of the truth, and the ability to state it with directness and impressiveness. He was a genial and steadfast friend, an earnest, strong, laborious man, "full of faith and of the Holy Ghost."

Mr. Reiley married Miss Ann Carroll, daughter of Joseph F. Carroll of Port Carbon, Pa., Nov. 5, 1845. She, with five children survived him, and with two sons was absent in the North at the time of his death.

XXXI.

JOHN HOLT RICE, D. D.

John Holt Rice was born July 23, 1818, at Petersburg, Va., and was a son of the Rev. Benjamin Holt Rice, D. D., and Martha (Alexander) Rice. His preparatory education was acquired at Amherst, Mass.; at Mount Pleasant Institute under Francis Fellows and Chauncey Colton, principals; at Washington Institute, N. Y., under the Rev. J. D. Wickham; and privately under the late John S. Hart, LL.D., at Princeton, N. J. He was graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1838; pursued the study of the law from 1838 to 1841 under James S. Green, Esq., of Princeton, and was admitted to the bar and practiced law for a short time at Richmond, Va., with excellent prospects of success. Then he was hopefully converted, and in about the 24th year of his age united with the First Presbyterian church of Richmond, of which the Rev. William S. Plumer, D.D., was then pastor. He at once devoted himself to the work of the ministry, returned to Princeton, entered the Seminary in 1842 and was regularly graduated therefrom in 1845. He was licensed by New Brunswick Presbytery, April 23, 1845, after which for several months he assisted his father, who was at that time pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Princeton. Then going to the South, he labored from March 1846 to July 1847 as City Missionary in New Orleans, La. In the fall of 1847 he began to preach at Tallahassee, Florida, and having accepted a call, was

installed as pastor there April 30, 1848 and continued until released March 23, 1850. He next became pastor of the Village church at Charlotte C. H., Va., where he was installed Aug. 31, 1850, and was released Aug. 24, 1855. For nearly a year he then served the church as an agent of the Presbyterian Board of Publication in Kentucky and Tennessee, but soon accepted a call to become pastor of the Walnut street church in Louisville, Ky., over which he was installed May 4, 1856, and where he labored zealously and successfully until he was released Sept. 5, 1861. Civil war having broken out he zealously espoused the southern side and retired to the Gulf States, where he preached for longer or shorter periods at Lake Providence, La., and Brandon and Vicksburg, Miss. He then accepted a call to become pastor of the Third church in Mobile, and was installed May 5, 1867. Having been released from this charge Nov. 18, 1868, he served the church at Franklin, Tenn., as stated supply from 1869 to 1874, and afterwards the church at Mason, Tenn., from 1874 to 1876. After the latter date he labored as an Evangelist in the bounds of Memphis Presbytery, preaching to the poor and the destitute in the neglected portions of its territory, and receiving almost no pecuniary return. On Sabbath, Sept. 1, 1878 he preached at Colliersville, Tenn., returned home on Monday, sickened on Tuesday and died of yellow fever on Saturday, Sept. 7, 1878, in the 61st year of his age. On the same evening he was buried in a grave hastily dug under a tree in his own garden, his father-in-law, the Rev. William Neil, performing a short service at the grave by moonlight.

Dr. Rice was kind-hearted, amiable, genial, and possessed of large natural gifts. His sermons were often of a very high order. His knowledge was wide and varied, and he was surpassed by very few in his knowledge of ecclesiastical and parliamentary law. He was a truly good man. He loved to preach the Gospel, and was especially delighted to carry it to the ignorant and the destitute. After the division of the Presbyterian Church in 1861, he adhered to the Southern General Assembly, and was a member of the Assembly that met in Knoxville, Tenn., in May, 1878, being chairman of its Judicial Committee, the duties of which position he discharged with consummate ability.

Dr. Rice married at Tallahassee, Florida, Oct. 24, 1829, Miss Lizzie Bogart Neil, daughter of the Rev. William Neil. This lady heroically watched over his dying hours when friends and neighbors fled from the terrible yellow fever of which he died, and still lives. Six children—two sons and four daughters—survive him.