

The Princeton Theological Seminary Bulletin

VOLUME XV

AUGUST, 1921

NUMBER 2

Necrological Report



Published by
The Princeton Theological Seminary

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 3rd, 1921

BY THE EDITOR

1902; Plain Thoughts about the Church, 1905, and several sermons.

He was married March 10, 1873, in Rome, Italy, to Grace Parr Biddle, who died June 17, 1912. One son and three daughters survive him.

WILLIAM HENRY ROBERTS, D.D., LL.D.,

Son of the Rev. Dr. William and Catherine (Parry) Roberts, was born Jan. 31, 1844, in Holyhead, North Wales, Great Britain. He made a public confession of his faith in the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist church of New York City at the age of thirteen. He was prepared for college in New York City by his father and graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1863. He was statistician of the U. S. Treasury Department, Washington, from 1863 to 1867; assistant librarian of the Library of Congress, 1867-72, acting librarian of Princeton Seminary during part of 1873. He entered the Seminary at Princeton in 1870, taking the full three years' course there and graduating in 1873. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Washington City, May 2, 1872, and ordained by the Presbytery of Elizabeth, Dec. 5, 1873, being at the same time installed pastor of the church at Cranford, N. J., from which he was released Dec. 7, 1877. He was librarian of Princeton Seminary from 1877 to 1886, and he was professor of Practical Theology in Lane Seminary from 1886 to 1893. During this time he supplied the Second Church of Cincinnati, Ohio, from 1889 to 1890. In 1884 he was elected stated clerk of the General Assembly and held this office until June 1920, when he was made stated clerk emeritus. He supplied the Fourth Church of Trenton, N. J., from 1894 to 1899. His residence was in Philadelphia from 1893 until his death June 26, 1920, in the Presbyterian Hospital of Philadelphia in the 77th year of his age. He was buried in the West

Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia. He received the honorary degree of D.D. from Western University of Pennsylvania in 1884, and from Lafayette College in 1907, and the honorary degree of LL.D. from Miami University in 1888. He was permanent clerk of the General Assembly from 1880 to 1884; moderator of the Synod of Ohio in 1901 and Moderator of the General Assembly in 1907. He was American Secretary of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches from 1888 until his death, and President of the Sixth Council of the Alliance in 1896. He was Treasurer of the Centenary Fund for Ministerial Relief from 1880 until 1890; of the Anniversary Reunion Fund from 1895 to 1897, and of the Twentieth Century Fund from 1900 to 1902. He was chairman of the Committee on Federation and Union 1903. He was secretary of the Interchurch Conference on Marriage and Divorce, 1903-09; president of the Interchurch Conference on Federation, 1905; secretary of the Council of Reformed Churches in the U. S., 1907; acting president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America 1908, and chairman of the Executive Committee of this Council, 1912. He was chairman of the Commission on Evangelism of the Federal Council from 1912 to 1916 and chairman of the Conference on Organic Union from 1918 to 1920. Among his publications were: *History of the Presbyterian Church*, 1888; *The Presbyterian System*, 1895; *Laws Relating to Religious Corporations*, 1896; *Manual for Ruling Elders*, 1897, and many sermons and addresses. He was editor of the Minutes of the General Assembly from 1884 to 1919; of the Digest of the Acts of the General Assembly, 1907, and of the Addresses of the 250th Anniversary of the Westminster Assembly, 1908.

He was married June 11, 1867, in Washington, D. C., to Sarah Esther McLean, who with two sons and two daughters survives him.