

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

Princeton Theological Seminary

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

April 24, 1877,

BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.



PHILADELPHIA :

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

1877.

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

April 24, 1877,

BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.



PHILADELPHIA:

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

1877.

Bishop Johns died at his home near the Theological Seminary at Alexandria, Va., at 12 o'clock of the night between April 5th and 6th, 1876, in the eightieth year of his age.

VII.

WILLIAM BUELL SPRAGUE, D.D., LL.D.

William B. Sprague was born in Andover, Tolland Co., Conn., October 16, 1795. He entered Yale College in 1811, and was graduated in 1815. In 1816 he entered Princeton Theological Seminary, and after studying here over two years, was licensed to preach, by the Association of Ministers in the County of Tolland, Conn., convened at Andover, Conn., August 29, 1818. He was ordained and installed as pastor of the Congregational Church of West Springfield, Mass., August 25, 1819. Here he labored with great assiduity and success for ten years, but was released from his charge, July 21, 1829, having accepted a call to the Second Presbyterian Church in Albany, N. Y., where he was installed August 26, 1829. In Albany he had a pastorate of forty years' duration, remarkable for the extraordinary steadfastness and warmth of attachment existing through all that protracted period between himself and his large and intelligent congregation, and even more remarkable for the vast and varied labors performed by him. He has been well and truly described as "An illustrious man; a cultivated, elegant, voluminous, useful and popular preacher; an indefatigable and successful pastor; an unselfish and devoted friend; loving, genial, pure, noble; an Israelite indeed, in whom there was no guile; one of the most child-like, unsophisticated and charitable of men."*

While he never relaxed his pulpit and pastoral duties, his added literary labors were prodigious, and their fruits exceedingly great. He preached nearly two hundred sermons on special public occasions, the most of which were published. He also produced a large number of biographies and other volumes on practical religious subjects. But the great literary work of his life was his "ANNALS OF THE AMERICAN PULPIT," undertaken when he was fifty-seven years old, and finished in ten large octavo volumes.

An incidental work, which he zealously pursued through the principal part of his life, was the gathering of autographs. His

* *New York Observer*, May 11, 1876.

collection became, before his death, the most valuable and extensive one in this country, and was hardly excelled by any private collection in the world. His travels in Europe brought him into delightful association with eminent persons in religious and literary circles there, while he was on terms of close friendship and correspondence with a vast number of eminent men both in the Church and in the State in our own land.

At the age of about seventy-four years, on December 20, 1869, Dr. Sprague was released by the Presbytery of Albany, at his own request, from the pastoral charge of the Second Church in Albany, and retired to Flushing, Long Island, where he passed his later years, which were a serene and beautiful evening to his industrious, useful, and eminent life. Here he enjoyed the sunshine of the Divine favor, and looked upon the approach of death with a strong and placid faith. No sore disease or fierce pains oppressed him, but gently and peacefully he passed away. His death occurred at Flushing, on Sabbath morning, May 7, 1876, in the eighty-first year of his age. His remains were taken to Albany for interment, and solemn funeral services were held in the Second Presbyterian Church of that city, of which he had so long been the beloved and honored pastor.

VIII.

THOMAS SCUDDER WICKES.

Mr. Wickes was the only son of Hon. Eliphalet Wickes, a prominent lawyer and a Representative in Congress from New York. The son was born at Jamaica, Long Island, April 18, 1795. He was graduated at Yale College in 1814, and having soon after his graduation united with the Presbyterian Church at Jamaica, resolved to devote his life to the sacred ministry. In the Fall of 1816 he entered Princeton Seminary, and continued there something over two years. Having been licensed by the Presbytery of New York, April 21, 1819, he made a missionary tour through some of the Southern States, preaching with great fervor and success. September 9, 1822, he was ordained *sine titulo* in the Central Church in New York city. April 1, 1823, he went to West Farms, N. Y., as a Stated Supply, and remained there one year. In 1825 he began to preach to the Church at Greenbush (or East Albany), N. Y., and continued there until 1831, at which time he removed to Sand Lake, N. Y., and supplied the church at that place until