

*Memoir of*  
**REV. JOHN WILEY FAIRES**  
A.M., D.D.

FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL OF THE  
**CLASSICAL INSTITUTE**  
**PHILADELPHIA**

*A Teacher from 1831 to 1888*

WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND BIOGRAPHIC  
SKETCHES OF UPWARD OF FIVE  
HUNDRED OF HIS FORMER PUPILS

BY  
CHARLES J. COHEN

1926

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Mr. Thompson had three daughters: Edith, who married Professor James A. Montgomery, University of Pennsylvania; Ellen Butler, who married Walter Pyle, of Wilmington, Del., and Katharine, who became the wife of Garrick Mallery, now of Wilmington, Del.

Mr. Thompson died at Philadelphia, May 22, 1922.



*Photo by Willard*

NEWCOMB B. THOMPSON  
1847-1922

*(Courtesy of Dr. James A. Montgomery)*

### ROBERT ELLIS THOMPSON

ROBERT ELLIS THOMPSON was born in 1844 at Surgan, in the North of Ireland. He entered the Faires Classical Institute in the year 1859, after coming to Philadelphia in 1856, and after completing the course he became a student at the University of Pennsylvania and at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, following which he was ordained a

minister, preaching for a time in the West. Later he became a lecturer on tariff problems at Harvard, Yale and other institutions; he was professor in several subjects at the University of Pennsylvania and a contributing editor to several publications. While at the University of Pennsylvania he was appointed assistant professor of Latin and mathematics, remaining there for 24 years in succession, becoming an instructor in history and professor of social science.



NEWCOMB B. THOMPSON

From 1883 to 1892 he held the John Welsh Professorship of history and English literature. In 1894 the Committee on High Schools of the Philadelphia Board of Education elected Dr. Thompson to the presidency of the Central High School without solicitation on his part. At that time it was the only high school for boys in the city, and it was largely through the wisdom of Dr. Thompson's administration that the school rose to the highest place among the intermediary schools of the country. He served in this position for 26 years as president and principal, and was retired by

legislative enactment in 1920 when he was 76 years of age, despite the wave of protest and regret that was expressed by students at the school, by the alumni and contemporary educators.

Dr. Thompson was a prolific writer on social and economic topics. Among the books he has published are: *Social Science and National Economy*; *Elements of Political Economy*; *The Divine Order of Human*



DR. ROBERT ELLIS THOMPSON  
1844-1924

*Society*; *The History of the Presbyterian Churches of the United States*; *Political Economy for High Schools and Academies*; and *Protection to Home Industry*.

He edited the first two volumes of the *Encyclopedia Americana*, 1883 to 1885. At times he was editor of the *Penn Monthly* and wrote for the *American*, *Irish World* and *New York Freeman's Journal* magazines.

Dr. Thompson in 1910 married Miss Catherine Neely, a sister of his first wife, Mary E. Neely, whom he had married in 1874, and by whom he had two daughters

In thought on public matters Dr. Thompson was greatly in advance of his time. In 1910 he advocated military training in schools, and was always urging the establishment of a college by the City of Philadelphia.

Dr. Thompson died October 19, 1924, at the age of 80 years.



HENRY TOLAND

1828-1858

*(Photo from a daguerreotype in the possession of Mrs. Edward D. Toland)*

### HENRY TOLAND

HENRY TOLAND was born June 18, 1828, and entered the Faires Classical Institute in 1839.

He died April 23, 1858.