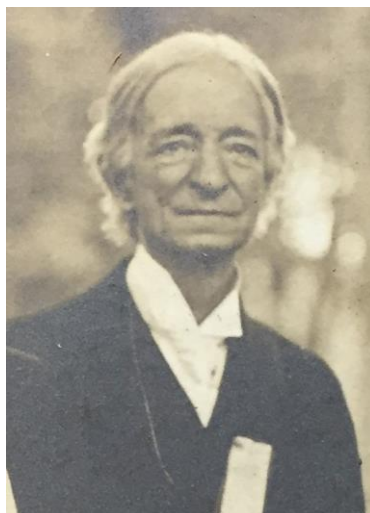


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

**Union Theological Seminary Archives 1**

**Finding Aid for**

**Thomas Samuel Hastings Papers, 1845 – 1911**



Detail of photograph. Credit to: UTS1: Thomas Samuel Hastings Papers, 1845-1911, series 4, box 1, folder 4, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Katherine Palm, March 2015  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

**Creator:** Thomas Samuel Hastings, 1827 – 1911  
**Title:** Thomas Samuel Hastings Papers  
**Inclusive dates:** 1845 – 1911  
**Bulk dates:** 1860 – 1897  
**Abstract:** Presbyterian pastor of New York City and professor and president of Union Theological Seminary. The collection consists of correspondence, writings, and scrapbooks relating to activities of the seminary and the debate concerning the Presbyterian Creed. Included in the collection are also a notebook of his father, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872), and a travel diary that may be of his son, Thomas Hastings (1860-1920).  
**Size:** 7 boxes, 3.00 linear feet  
**Storage:** Onsite storage  
**Repository:** The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The papers are part of the Union Theological Seminary Archives, which comprises institutional and administrative records of the Seminary, combined with the papers of many organizations, scholars, pastors, laypersons, and others connected with the school. The materials in this collection were part of a large group of unprocessed material that was organized in 2015. The volume contained in series 2, box 3, folder 7 and the scrapbook in series 3, box 1, folder 2 were presented by Hastings' daughters, Mrs. C.B. Foote and Miss Isabel Hastings, in January, 1914.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, UTS 1: Thomas Samuel Hastings Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### Biography

Thomas Samuel Hastings was born on August 28, 1827 in Utica, New York. Ordained in the Presbyterian faith, Hastings spent three decades in the ministry, predominantly serving at West Presbyterian Church in New York City. He then took on professorial and administrative roles at Union Theological Seminary, during a time of great debate within the Presbyterian faith regarding the revision of the Westminster Confession.

Hastings' father, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872), was a well-known hymnist, tunebook compiler, and composer of sacred music. His mother, Mary Hastings née Seymour (1788-1880), was a founder of the Utica Maternal Association, which was formed to provide religious education for its members' children. Hastings had two older sisters, Mary and Catherine Eunice.

In 1832, Hastings' father moved the family to New York City, where Hastings grew up. Hastings received a bachelor of arts from Hamilton College in 1848 and later served as a trustee for the college from 1864 to 1871 and 1881 to 1883. He graduated from Union Theological Seminary in 1851, remaining as resident licentiate for the following year. He later received several honorary degrees: a D.D. from the University of the City of New York (now New York University) in 1865, an L.L.D. from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) in 1888, and an L.H.D. from Hamilton College in 1897.

Hastings married Fannie de Groot (1828-1903), the daughter of Henry and Mary Nesbit de Groot of Brooklyn, New York, on July 1, 1852. A few days later, on July 7, 1852, Hastings was ordained in the Fourth Presbyterian of New York and he then took up his first pastorate in

Mendham, New Jersey, where he served from 1852 to 1856. He then became pastor of West Presbyterian Church in New York City, where he remained until 1882.

Hastings' formal association with Union Theological Seminary began upon his acceptance of a position as professor of sacred rhetoric in 1881. He was a director from 1864 to 1881 and president from 1887 to 1897. Following his retirement in 1904, he became a professor emeritus and continued as a lecturer in pastoral theology until 1911.

During his tenure as president, Hastings presided over a number of changes of note, such as the move from a system in which students took prescribed courses each year to a departmental system allowing for electives, and the admission of female students. Additionally, he led the seminary during the tumultuous period of the trials of faculty member Charles Briggs, who faced heresy charges in connection with the lecture that he gave upon his inauguration as professor of biblical theology, "The Authority of Holy Scripture."

Hastings died suddenly at his home in New York City in 1911. He was survived by his two daughters, Mrs. Charles B. Foote and Isabel Hastings, as well as his sons, Frank Seymour Hastings (1852-1924), a banker also known as a yachtsman and amateur composer, and Thomas Hastings (1860-1929), an architect and principal of the firm Carrère and Hastings, which held the commission for a number of high-profile projects, such as the New York Public Library.

#### Sources:

- "F. S. Hastings Dead; Banker, Yachtsman" [Obituary]. 1924. *New York Evening Post*. July 6.
- Leonard, John W., ed. 1907. *Who's Who in New York City and State*. New York: L. R. Hamersly & Company.
- Handy, Robert T. 1987. *A History of Union Theological Seminary in New York*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- "The Rev. Thomas S. Hastings" [Obituary]. 1911. *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. April 3.  
<http://bklyn.newspapers.com/image/55350400/>
- Rev. Thomas Samuel Hastings, Biographies of the Trustees of Hamilton College, 1812-1818, 1836-1869, The Hamilton College Archives, Hamilton College.  
<http://contentdm6.hamilton.edu/cdm/ref/collection/archives/id/4967>
- Union Theological Seminary. 1926. *Alumni Catalogue of the Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, 1836-1926*. New York: Union Theological Seminary.
- Williams, Hermine W. 2005. *Thomas Hastings: An Introduction to His Life and Music*. New York: iUniverse.

#### **Collection Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of correspondence, writings, scrapbooks, and photographs, which are mostly concerned with Hastings' professional life, both as a pastor for multiple decades and as a professor and president of Union Theological Seminary, as well as issues of contemporary concern such as the trials of Charles Briggs and the revision of the Westminster Confession. Certain materials, such as the diaries, also touch on personal matters and family effects.

The collection is organized in four series:

- **Series 1: Correspondence, 1888-1904 (1 box, 0.50 lin. ft.)**

This series contains correspondence, predominantly written by Hastings to John C. Brown, Charles Butler, and J.M. Ludlow, but occasionally letters not of Hastings' authorship and/or other documents are enclosed. The letters are chiefly concerned with the business of Union Theological Seminary, such as faculty appointments, curriculum planning, and financial matters, but personal matters, such as the progress of Brown's son, Williams Adams Brown, as a professor at the seminary and the death of Hastings' son, are occasionally referenced. The correspondence with John C. Brown also contains extensive discussion of matters relating to the Charles Briggs heresy trials. Most of the letters are handwritten, but some later correspondence is typewritten.

- **Series 2: Sermons, 1860-1896 (3 boxes, 1.50 lin. ft.)**

This series consists of handwritten sermons, which are mostly numbered and include emendations, and related notes. Most of the sermons have notations written on the verso of the first page that appear to indicate locations and dates of their preaching. The earliest such date apparent on each sermon is written next to its title in the contents list below. Box 3, folder 8 contains a volume with "Skeletons" printed on the cover and chiefly contains numbered expository lectures on Christ's acts. Box 3, folders 9-11 contain typed lecture notes and hymns that were originally held in a single, three-ring binder.

- **Series 3: Scrapbooks (2 boxes, 0.75 lin. ft.)**

Box 1, folder 1 contains a diary printed for the year 1846 with the title "Ministerial Nativities and Changes" written in pen on the cover. A handwritten note on the title page verso indicates that it is "in the handwriting of Dr. Edwin F. Hatfield, stated clerk of the Presbyterian General Assembly." Dr. Hatfield served as a special agent to Union Theological Seminary in 1864 and 1870. The volume does not appear to have been used as a diary or datebook and instead mostly contains ledger-like notations on subjects such as ordinations and licensures.

Box 1, folder 2 contains a scrapbook of writings, news clippings, invitations, programs, and other printed matter relating to committee work at Union Theological Seminary, as well as a printed letter dated May 8, 1899 from Charles Cuthbert Hall to the senior class.

Box 1, folder 3 contains a scrapbook of letters, clippings, and notes relating to the General Assembly's committee on revision of the confession of faith collected by Hastings.

Box 2, folder 1 contains a scrapbook of news clippings that may be said to be of an inspirational nature. A handwritten index to the clippings appears at the beginning of the volume and additional notes in pencil occasionally appear.

- **Series 4: General, 1845-1911 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**

Box 1, folder 1 contains two copies (one clothbound) of the program for the inaugural services of Hastings as professor of sacred rhetoric on September 22, 1881. Box 1, folder 2 contains a program for the memorial service held in Hastings' honor on April 28, 1911.

Box 1, folder 3 contains a travel diary describing a European tour in 1903. Box 1, folder 4 contains two photographs: one in which Hastings appears with eleven other men and which may have been taken at Hamilton College and a second that depicts the Eills family and may have been sent to Hastings in celebration of the New Year.

Box 1, folder 5 contains an additional travel diary describing a European tour in 1883; however, given certain qualities of the diary, such as certain terms employed, the youthful tone of the writing, and devotion to describing works of art and architecture encountered in detail, it appears that it is likely to have been written by Hastings' son, the architect Thomas Hastings (1860-1929).

Box 1, folder 6 contains a diary of Hastings' father, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872). The volume includes handwritten verse and what appear to be notes regarding hymns, as well as journal entries beginning in 1845.

### **Processing**

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. In some cases, acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper. Photographs were placed in Mylar envelopes.

### **Further Sources**

The Burke Library holds archival collections relating to [John C. Brown](#) and to [Charles Briggs](#) that may be of interest to researchers.

[Hamilton College Library](#) and [Princeton University Library](#) offer a number of materials related to Thomas Hastings, his wife, children and other family members. For more information, please see their websites.

The Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library holds archival materials in its Avery Drawings & Archives Collection relating to [Carrère and Hastings](#), the firm of which Hastings' son, Thomas Hastings, was a principal.

## Contents list

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1888-1904

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Cardboard with handwritten dates
1	1	2-7	John C. Brown, 1888-1904
1	1	8	Charles Butler, 1889-1896
1	1	9	J.M. Ludlow, 1891-1897

### Series 2: Sermons, 1860-1896

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	1	1	No. 274 on Mark 7:24, 1860
2	1	2	No. 334 on Prov. 23:23 (fragment), 1862
2	1	3	No. 444 on Exodus 20:24, 1865
2	1	4	No. 462 on John 14:2, 1865
2	1	5	No. 718 on John 10:10, 1872
2	1	6	No. 721 on Ephesians 4:21, 1872
2	1	7	No. 722 on Philippians 1:21, 1872
2	1	8	No. 743 on John 4:16, 1873
2	1	9	No. 744 on II Thessalonians 3:10, 1873
2	1	10	No. 797 on Acts 17:30, 1874
2	1	11	No. 825 on 2 Timothy 1:10, 1875
2	1	12	No. 831 on Exodus 34:29, 1875
2	1	13	No. 832 on Judges 8:4, 1875
2	1	14	No. 835 on Psalm 16:8, 1875
2	1	15	No. 840 on 1 Corinthians 7:24, 1875
2	1	16	No. 867 on Mark 2:21-2:22
2	1	17	No. 886 entitled "Nevertheless," 1876
2	1	18	No. 889 on John 6:26, 1876
2	1	19	No. 893 on Luke 16:10, 1877
2	1	20	No. 903 on Luke 15:17, 1877
2	1	21	No. 911 on Psalm 32:8, 1877
2	1	22	No. 912 on 1 Corinthians 15:57, 1877
2	1	23	No. 935 on Psalm 119:18, 1878
2	1	24	No. 937 on Romans 8:37, 1878
2	1	25	No. 951 on 2 Corinthians 3:5, 1878
2	1	26	No. 958 on Jude 3, 1878
2	1	27	No. 961 on Isaiah 9:6, 1878
2	1	28	No. 971 on 1 Corinthians 15:10, 1879
2	1	29	No. 973 on Hebrews 4:11, 1879
2	1	30	No. 975 on Proverbs 25:2, 1879
2	1	31	No. 976 on Colossians 3:1, 1879
2	1	32	No. 980 on Genesis 27:22, 1879
2	1	33	No. 984 on Romans 8:39, 1879
2	1	34	No. 986 on Romans 7:18, 1879

**Series 2: Sermons (Cont'd)**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	1	35	No. 988 on Mark 10:40, 1879
2	2	1	No. 991 on 1 John 5:5, 1879
2	2	2	No. 994 on Colossians 3:16, 1879
2	2	3	No. 999 on Genesis 1:26, 1879
2	2	4	No. 1001 on Philippians 3:13, 1880
2	2	5	No. 1005 on Hebrews 12:1-2, 1880
2	2	6	No. 1007 on 1 Corinthians 15:46, 1880
2	2	7	No. 1009 on Matthew 25:34, 1880
2	2	8	No. 1010 on 2 Kings 16:15, 1880
2	2	9	No. 1014 on Luke 17:21, 1880
2	2	10	No. 1018 on Philippians 4:13, 1880
2	2	11	No. 1022 on Philippians 3:7-8, 1880
2	2	12	No. 1028 on Deuteronomy 32:11-12, 1880
2	2	13	No. 1029 on 1 Timothy 4:8, 1880
2	2	14	No. 1030 on Isaiah 9:6, 1880
2	2	15	No. 1031 on Revelation 10:5-6
2	2	16	No. 1034, Address on Occasion of My Resignation, 1881
2	2	17	No. 1037 on 1 John 3:2, 1881
2	2	18	No. 1038 on Nehemiah 4:17, 1881
2	2	19	No. 1039 on Ephesians 4:15, 1881
2	2	20	No. 1040 on Thessalonians 3:16, 1881
2	2	21	No. 1041 on Malachi 3:10, 1881
2	2	22	No. 1042 on Matthew 11:19, 1881
2	2	23	No. 1043 on Acts 3:15, 1881
2	2	24	No. 1044 on Luke 7:6-7
2	2	25	No. 1044, Ordination of C.F. Fagnani et al. 1882
2	2	26	No. 1045 on Joshua 7:8-9, 1884
2	2	27	No. 1048 on Mark 10:38, 1886
2	2	28	No. 1049 on Romans 7:24-25, 1887
2	2	29	No. 1050 on Matthew 18:3, 1887
2	2	30	No. 1051 on John 1:14, 1892
2	2	31	No. 1052 on Psalm 17:15, 1893
2	2	32	No. 1056 on Psalm 42:2, 1896
2	3	1	Unnumbered sermon, "Charge to the people," 1865
2	3	2	Unnumbered ordination sermons, 1890-1898
2	3	3	Unnumbered sermon on Galatians 1:16 (fragment)
2	3	4	Unnumbered sermon without text
2	3	5	Unnumbered sermon entitled "I have no feeling"
2	3	6	Sermons, Notes, 1870-1880
2	3	7	Volume of sermons and plans for sermons
2	3	8	Volume of lecture notes on Acts
2	3	9-11	Lecture notes and hymns

**Series 3: Scrapbooks, [1846-1890]**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
3	1	1	Volume of ministerial nativities and changes, [1846]
3	1	2	Scrapbook relating to revision of confession of faith, [1890]
3	2	1	Scrapbook of news clippings

**Series 4: General, 1845-1911**

4	1	1	Program for inaugural services as professor of sacred rhetoric, 1881
4	1	2	Program for memorial service, 1911
4	1	3	Travel diary, Europe, 1903
4	1	4	Photographs
4	1	5	Travel diary, Europe, 1883 [Thomas Hastings (1860-1920)]
4	1	6	Diary of Thomas Hastings (1784-1872), 1845