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JOSEPH M. WILSON.

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JOSEPH. M. WILSON,
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churches, in Lincoln county, N. C., in 1834 in Tuscumbia and Russelville, Ala., and in 1837 he removed to Nanapolia, Alabama, and was ordained in that year by South Alabama Presbytery. He was agent for the American Bible Society, and preached at Geneva, Tompkinsville, London and Shell Creek, and at Nanapolia, Ala., near which he died, April 16, 1867, of heart disease.

He never married.

Rev. A. J. WITHERSPOON, of Linden, Ala., writes:

He was an honest and true man, thoroughly attached to his Church, somewhat singular in his mode of life, living most of his time like a hermit, with not a living soul on the place but himself. Some time before he died he went to live with a nephew, A. D. Ross, Esq., at his earnest solicitation; here he was kindly received and well cared for.

The circumstances connected with his death were sad. The family with whom he lived were all absent but two daughters. On the day of his death they had promised to spend the day with a neighbor, and as no one would be left with him, he promised to dine with them. But he did not come, and on their return in the afternoon he was not at home. They supposed he had gone over to one of the neighbors, but on the next day, as he did not return, they feared that all was not right, and got some friends to search for him.

They found his body by the roadside some distance from the house. He had fallen in a fit, and from appearances had died instantly.

At the time of his death he was preparing a sermon for the next Sabbath, on the text, "Prepare to meet thy God."

SPARROW, D.D., PATRICK I.—Was born in Lincoln county, N. C., in 1802. His father died whilst he was quite young, and owing to the poverty of his mother he was hired out to assist in supporting the family. The family in which he worked became interested in him on account of his industrious habits and a fondness for books; so much so that Mr. John White, with whom he lived, made an arrangement with Rev. James S. Adams, of Bethel Presbytery, by which he was placed in the Bethel Academy, South Carolina, then under the care of Rev. Samuel Williamson.

He remained in this institution about eighteen months, where he made rapid progress in his studies. This was all the academical education he ever received, never having enjoyed the advantages of a college or theological course. After leaving the academy he engaged in teaching school, and having put himself under the care of Bethel Presbytery as a candidate for the ministry, he continued teaching and studying with such assistance as he could obtain until he was licensed by his Presbytery in 1826. His first charge was Washington and Long Creek churches in his native county. About the year 1828 he removed to Lincolnton, N. C., where he was engaged in preaching and teaching as usual. In the year 1831 he received a call from Unity church in the same county, where he remained teaching and preaching until 1834. At this time he received a call from the church in Salisbury, N. C., where he continued to preach with great acceptance. It was while in this charge that a joint effort was made by Concord and Bethel Presbyteries to build up a literary institution for the education of young men having the ministry in view. The men selected by these Presbyteries as suitable agents to raise the funds requisite for this laudable undertaking were Rev. P. I. Sparrow and Rev. R. H. Morrison. They were so successful in their work that the institution was put in successful operation in March, 1837, receiving the name of Davidson College. Dr.

Sparrow was chosen the first professor of languages in this institution. A man who had received no collegiate education was considered competent, thus early in life, to occupy so prominent a position. It was while discharging the duties of his office in this institution that he received an urgent call from the Sixth Presbyterian church in Philadelphia, Pa. His friends, however, thinking it very important for the interests of the college that he should remain where he was, he promptly declined the call to this important field of labor. He continued at Davidson College, discharging the duties of his post until the year 1840.

Shortly after this he received a call from the College church, in Prince Edward county, Va., to become their pastor. This call he accepted, and removed to Virginia in the spring of 1841.

He was at this time in the prime of his manhood, both intellectually and physically. There were few of his brethren who preached with more acceptance to an intelligent congregation. Many of the members of his church and congregation ranked among the very first in the State in point of intelligence. An indifferent preacher would not have been tolerated by such a congregation. He ministered to this people as their pastor with great acceptance for several years.

Dr. Sparrow was a growing man. He was a most indefatigable student. He seemed to love to work. Frequently I have known him to spend nearly the whole night in study for weeks together. His powers of endurance were astonishing. He was willing to undertake any labor, however arduous and self-denying. As an evidence of this, while preaching to such a charge, there became a vacancy in the presidency of Hampden-Sydney College. He was invited to occupy the chair temporarily; he accepted, and immediately went to work and wrote out a full course of lectures to the senior class on moral philosophy; and so faithfully and acceptably did he perform the duties of his office that in the course of a few months he was elected president, and continued, as long as he remained there, to perform the duties of president of the college and pastor of the church.

In 1847-8 he removed within the bounds of Tuscaloosa Presbytery, in Alabama, and became principal of the Presbyterian High School in Eutaw, Ala. The following year he preached as stated supply to Burton's Hill church, and in 1850 he became a teacher in Newbern, Ala., and soon after began preaching at Marion, Ala., in South Alabama Presbytery, and also labored as a missionary in the Presbytery; he performed much valuable service. In 1853 he settled in Pensacola, Florida, where he remained until 1861-2, when he removed to Cahaba, Ala., where died, Nov. 10, 1867, of consumption.

His widow and several children survive him.

Rev. J. C. MITCHELL, of Mobile, in addition to the preceding, writes:

As a man and as a companion Dr. Sparrow was not duly appreciated except by those who knew him intimately. Those with whom he was intimately acquainted can testify that he was a pleasant and genial companion. His fund of anecdote seemed to be inexhaustible. It was a time-honored custom in West Hanover Presbytery to send out its ministers in the summer, two by two, to visit the vacant churches, and many a weary hour, while traveling on horseback, has he beguiled by relating some amusing anecdote or quoting from some of his favorite authors. And when we reached the place for preaching he was always ready for his work, showing no symptoms of weariness. At these meetings he was sometimes truly powerful, and was doubtless instrumental in doing a vast amount of good. It was his custom, generally, to read his sermons when at such meetings; and he may be re-

garded as one among the few ministers who preach most effectively in this way. If, as a preacher, Dr. Sparrow did not attain the highest summit of popularity, he was always heard with attention and interest.

For the last five or six years of his life the health of our brother had evidently been declining. We will give the substance of what we have learned on this subject as derived from a letter written to us by his afflicted widow: His health declined rapidly during last spring and summer, but as the cool weather set in he recovered sufficiently to enable him to ride to church, and, while sitting in a chair, read a sermon to his people. Some six weeks ago, after preaching on Sabbath, there was a considerable change in the weather, which affected him seriously. He was attacked with neuralgia in the teeth, which continued for the remainder of that week; it then passed into his throat, producing hoarseness and a violent cough, accompanied with severe pain in the side; in a word, all the symptoms of consumption seemed rapidly to develop themselves. He was entirely conscious of his situation, and felt that death was approaching; but to him death was not an unwelcome messenger. He was prepared to obey the summons of his Lord and Master. He had improved the time while laid aside from the active duties of his office in devotional exercises, and remarked that he felt truly thankful to God for allowing him so much time for studying his own heart and for devotional exercises. He manifested a cheerful acquiescence in the divine will, and desired to glorify God in his death. While suffering the most excruciating pain he did not murmur, but often said that he wished to feel like Newton—"to thank the Lord for all, but mostly for the severe." When told it was a great comfort to see him so patient and cheerful, he replied, "Why should I not be patient and cheerful when the everlasting arms are underneath me? I feel that in the Lord Jesus Christ I have all things. Oh, I would not exchange my situation for that of the greatest prince on earth. I owe everything to the death and merits of my precious Saviour. Were he to leave me, all my patience would be gone." He repeated his favorite hymn, "There is a land of pure delight," the evening before his death. He frequently said that if he had a voice that could reach all his brethren, he would say, "Preach Christ, nothing else." He was perfectly in his senses until about twenty minutes before he expired. He remarked that the Lord had been very pitiful to him in his weakness, and had kept the tempter from him.

STROTHER, JAMES W.—Was born in Madison county, Virginia, in 1799.* Whilst little is known of his early youth, he was doubtless trained properly, from the fact that he possessed habits of industry and mental application which enabled him to be fully qualified to fulfill all the demands made upon him during life. He studied law, and soon after, being admitted to the bar, removed to what was then the "far West," and located in the village of Murfreesboro', Tenn. John W. Hall, D.D., was pastor of the Presbyterian church there, and under his preaching Mr. Strother and his wife became professors of religion. He remained in Murfreesboro' about a year, when he removed to Brownsville, Tenn., and became a ruling elder of the church in that place. Here he spent the remainder of his days, with the exception of a few years of self-sacrificing and unrequited labors as a missionary in White county, Ark.

In the midst of his arduous professional labors as a lawyer he never forgot the interests of the Church, but was ever a pattern of regularity and

* This memoir was prepared by Rev. R. C. GARRISON, of Woodville, Tenn.