

NATHAN TIBBALS died in Brooklyn, N. Y., November 19, 1897. He was born at Milford, Conn., September 20, 1815. He traced his conversion to the godly influence of a local preacher in Lewis County, N. Y., whose name has not been preserved. His educational advantages were confined to the schools of his native town, though he supplemented this by diligent private investigations in literature. He joined the New York Conference in 1841, where he served seven years, until he became a member of the New York East Conference by its separation from the parent body. His sermons were plain, practical, and spiritual. Again and again the sinner was led by him to the foot of the cross. He was an early advocate of total abstinence by vote and pen. His term of effective service was restricted to thirteen years. While at Killingworth, Conn., in 1842, he attempted to cross a swollen stream on horseback. Both horse and rider were swept away by the angry waters, and with the utmost difficulty he was rescued from drowning. His pastoral assignments were as follows: Fairfield, Killingworth and Madison, Westbrook, Cheshire, Newington, supernumerary, Suffolk, Orient, Riverhead, Astoria. From 1855 to 1897, owing to bodily infirmities, he was relegated to the rank of supernumeration. During his enforced retirement he was by no means idle. In 1855 he was the supply pastor at John Street, N. Y. He took a deep interest in his younger brethren, especially those assigned to weaker charges. Like the majority of our earlier preachers he devoted his remaining years to the dissemination of religious literature, some of which was the product of his own pen. In 1842 he became the husband of Miss Abigail Tibbals, of Milford, Conn. Their child was the authoress, Mrs. Abbie C. Morrow. His first wife died in 1846. In June, 1847, he married Miss Huldah F. Kelsey, of Killingworth, Conn. One son is a clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church. During his closing year he realized that the end was drawing rapidly near. His peace with God flowed like a river. After a day of comparative silence his wife asked him what he had been thinking about. His reply was emphatic—"God," he said, "just God." On another occasion, when asked what made him so happy, he replied, exultingly, "Because I have finished my course." In this delightful frame of mind he completed his earthly career.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER DIKSON was born in Gola Scolstown, Ireland, September 15, 1857. He came of that peasant stock that has ever given to the world its best men and women. His parents were farmers, and so he began life near to nature's heart. He was converted April 10, 1874, and joined the Irish Conference in 1881. On February 2, 1888, he married Miss Mary Catherine Coghlan in Schull, County Cork. On the 26th of the same month he sailed from Queenstown and landed in New York March 5, 1888. He won in the Irish Conference the love and admiration of his brethren. He was admitted into the New York East Conference in 1888 and was appointed to the Second Street Church, New York city. His pastoral record is as follows: Second Street, New York; Oyster Bay, Bay Shore, Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn; Jamaica. After a few months of patient sickness God took him to the Church without fault before the throne. No one could be long in his company without feeling the touch of a large soul and a tender heart. Intellectually he was of no mean ability. He had a prodigious capacity for work, a remarkable memory, and an unusual power of applying truth. He wrote not a little on theological and literary subjects for various papers and periodicals. He contributed for six years to our *Sunday School Journal* and Lesson Helps illustrations, which were highly appreciated. When he died he was bringing toward completion the history of American Methodism from 1844 to the present. His style was clear, concise, suggestive. As a preacher he was simple, clear, direct. We have

few among us more persuasive and helpful than he. His ordinary themes were the great fundamentals of the Gospel. As a pastor he approximated more nearly the ideal than most men do. He was a convincing organizer and prolific in devices that would bring things to pass. No man could well give a fuller proof of his ministry than did he. He might have lived longer if he had lived less. But to him life consisted in deeds, thoughts, words, rather than in years. He died as beautifully as he lived.

JOHN WESLEY SIMPSON died February 13, 1898. He was born in Denton, Md., March 21, 1827. When about seventeen he left his native State, lived for a few months in New Jersey, and then came to Jamaica, Long Island, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits. He received an exhorter's license November 21, 1848, and in August, 1849, was placed in charge of Amagansett Mission. In 1851 he was admitted as a probationer in the New York East Conference and was appointed to West Hartland and Hitchcockville. There his wife died, leaving three children under his care. His subsequent appointments were: East Hartland, Windsor, Bristol, Berlin and Kensington, Burlington, Stratford, Southbury and South Britain, West Granby, Windsor Locks, Clinton, Southold, Northport, Astoria, Rockaway and Foster's Meadow, East New York, Flatbush, Babylon, Plainville, East Chester, Smithtown. He married Miss Jane L. Miller, of Hartland, in 1854. His early educational advantages were limited. No college or theological school ever gave him a diploma. To make amends for this lack he obeyed the Pauline injunction, "Give attention to reading; study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." He died on the day he would have chosen—the Christian Sabbath. Preaching in the morning at King's Park, he returned home a sick man, to pass in a few hours to his reward. In 1856-57 he was at Bristol; and during the latter year a great "refreshing from the presence of the Lord" occurred. J. H. Sessions, so well known in our Methodism, and his wife were converted, with many others. In the afternoon of January 1, 1858, he preached in the schoolhouse where the meetings had been held, and about fifty converts were received on probation. On the afternoon of every first of January till his death, with one exception, he preached in the same place, making in all forty sermons. His memory has been from that time forth in Bristol like "ointment poured forth" among all connected with that great work of grace. His happiest moment was when souls were being converted. Then his shout in the camp could be heard from afar. On February 8, five days before his labors ended, he wrote, "I am hard at work here. Five or six weeks' work is on hand; meetings every night." Six children survive to share their mother's sorrow, among them being Miss Fanny Simpson, who is favorably known for her evangelistic labors. His interment occurred at Huntington, in a plot of ground he had purchased the week before his decease.

JOHN ALEXANDER ROCHE, M.D., D.D., was born at Stillpond, Md., August 30, 1813, and died in New York city February 15, 1898. His early education was acquired in Chestertown and Baltimore, Md. Subsequently he prosecuted further studies at the College of Medicine of Philadelphia, and the Union Theological Seminary, New York. He received the degree of M.D. from the former institution, and that of D.D. from Asbury University. He possessed an omnivorous taste for literature, and was to the end an ardent student, especially of moral science and of Church polity, with vigorous views on all cognate questions, and remarkably alert on the spur of the moment to express his opinions impressively, thus being a keen debater in Conference or convention. At an early age he gave his heart to

God in Smyrna, Philadelphia Cor to the following: Northampton, St and Norristown, and St. George's transferred to th 1857, and success Savanteenth Stre again, Thirty-sev New York city; S Street, St. Luke's ington Street, Br again in 1893 he v became supernum Life of the Rev. J cently the Life of wherin he exalts t fied by that elect contributor to our connected with th of the Methodist. his vigor to an ex age, and was in c addresses on speci rendered with the ness of diction, and characterized his e Miss Elizabeth Up She lived only a f he married Miss Three children sur Spencer S. Roche, Church, Brooklyn, rector of St. Peter'. His intellectual eq arious spirit, polea accomplishment, pro consistency were q ble extent. Lord Cl ed him in grace of m or courteous consid ministries and rela tionate and helpfu riveted as with boll corrupted with in also overwhelming ally storming all e twoscore consecuti Conference his uni stamped upon the e every forensic conte active part, and h white plume of Her that marked the dec He was ingenuous a on his deathbed h evenings be." His l triumph.

THOMAS ERVIN GI C., January 3, 1855, February 26, 1898, af typhoid pneumonia. Matthew Gilbert, wh His father was edit when South Carolin member of the Sou Church, South. He of eight. Having Theological Seminar joined in 1877 the So Methodist Episcopal years of successful v credentials, into the 1884. Two days prev Miss Emily Mix, of t two daughters, survi Conference his appo Easton, supernumerar Gilbert; Saugatuck, S