

Ques. 14. What preachers have died during the past year?

Hartwell Spain, Bond English, Alexius M. Forster, James Stacy, John P. Morris. 5.

HARTWELL SPAIN was born in Wake county, N. C., Feb. 10, 1795; was converted to God, August, 1810; licensed to preach, November, 1816; and admitted into the South Carolina Conference, December, 1816. Having served successively the Bush River, Ocmulgee, and Sugar Creek Circuits, and the Fayetteville Station, the health of Brother Spain demanded rest, and in 1821, he was placed on the superannuated list. In the following year he located, and sustained this relation to the Church until 1823, when, renewing his connection with the Conference, he was appointed to the Lincolnton Circuit, which he served for two years. The four years which followed he spent as Presiding Elder of the Lincolnton District. In 1834, he was stationed in Columbia, and the year following was appointed to the Cokesbury Circuit. In 1836, he was one of the Conference Agents for the Cokesbury School, and in 1837, he again held a superannuated relation. In 1838, he was made Presiding Elder of the Columbia District, where he labored for four years. In 1842, he was stationed in Charleston, and the following year he traveled the Santee Circuit. This closed his active and effective itinerant career, and from that time to his departure hence he sustained a superannuated relation. This Conference honored our brother by electing him to the General Conference of 1832, and as a reserve delegate in 1836, 1840, and 1849. In 1840, he supplied the place of our venerated Brother William M. Kennedy, who died before the session of the General Conference. The closing scenes of his life are best given in the language of his daughter: "It is not in my power to describe the holy, calm, and Christian triumph with which he met his last enemy. His health failed so rapidly from the summer of 1867, that it was apparent to all, and to none more so than himself, that he could not live long. For months before his death, his theme was heaven—his Bible his constant companion. He ripened daily for heaven. When asked by one of his grandchildren why he read his Bible so constantly, he replied, 'My son, I see now beauties in the word of God every day.' As his time grew short, he repeated many verses of Scripture. The 23d Psalm was constantly on his lips. A few nights before he died, as I stood by his bedside, after saying a good deal about heaven, he repeated the 23d Psalm, and that beautiful hymn, 'The Dying Christian.' Almost the last thing he said, was, 'I am not afraid to die, for I have a bright hope of rest in heaven.' Is it not remarkable that he should speak constantly of his mother during his last illness? He spoke constantly of his reunion with his dear wife who had shared his joys and sorrows for forty-two years; of his children who had gone before, and of a dear little grandchild of whom he was very fond. Is it improper, in connection with this subject, to say that much credit is due my dear sainted mother for his zeal

and success in the ministry? He had a large family, and often found it difficult to provide the necessaries of life; but my dear mother sustained and encouraged him with her unwavering faith, firm confidence in the special providence of God, and her meek, quiet, uncomplaining temper. He breathed his last March 9, 1868, at the residence of his son-in-law, Dr. T. W. Briggs, Clarendon, S. C., in the seventy-fourth year of his age. He died without a struggle; he fell asleep in Jesus. His remains now rest in Summerton, in rear of the pulpit, in which he so long and faithfully preached the gospel of Christ." The ministry of Brother Spain was distinguished by great earnestness and power, and the unction of the Holy Ghost. At times, when thoroughly warmed by his subject, he became truly eloquent; and many who still live will remember the strong impressions made upon their hearts by the word he preached. A halo of glory seemed to surround him, and a gleam of inspiration beamed from his countenance, when from a full heart he poured forth the burning words of exhortation, or dwelt enraptured upon the blessed hopes of the life to come.

BOND ENGLISH was born in Kershaw District, S. C., Jan. 31, 1797, and departed this life near Sumter, S. C. For forty-eight years our departed brother was an earnest, successful, honored minister of Christ. In 1814, he was converted to God. Six years afterward, in 1820, he obeyed what he felt to be the "Holy Ghost" moving him to "take upon himself the office and work of the ministry," and was licensed to preach. In 1821, he was admitted on trial in the South Carolina Conference. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Roberts in 1823, and admitted into full connection two years afterward, and ordained elder by the same Bishop. From the time of his admission into the Conference until death ended his labors and cares, Brother English labored with unabated zeal in his Master's vineyard. He passed through the many years of his ministry with unblemished character, and has left a noble record upon the pages of our history as a Church in South Carolina. It was a true remark made by a writer when the death of our beloved brother was first announced, "A great man has fallen." He was indeed a great man. His was true nobility of nature. His talents commanded for him the highest regard of his brethren, and the respect of all who knew him, whether in the communion of his own Church or in that of others. His brethren manifested their regard for his abilities by intrusting him with every position of responsibility within their gift. He was pastor and Presiding Elder at different times. In 1832, he was elected delegate to the General Conference; in 1840, he was one of the reserve delegates. In whatever position he was placed, he nobly met the responsibilities devolving upon him, and sustained his high character as a minister. Wherever he labored, his name is "as ointment poured forth." A clear expositor of the word of God; practical, yet earnest and eloquent, as a preacher; he was eminently successful in win-

ning souls to Christ, and building up the Church of God. His spiritual children are in every part of South Carolina Conference; and many will weep the departure of a friend and brother—a father in Christ—as they read these lines which pay so imperfect a tribute to the beloved English. This minister of the Lord Jesus has fallen—fallen at his post. He died gloriously, as the heroic Christian soldier might wish to die, with his armor on, and his face to the foe.

ALEXIUS MADOR FORSTER, long and favorably known as a member of the South Carolina Conference, died on the 28th of October, at the home of his son-in-law, the Rev. James F. Smith, near Cokesbury, Abbeville District, S. C. He was born Nov. 19, 1787, in Brunswick county, N. C., and consequently at his death lacked but a few days of eighty-one years of age. He was born again in 1818. Licensed to preach in the town of Wilmington, N. C., June, 1809, he was near sixty years a minister in holy things: twenty-eight years in the local ranks, and thirty-two a traveling preacher: seventeen of the thirty-two active, and fifteen superannuated. As a local minister and teacher in the high-schools of the day, he was connected with, and a promoter of, the educational interests of the Church and country, and was very useful and successful; so that those twenty-eight years were not spent in vain—they bear a good record on high. His traveling ministry, beginning with his first appointment to the Yorkville Circuit in 1837, and ending with his last—the Aiken Station in 1858—is graciously borne witness to by many now living, in and out of the Conference. As superannuated, when no longer able to bear up under the heavy burdens of an active ministry, he labored from time to time, and from place to place, as far as his health and circumstances permitted; so much so, that he might almost be said to have "ceased at once to work and live." It would be very difficult to form a correct idea of the influence and usefulness of a ministry like his, extending over a period of more than fifty-nine years. In the early days of his ministry, he had been associated with such men as Asbury, McKendree, George, and Emory. He was the personal friend of the Caperses, McPhersons, Kennedy, Spain, English, and others of that stamp, who belonged to the heroic age of Methodism, and left their impress upon the Church and world—names that we will not willingly let die. As a man, he was pious and devotional; pure and incorruptible; firm and decided; possessing all the elements which make up a properly independent character. As a preacher, his style was plain and without ornament, but always exhibiting a clear and strong common-sense view of his subject. In his pulpit efforts, he had the rare quality of brevity; but was instructive and edifying, true and pithy. He really belonged to the old school of Methodist preachers in every thing—manners, dress, simplicity—and thus had become one of the most interesting links between the past and present generation of our preachers. We bow our heads with reverence before such forms, and our hearts

are filled with gratitude to Almighty God while we call to mind the memories of such men. Their lives were a blessing to the Church, and their memories remain a precious legacy, which we, their sons in the gospel, will most gladly cherish and properly perpetuate. "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." The end of a life so long and faithfully spent for the Church, could not well be otherwise than gentle, peaceful, and tranquil. He was one of the oldest, if not the oldest, member of this body. His remains now lie along with his grandchildren in the quiet cemetery of a country church—Andrew Chapel, near Cokesbury; and his reward is with Him who hath said, "Them that honor me, I will honor."

JAMES STACY was born in Lincolnton, N. C., Nov. 18, 1807; was converted to God in September, 1822; licensed to preach in July, 1829; and admitted into the South Carolina Conference in January, 1830. Brother Stacy fairly won for himself, by thirty-eight years of laborious and unremitting labor, the title of "Father," and by his superior ability and usefulness as a preacher, that of a prophet, or teacher, in our Israel. In labors, he was "abundant," and in firmness and fixedness of purpose, he had few equals, and perhaps not a superior among his brethren. With a constitution naturally delicate, and a temperament nervous in the extreme, he was subjected to many trials in our itinerant work, from which he might have shrunk had he not also possessed that determination of character which enabled him to surmount every obstacle, and remain firmly at his post, until the last hour of his life. It is the deliberate judgment of many of his brethren, that had he yielded a few years ago to the suggestions of his friends, and rested awhile from the active duties of the ministry, his valuable life might have been prolonged for a few years at least. He would listen to no counsels but the promptings of conscience; and he desired no rest but that of the grave. Converted to God early in life, he consecrated himself entirely to the service of his Master; and by prayer, reading, and study, he soon developed his mental powers to such a degree, that while the freshness of youth was still upon him, our Bishops esteemed him worthy to be placed in charge of important points in our Conference District. In this they were not disappointed. He was aware of the constitutional tendencies of his nature, and his life was a prolonged struggle against them; and he triumphed. Tamer natures might not be able to appreciate the contest and the victory; but those who knew him well are prepared to testify that a nobler, more self-possessed and sincerely pious man and minister, they have rarely met. He was grave almost to sternness, and yet there were hours of relaxation in which he would unbend himself to his brethren with a graceful and Christian cheerfulness. He had a high sense of personal and ministerial propriety, and never allowed himself to be betrayed into unseemly levity or imprudences of conduct. His mental powers were much above mediocrity; and whilst