

LAST WORDS

—AND—

OLD-TIME MEMORIES.

ORIGINAL AND COMPILED

From the Most Authentic Records.

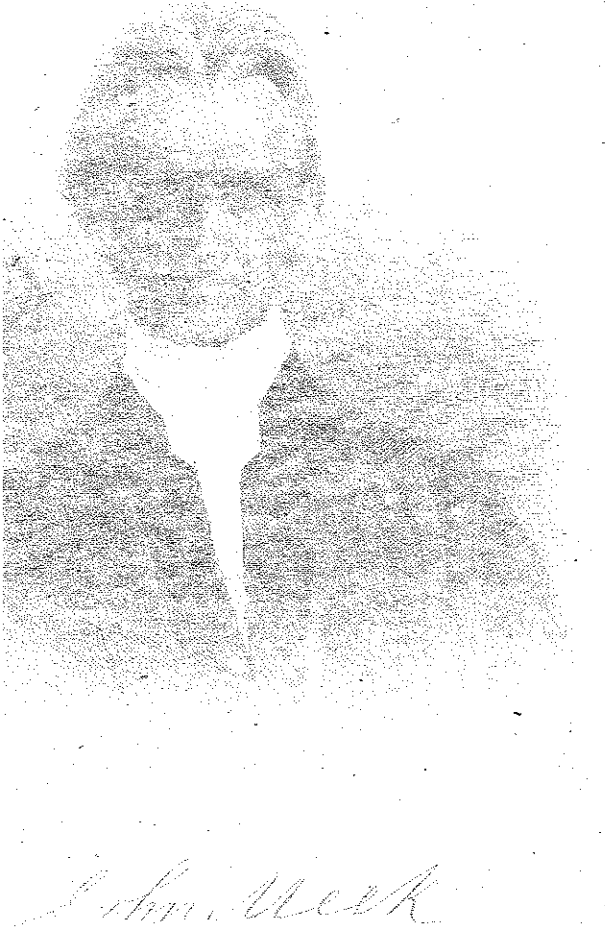
BY

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
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early youth, in the deep recesses of a forest camp-meeting, he was converted. May 21, 1826, he was licensed to exhort, and the following Sabbath, May 28th, he walked ten miles to an appointment and preached his first sermon. September 20, 1828, he was received into the Ohio Conference. That was the beginning of a long day of ministerial usefulness.

His appointments may be classified as follows: Three years on circuits, thirteen on districts, two in the agency of the Ohio Wesleyan University, twenty-eight in stations, and six in retirement. He was honored by his conference with an election three times to the General Conference. Dr. Gurley was married twice—in 1835 to Miss Mary Walcott, of Columbus. In 1847 he was called to part with the wife of his youth. In 1848 he was married to Miss Christina Banks, who survives to mourn his departure.

It is worthy of mention that with advancing years Dr. Gurley did not decline in the freshness and vigor of the preaching of his youth and manhood. At the urgent invitation of old friends he visited many of the charges where he had been pastor in the early part of his ministry, and preached with great acceptability and power. During last winter he had an unusual burden for souls. He longed to see before his death a glori-

ous revival in the churches and university of Delaware. In family worship he poured out his soul in an agony of prayer, as never before, for baptism of power upon the churches. During his sleeping hours in the night he was preaching, exhorting, and laboring at the altar, leading penitent seekers to Christ. He said, at the very beginning of his last sickness, "All my earthly business is well arranged. I have no desire to get well, unless I can have strength to preach the gospel. I believe my work is done. I desire rest."

REV. THOMAS J. GIVENS died in Potosi, Missouri, September 1, 1835. He said in class-meeting, the last time, "If called now to die, I shall go right to heaven." "I am glad the doctor said I must die. I feel willing to risk my soul on the evidence that I have now. I would not exchange the peace that I have now for kingdoms or empires."

REV. WILLIAM GURLEY, father of Rev. L. B. Gurley, D. D., was born in Wexford, Ireland, March 12, 1757. He came to America many years ago. When eighty-six years old, he could read the Bible without glasses. He said in love-feast, "Thirty-one thousand and sixty days have passed over my head since I have been a traveler in this vale of tears." He died in 1848. He bid each

member of his family farewell, and then raising his eyes toward heaven he said, "What a beautiful country is heaven! I see God." He died in the ninety-first year of his age.

REV. SAMUEL GILBERT was born in Connecticut, in the year 1818, and died August 1, 1866. During prayer, in his sick-room, he shouted aloud and said, "This house is Obed-Edom, where the ark of the Lord rested. It is the gate of heaven. Heaven has come down on earth, and the angels are here. This disease is drawing my body down to earth, but Jesus is drawing my soul up to heaven. Is this dying? It is felicity. Oh, how precious is my Jesus. Glory, hallelujah!"

REV. ELIHU GREENE was born July 28, 1814, in Madison County, Kentucky. He was blessed with the care, prayers, and guidance of a pious mother from his earliest infancy. In 1837 he was converted, and at the session of the Kentucky Conference, held in Danville, in 1838, he was received on trial. He was just closing his year's work when arrested by the fever which terminated his death. When asked, in reference to his approaching change of worlds, if he was afraid to die, he replied, "No," and added,—

"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie."

The day before his departure he aroused from a slumber and sung the hymn beginning,—

"When I close my eyes in death," etc.

He then remarked, "I am going straight to heaven," and died Sunday morning, September 10, 1843.

REV. WILLIAM GADDIS, a traveling elder in the Rock River Conference, died in Lafayette, Stark County, Illinois, May 8, aged sixty-seven years.

He was born in Ireland, where he was converted, and united with the Wesleyan Methodists when fifteen years of age. He was licensed to preach when twenty-one. Thus Father Gaddis served the church in the capacity of preacher, local and traveling, for nearly fifty years. To the church he was distinguished by a ceaseless activity and untiring zeal for the cause of his God. His motto was, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." The night before his death he was asked by Dr. Holsted, his son-in-law, what his prospects were beyond the grave. He replied promptly, "Good, good!" Many good things might be said of the deceased; but his record is on high, where we doubt not he rests from his labors. These were among his last words, "Happy dying! Going home to Jesus! Farewell!"

REV. HIRAM GEARING, of Arkansas, Ky., is