

for and obtained a supernumerary relation at the Conference of 1862. In 1863, at the suggestion, and by the advice of his friends, he went to Florida, hoping to restore his fast failing health, but returned the next year without being at all benefited by his visit. He grew much worse in the winter of '63, from which time to the day he died he was rarely ever free from pain. At times his sufferings were so great that it seemed almost impossible for his frail body to survive them; and yet he bore them cheerfully, without a murmur, and blessed God that he gave him strength to endure all that he called him to suffer. Having lived for six months on the confines of the spirit-world, with his mind constantly fixed on the unseen and eternal things, on Nov. 27, 1866, at seven o'clock p.m., in the city of Richmond, surrounded by his family and friends, expressing his firm reliance upon the all-sufficient merits of his Redeemer, and exhorting all to meet him in the better land, he sweetly fell asleep in Jesus. Brother Beckwith was a sweet-spirited, unobtrusive, meek, humble man—not seeking to be known beyond the sphere of his appropriate duties—seeking alone the approval, the honor, and the glory of his God. May each of us who survive him in the ministry so live as he lived, that we may die as he died, that it may be said of us, as it may, with so much propriety, be said of him, he "was a good man;" "he rests from his labors, and his works do follow him."

THOMAS A. PIERCE was born in Fauquier county, Va., Oct. 25, 1819. When about twenty years of age, he was led to the Saviour under the ministry of the Rev. John A. Collins. In the very commencement of his religious experience, he gave promise of that decided Christian character which was subsequently developed. He was appointed a class-leader soon after his conversion, and efficiently discharged the duties of that office until he entered the itinerant ministry. He joined the Virginia Conference at Charlottesville in the fall of 1847, and was appointed to the Stafford Circuit. In 1848, he was sent to Rappahannock and Culpepper. In 1849, he went to King William, where he traveled two years. During his pastorate here, in the spring of 1851, he was united in marriage to Miss Maria C. Dabney, to whom he was ever a kind, considerate, and affectionate husband. In 1852 and 1853, he labored on the James City and New Kent Circuit. In 1854, he cultivated the Master's field in King George; 1855 was spent in Hampshire; 1856 and 1857, in Hanover. In 1858, he was again in King William. In 1859, he was sent to Greenville. In 1860 and 1861, he had his pastoral charge in Mecklenburg; in 1862 and 1863, in Campbell; 1864 and 1865, in Appomattox. In all of these appointments he labored like a man of God, and was instrumental in doing much good. The continuous toils of the ministry sapped the foundations of a constitution naturally robust; and in the fall of 1865, he was appointed to the charge of the colored mission in Appomattox, with the delusive hope that, by relaxing his

labors, he might recover his wasted energies. At the Norfolk Conference, in November, 1866, he was placed on the superannuated list; and on Feb. 26, 1867, he died, as only the Christian can die, triumphing over the last enemy, and assured of his eternal reward. The character of our departed brother is worthy of praise and emulation. He had "become as a little child," and the kingdom of heaven was established in his heart. In him was found a fountain of zeal, purity, and Christian love; and his words and actions, as gracious streams, have fertilized many desert places in our Zion. He was an earnest, honest, faithful minister of Christ. Wherever he went, he was "a light of the world, holding forth the word of life." Though not a brilliant, he was always a sensible, preacher; and by improving well his talent, he accomplished more than many who have been blessed with greater advantages. His works are his enduring monument, and his highest eulogy has already been pronounced by his life. "He hath done what he could," and if his name perish from the records of earth, it is doubtless written in heaven among those who shall be in everlasting remembrance.

WILLIAM H. STARR was born May 7, 1793, in Edenton, N. C. He was brought up in Tyrrell county, of the same State. In his boyhood, he was not distinguished for his morality. When he was about twenty years of age, a great change took place in his habits, but it was not until he was twenty-two years old that he made a profession of conversion. He obtained the pardon of his sins at a camp-meeting, held by the Rev. Philip Bruce, and was the only person converted at that meeting. At the very commencement of his religious life, he determined that he would not be an idler in the Church, and soon commenced holding prayer-meetings, and to use every other means that were calculated to promote his own spiritual improvement, and the good of his fellow-men. The members of the Church on the circuit on which he lived were most favorably impressed with his piety and zeal; and believing that God had called him to the ministry, gave him, at their fourth quarterly meeting in 1815, a recommendation to the Virginia Conference for admission into the traveling connection. He was received into the Conference in January, 1816, at Raleigh, N. C., and appointed to the New River Circuit, with the Rev. Elijah Sparks. In 1817, he had charge of the Beaufort and Straits Circuit; in 1818, Washington and Swift Creek; in 1819, Camden and Edenton; in 1820, Iredell; in 1821, Caswell; in 1822, Mattamuskeet; in 1823, Tar River; in 1824 and 1825, Bedford; in 1826, Franklin; in 1827, Amherst; in 1828, Buckingham; in 1829, Brunswick; in 1830, Greenville; in 1831, Bedford again; in 1832, Caroline; in 1833 and 1834, Culpepper; in 1835, Columbia; in 1836, Albemarle; in 1837 and 1838, Louisa; in 1839, Amelia; in 1840, Banks and Island Mission; in 1841, Spotsylvania; in 1842, Banks and Island Mission again; in 1843 and 1844, he sustained to the Conference a supernumerary relation; in

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