

A. Their private assemblies and societies are orderly, and many say they find them edifying.

Q. 13. What opinion the Presbyterians, and particularly Dr. Watts, has of them.

A. Most of the Presbyterians, and most of all other denominations, are of opinion, much religion hath made them mad.

Q. 14. Whether there are any Methodists among the Episcopal Clergy of the Church of England.

A. Mr. Whitefield, Hutchins, Robson, and the two Messrs. Wesley, and several others, are Priests of the Episcopal Church of England.

NOTICES

CONCERNING

DECEASED PREACHERS.*

1778—QUESTION. What Preachers have died this year?

ANSWER. Thomas Hosking, a young man, just entering on the work; zealous, active, and of an unblamable behaviour. And Richard Burke, a man of faith and patience, made perfect through sufferings; one who joined the wisdom and calmness of age with the simplicity of childhood.

1779—Q. What Preachers have died this year?

A. George Shorter, an Israelite indeed; a lively, zealous, active man; a witness of full salvation, and an earnest exhorter of all believers to aspire after it. And James Gaffney, a young man of considerable abilities, wise above his years. He was snatched away by a galloping consumption; but was fully delivered from the fear of death, and was unspeakably happy, though in violent pain, till his spirit returned to God.

1780—Q. What Preachers have died this year?

A. Samuel Wells, a sensible, honest, upright man, who put forth all his strength in every part of his work. He

* Extracted from the Minutes of the Annual Conferences.—ED17.

was particularly zealous in observing discipline, and in exhorting believers to go on to perfection. And William Brammah, who, having had much weakness and pain, finished his course with joy.

1781—Q. What Preachers have died this year?

A. George Wawne, a young man zealous for God, and of an unblamable behaviour. And Robert Wilkinson, an Israelite indeed; a man of faith and prayer, who, having been a pattern of all good works, died in the full triumph of faith.

1782—Q. What Preachers have died this year?

A. John Norris, a lover and a witness of Christian perfection; who died, as he lived, full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. And John Morgan, a plain, rough man, who, after various trials, and a long painful illness, joyfully committed his soul, his wife, and his eight little children, to his merciful and faithful Creator.

1783—Q. What Preachers have died this year?

A. Richard Boardman, a pious, good-natured, sensible man, greatly beloved of all that knew him. He was one of the two first that freely offered themselves to the service of our brethren in America. He died of an apoplectic fit, and preached the night before his death. It seems he might have been eminently useful; but good is the will of the Lord.

Robert Swindells had been with us above forty years. He was an Israelite indeed. In all those years I never knew him to speak a word which he did not mean; and he always spoke the truth in love. I believe no one ever heard him speak an unkind word. He went through exquisite pain (by the stone) for many years; but he was not weary. He was still

Patient in bearing ill, and doing well.

One thing he had almost peculiar to himself: He had no enemy! So remarkably was that word fulfilled, "Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy."

James Barry was for many years a faithful labourer in our Lord's vineyard. And as he laboured much, so he suffered much; but with unwearied patience. In his death he suffered nothing, stealing quietly away in a kind of lethargy.

Thomas Payne was a bold soldier of Jesus Christ. His temper was uncommonly vehement; but, before he went hence, all that vehemence was gone, and the lion was become a lamb. He went away in the full triumph of faith, praising God with his latest breath.

Robert Naylor, a zealous, active young man, was caught away by a fever in the strength of his years. But it was in a good hour; for he returned to Him whom his soul loved, in the full assurance of faith.

A fall from his horse, which was at first thought of little consequence, occasioned the death of John Livermore, a plain, honest man, much devoted to God, and determined to live and die in the best of services.

1784—Q. Who have died this year?

A. John Prickard, a man thoroughly devoted to God, and an eminent pattern of holiness. And Jacob Rowell, a faithful old soldier, fairly worn out in his Master's service.

1785—Q. Who have died this year?

A. Thomas Mitchell, an old soldier of Jesus Christ.

1786—Q. Who have died this year?

A. John Fletcher, a pattern of all holiness, scarce to be paralleled in a century. And C. Peacock, young in years, but old in grace; a pattern of all holiness, full of faith, and love, and zeal for God.

1787—Q. What Preachers have died this year?

A. Thomas Lee, a faithful brother, and a good old soldier of Jesus Christ. Henry Foster, an excellent young man, wholly devoted to God. John Cowmeadow, a pious young man, unblamable in spirit and conversation. John Fenwick, who died, I believe, in peace. Thomas Seaward, a pious, zealous, blameless, useful young man.

1788—Q. Who have died this year?

A. Jeremiah Robertshaw, who was a good soldier of Jesus Christ, fairly worn out in his Master's service. He was a pattern of patience for many years, labouring under sharp and almost continual pain, of meekness and gentleness to all men, and of simplicity and godly sincerity.

Joshua Keighley, who was a young man deeply devoted to God, and greatly beloved by all that knew him. He was

About the marriage state to prove;
But death had swifter wings than love.

Edward Burbeck, who from a child was eminent for uprightness, industry, and the fear of God. He was qualified for eminent service in his Lord's vineyard, but was taken just in the dawn of his usefulness.

John Roberts, who for many years was clearly convinced that God had called him to preach the Gospel. But he delayed from time to time, till at length conscience prevailed over all other considerations. It was almost too late; for, after labouring a few months, he fell into a lingering illness. For some weeks he was in utter darkness; then God scattered the clouds, and gave him to die in peace.

Mr. Charles Wesley, who, after spending fourscore years with much sorrow and pain, quietly retired into Abraham's bosom. He had no disease; but after a gradual decay of some months,

The weary wheels of life stood still at last.

His least praise was, his talent for poetry; although Dr. Watts did not scruple to say, that "that single poem, Wrestling Jacob, is worth all the verses which I have ever written."*

John Mealy, worn out in the service of his Master. He suffered much in his last illness, and died triumphant in the Lord.

John Burnet, a very pious, devoted, useful young man. He continued through a long illness in a very triumphant state of mind, and departed this life in extraordinary triumph.

1789—Q. Who have died this year?

A. In Great Britain, Thomas Corbett, a plain, honest, pious, useful man. He endured much in his last illness, manifested great fortitude, and died in the full triumph of faith.

* The late Mr. Robert Hopkins used to say, that in the early part of his life, he was once in company with Mr. Wesley and several other friends, when Mr. Wesley referred to the opinion which Dr. Watts had expressed concerning "Wrestling Jacob;" and added, apparently with great emotion, "O what would Dr. Watts have said, if he had lived to see my brother's two exquisite funeral hymns, beginning,

'How happy every child of grace,
That knows his sins forgiven;'

and,

'Come let us join our friends above,
That have obtain'd the prize!'"—EDIT.

In Ireland, Hugh Pugh, a zealous, pious young man, who suffered much in his illness, but died happy in God. Francis Frazier, a good young man, and a good preacher. And John Stephens, who, being little more than a child in years, was a man both in knowledge and piety, and went hence in the full triumph of faith.

1790—Q. Who have died this year?

A. James Gore. He was a young man of good understanding, great sweetness of temper, and eminent piety; and his end was glorious. He poured out his blood and his soul together.* Jonathan Thomson, who died in Scotland, in the course of the last year; a young man full of faith and the Holy Ghost, an ornament and honour to our society in Scotland. His great zeal for God and the salvation of souls, united with the fervour and imprudence of youth, led him to excessive labour in the work of his great Master, which proved the cause of his death.

DIRECTIONS

TO THE

STEWARDS OF THE METHODIST SOCIETY IN LONDON.

[DRAWN UP IN THE YEAR 1747.]

1. You are to be men full of the Holy Ghost and of wisdom; that you may do all things in a manner acceptable to God. 2. You are to be present every Tuesday and Thursday morning in order to transact the temporal affairs of the society. 3. You are to begin and end every meeting with earnest prayer to God, for a blessing on all your undertakings. 4. You are to produce your accounts the first Tuesday in every month; that they may be transcribed into the ledger. 5. You are to take it in turn, month by month, to be Chairman. The Chairman is to see that all the rules be punctually observed, and immediately to check

* He died vomiting blood.