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BY

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JOSEPH M. WILSON,
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SWEETMAN, JOSEPH—The son of Thomas and Sarah (Kerr) Sweetman, was born in Freehold, Monmouth County, New Jersey, March 9, 1774. He was baptized by the Rev. Mr. Tennent, in what is now known as the Old Tennent Church of Freehold. When he was about three months old, his parents removed to Charlton, Saratoga County, New York, and was one of the earliest settlers in what was then a wilderness. His mother was a grand-daughter of Walter Kerr, who was banished from Scotland for his unwavering adherence to covenant principles and his opposition to prelacy, during the persecution under the reign of Charles II.

Having been trained under the care of his godly parents, and thoroughly instructed in the doctrines of grace, he early took up the cross to bear it after Christ.

He entered Union College at its organization, in 1795, and graduated in 1797, being one of the three students that composed the first graduating class in the college; receiving the first honors of the class, for which the first and only diploma, ever written in the handwriting of the President, was conferred upon him. He studied theology with Rev. Alexander Proudfit, D.D., of Salem, Washington County, New York, and became the first student licensed to preach the gospel by the Presbytery of Albany. He was ordained by the same Presbytery, and installed pastor of this church, September 17, 1800. As a pastor, he was faithful, instant in season and out of season. He labored with a zeal that indicated right knowledge of the truth. His fidelity, his earnest manner, and correct instruction, gave evidence that knowing the love of Christ, he was constrained thereby. He firmly adhered to the truth, and loved most ardently those doctrines of grace which humble man and exalt God. His labors were blessed to the great increase of the church, and the edification of God's people.

His health having failed, so that he was no longer able to preach, he resigned his pastoral charge, October 8, 1817. He was never again installed pastor of a church, but he by no means became idle, or left the legitimate work of the ministry. From this time till his death, he took particular interest in aiding young men preparing for the ministry. To accomplish this, he labored with his hands, taught, or gave of his means as he had opportunity and necessity required. He was the founder of the "Sweetman Scholarship," in Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey.*

He enjoyed better health in his later years than in middle life, and preached frequently in all the neighboring churches as there was occasion, till he was more than eighty-seven years old, and continued to labor in a neighboring prayer-meeting until the last, having made an address there even on the last Sabbath which he spent on earth. He was for more than sixty-three years a minister of the gospel, and died as he had lived, diligently engaged in the work of setting forth Christ and him crucified. He was vigorous in intellect, and eloquent in manner, firm in his opinions without bigotry, and kept the faith with a fidelity that made him a worthy descendant of his persecuted ancestor, William Kerr, who was banished from Scotland for his love for the truth, during the reign of Charles II. He was a benevolent man. He sowed beside all waters. That he might have to give, he was industrious, economical, and prudent. He husbanded well limited means, that he might give largely. He gave an open hand and a warm heart to every good object, and in this respect left a bright example worthy of imitation.

He left written directions as to his funeral. The services consisted of reading the Scriptures, prayer, reading the tract entitled, "Stop," No. 80, vol. 5th, Presbyterian Board, repeating the Lord's Prayer, and benediction.

*See History of the Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J., published in the *Presbyterian Historical Almanac* for 1863.

By his own request, all eulogy was excluded from the exercises. This fact is indicative of his character. But we deem it just to his memory, to record this estimate of his long and worthy life. And while with stricken hearts we bow submissively to the dispensation of Providence that has sealed the lips whose words still find a lodgment in our hearts, we record our devout thanksgiving to God for the display of his grace in the life, labors, and character, and, we believe, the salvation of Joseph Sweetman. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

Rev. J. N. CROCKER, of Charlton, New York, writes as follows:

He was a man of a strong mind, of a logical turn, with an ardent love for the truth. He was remarkable for decision. He was by no means carried about by every wind of doctrine. He thoroughly imbibed and retained the spirit of his persecuted ancestors. He was persevering and energetic, a good sermonizer, and eloquent in manner; most generally preaching without manuscript even after four-score years old. He loved most those doctrines of grace which humble man the most and most exalt God. As a pastor, he was faithful and blessed of God, and he magnified his office after being compelled, by ill health, to resign his pastoral charge, doing good as he had opportunity. He was for more than sixty-three years a faithful and worthy minister of the gospel.

He was a benevolent man. He considered it more blessed to give than to receive. After the resignation of his pastoral charge, he did much in aid of young men seeking the ministry, which work he continued till the day of his death.

Although never possessed of large means, he was the founder of the Sweetman Scholarship in Princeton Theological Seminary.

Upon graduating from college, he was selected by the President to receive the first honor of the class, which was the first diploma and the only one ever written in the President's own handwriting.

He fought the good fight, he kept the faith, and in the ninetieth year of his age was called to his rest.

His last Sabbath on earth was spent in attending two services in church, one of which was communion, at which he pronounced the benediction, and in making an address to his neighbors gathered in a union prayer-meeting, at their school-house in the evening. His funeral was observed according to his own directions written several years before.

The services consisted of reading the Scriptures, prayer, reading the tract entitled "Stop," No. 80, vol. 5, Pres. Board, and repeating the Lord's Prayer.

It was his expressed wish that there should be no eulogy. After a long life of earnest devotion, he fell asleep trusting to the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ.

His first wife was Miss Jane Savage, daughter of Hon. Edward Savage, of Salem, Washington County, New York, by whom he had a daughter which was his only child. His second wife was Mrs. Anna Bacon, of Ballston, Saratoga County.

Died December 10th, 1863, of apoplexy.

TEMPLETON, MILO—Was born near West Alexander, Washington County, Pa., March 28, 1819, and died March 25th, 1863. His parents, Alexander and Charity (McLain) Templeton still survive him. He was one of seven children, having but one brother, the Rev. Samuel M. Templeton, of Delavan, Illinois. Excepting the death of an infant sister, his was the only death in the family for nearly half a century. He was early dedicated to God by his pious parents, and was faithfully trained up in the knowledge of divine things at home, in the Sabbath and church. In his youth he made a profession of religion, and soon afterwards commenced a course of study in the academy of West Alexander, Wash-