

college course afforded the brightest hopes. He won the warm affection of his tutors and fellow-students. He commenced his ministry at Ilkeston, in Derbyshire; but after a few months of earnest, loving work, which greatly attached his people to him, he was compelled through failure of health to resign. His love for the work was too strong to submit to the injunction of perfect cessation from all labour for twelvemonths, and his ardent spirit consumed its frail tenement. When he discovered the sentence of death, he was for a time made sad by the thought of the littleness and incompleteness of his work for Christ. He is described as "a beautiful instance of the power of a living fellowship with Christ to change and mould natural disposition. Before he knew the grace of God, his spirit was restless, and his temper irritable: as a Christian he was most gentle, most patient, most loveable. He was remarkable also for consistency; always gave the impression that he was acting from principle, and several of his fellow-students have remarked that though he was uniformly bright and cheerful, they never knew him say or do an inconsistent thing." We should not allow the suggestion a moment's notice, that in such a case the preparatory training is lost. The Lord hath need of such gifts for higher service. Several others might be named who were discharged from the earthly ministry while only buckling on the harness. Such were Alexander Irvine and John M. Mills, —very promising young men commissioned by the "London Missionary Society" to labour in the South Sea Islands, one of whom died on the way thither, and the other almost as soon as he arrived at Samoa. Such dispensations address us with impressive warning—"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might,"—"for what is thy life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

But let us turn to the records of the long lives and extensive labours of the holy veterans of this list. So many attract our loving and reverent regard that we know not which to pass unnoticed. Here are three or four condensed obituaries, which cannot fail to be interesting to our readers.

JAMES SPURGEON.

This venerable man—the most advanced in age of the 61 whose deaths are here reported, and the longest in active service—died in February, 1864, at the advanced age of 87, still in harness, having zealously fulfilled the pastoral office for *fifty-eight* years.

He was blessed with godly parents, and early brought forth the fruits of their diligent sowing, becoming a member of the Independent Church in his native place, Holstead, Sussex, when a youth—within eight miles of which he fulfilled his long pastorate, at the village of Stamborne. To repeated invitations from other churches, he replied, "I have never had one hour's unhappiness with my church since I have been over them. He continued with them to the end, assisted by various ministers during the last two years of his life but preaching very often himself, and to the last administering the ordinances. His son John Spurgeon, pastor of the Congregational Church at Cranbrook, Kew, and his grandson, the celebrated Charles H. Spurgeon, of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, are better known than was this venerable man. But it is stated that he never preached in any place, without some good appearing. He was very earnest and practical in preaching the great truths of the Gospel. He often pointed to an arbour in his garden, and said—"That is the place where God heard the prayer of Mr. Knill for