

Ques. VI. *Who have died since last Conference ?*

Answer.

1. REV. JAMES SPENCER, A M.

James Spencer, was born in Stamford, C. W., the 7th February, 1812. While in his fifth year he lost his father by death, and thus from that early period was deprived of counsels and example so necessary to the formation of the youthful character. Notwithstanding his youth, he was remarkable for a quiet and orderly demeanour and conduct. To the important claims of religion he did not yield until he had reached his nineteenth year, when, under the ministry of Dr. E. Evans, at Lundy's Lane, he was brought to submit; and seeking the Lord with much earnestness of spirit, he obtained a knowledge of salvation by the remission of his sins. Then, or shortly afterwards, he became sensible of a call from the Head of the Church to preach the Gospel and to give himself up entirely to that work. But from a sense of unfitness for so great an undertaking he refused to comply. For several years he persisted in his refusal; not that he was unwilling to engage in other departments of service which our Church opens to its members, but, in this particular, so deep and strong was his sense of incompetency, that no remonstrance could induce him to overcome it. A course of providential chastisement now overtook him, and for several years he felt the hand of the Lord upon him in correction. It was at this time that the Rev. John Carroll affectionately counselled him to his duty, and so satisfied had Mr. Spencer become, that he must now yield or prepare himself for yet severer visitations, that he submitted and offered himself to the Church for the work the Lord had for him to do. He entered the ministry at the Conference of 1838, from which year to that of 1851, he laboured in various circuits with acceptance and effect. He was then appointed to the office of Editor of our Connexional paper, which, for nine years he filled with much credit to himself and advantage to our Church. At the Conference of 1860 he returned to the duties of the circuit work, first in Brampton and then in Paris, from which latter place, after a brief sojourn of four months, he was called to his rest in heaven.

As a preacher, bro. Spencer lacked some of those attractions of manner which tend, when judiciously employed, to give additional impressiveness to the word preached;