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# (I) DEPARTED BRETHREN.

The fathers have passed away. The men who were active in our churches, a long time ago have been removed from earthly cares, trials and labors. They were early identified with the rise and progress of our denomination in this Province, and, one after another, like the stars that seem to fade away in the brighter glories of the opening day, they disappear. The fathers were succeeded by a class of gospel laborers of another type—not in spirit—but in the mode of operation in the churches.

There are a few surviving lay brethren in some of our older churches who knew the fathers, and who were blessed with their spiritual ministrations more than half a century ago. These lay brethren have enjoyed the labors of the fathers and their successors; and some of them have been strong men in Zion—living branches of the living vine. They, too, are gradually being struck down by the unsparing hand of death.

During the past year, though none of our ministers within the limits of this Association, have fallen, several of the aged lay brethren have been called from the church militant.

The first of these, of whom we shall speak, is OBADIAH SAUNDERS, who recently died at Springfield. For many years, as a licentiate, he preached with good acceptance in various places. Though his intellect, naturally vigorous, had not been cultured by education, his preaching ability was respectable—his spirit fervent—his utterances were ready—and his doctrinal views were evangelically sound.

The next in order of notice is DEACON SAMUEL WHELOCK, of Nictaux Church, who was baptized by the Rev. Thomas Handley Chipman more than half a century ago. Through his subsequent life he continued a useful member of the church.

Almost simultaneously with his death was that of DEACON JOHN BRINTON, of Wilmot Mountain. What has been said of Deacon Wheelock is applicable to Deacon Brinton. He was baptized by Father Ansley, a long time ago, and was a prominent actor and participator in the series of precious revivals that were enjoyed in this western part of the province, about forty years ago.

Another faithful Deacon WILLIAM CROSBY, of Hebron, Yarmouth County, has also passed away. He was distinguished for his unostentatious piety and unwavering fidelity to Christ. He was one of Father Harris Harding's early converts.