

John S. Labar was born in Mt. Bethel township, near Portland, Me., in August, 1807. At the age of 18 years he confessed Christ as his Savior and connected himself with His church. At 19 he went to Elizabethtown, N. J., (as it was then called) the better to pursue his studies. Here he sat under the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Magie. Till the close of his life he was accustomed to quote frequently the sayings and doings of the Dr., showing the how deep were impressions which the ministry of that able and godly man had made upon him. After preparing himself to enter college, Mr. Labar entered the the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, from which he was graduated in due time. He also passed one year in Princeton Theological Seminary. Instead, however, of completing his theological studies, he entered upon the profession of teacher of the young.

In April 1840 he took charge of the school at Stewartsville, in this county, and taught there for 9 years. He then came to Hackettstown and took charge of the Academy here. Many of his old pupils are here now, and bear testimony to his fidelity, thoroughness and success as a teacher. From the deep affection they still cherish towards him, it can easily be seen that he gained a strong hold upon his scholars, and exercised a great influence in developing their minds, and forming their characters.

He continued as teacher of the Academy for 7 years, and then became teacher of the District School at Beattiestown. After four and half years in that position, he opened a school in his own house at Brook Farm, where he fitted several young men for entering college. So that some 25 years in all of his life were spent in instructing the young, and well was he qualified for it. It was his custom to bring his Greek Testament to the House of God, and I have found him reading it while waiting for the commencement of Divine worship. His Pastor was always sure of an attentive, discriminating and appreciative hearer in him. He was regularly in his place, until his last severe illness prevented, and that weather was very stormy which detained him at home.

OBITUARY

While he resided in Hackettstown, he was Superintendent of the S. S., for about three years. After the removal to the farm he taught a Bible Class in the Sunday School at Beattiestown. He prepared himself most thoroughly for this work, and it was something worth hearing to listen to his shrewd and deep questions, calculated to stimulate the thought and develop the intelligence of his scholars, as well as incite them to the study of the scriptures. In this position he has left a vacancy which all admit cannot be filled.

In August 1853 he was elected and ordained an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown and in November of the same year he was made Clerk of the Session, which positions he filled till his death. He was a model Clerk of Session. His thorough familiarity with church law, his promptness, fulness and accuracy in recording the proceedings of the body, and his regularity of attendance, made him invaluable in this capacity. The Session deeply deplore his loss.

For the last 5 years of his life he filled the position of County Secretary for Warren in the State Sunday School Association. His labors in this position were abundant, and successful. He secured reports from nearly all the schools in the county (some 90 in number), and greatly stimulated the interest of christian workers in this great cause.

His characteristics were geniality, friendliness, great urbanity of manner, and diligence, faithfulness, and accuracy in whatever he undertook. An affectionate husband and father, a kind neighbor and friend, a public spirited citizen, and a faithful church officer and worker in the Master's vineyard his loss will be felt deeply and long.

In his last illness his expressions concerning his own unworthiness, and his sole and complete reliance upon the Divine Savior as his only hope, were very clear and strong. "A sinner, saved by grace," was his description of himself. For the last few days of his life, although he expressed a willingness to wait God's time he longed and prayed to be released, that he might depart to be with Christ. He fell asleep about 10 o'clock, on the night of Thursday, April 29th.

Near this place, on Thursday, April 29th, Mr. John S. Labar, aged about 73 years. Funeral services will be held in the Presbyterian Church, on Wednesday, May 5th, at 11 A. M.

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The Hackettstown Gazette : 24 April, 1880

NAME: John S. Labar

DATE OF DEATH: 20 April, 1880