

Feb. 144

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13.th James Spooner was born at
 Salisbury in Jan^r 1767, & baptised in the
 ch. of St. Dunstons; but, his father joining
 the W. Conn afterwards he lost his chil-
 dren regularly with him to our chapel
 saying that ^{my father} he knew the truth from
 his own childhood, & was much as-
 pirated with the people ^{among} ~~with~~ whom
 he subsequently came in his lot. When
 12 or 13 yrs. of age he was put appren-
 tice to the clothier of the name of Min-
 field of Greenwich, whose wife
 was also a member of our church
 is that he had still ~~the~~ attended the
 means of grace here some yrs.
 after his apprenticeship termin-
 ated he marr. his present widow in
 1798 they were both added to our
 society & afterwards rec. into the
 Cong. & admitted to the N. Conn.
 together, & have ever since remain-
 ed attached & faithful members.
 The good seed of the word was early
 sown in our lot, & ^{in that} heart, - the
~~understanding~~ ^{was enlightened} ~~his~~ ^{his}
 conscience ~~made~~ ^{made} tender, & his heart in-
 clined to fear God, & since his con-
 duct was never, even in his youth
 loose or immoral; on the other hand
 he always shunned evil company
 & maintained a good character. It was
 however under the ministry of the

He B. John Kettley, that both he & his wife
were incited to devote themselves
unreservedly to their service, & to seek
fellowship with a sterner church &
they joined the Cong^o, because they
felt themselves divinely called to
it. - During the 46 yrs. that our
late B. has gone in & out among
us we can give him the testimony
that he walked humbly with his God
that his faith was simple & childlike
no doubt his heart was purified
by means of that faith for it wrought
by love - the love of God shed abroad in
his heart by the H. & Ghost - for he vi-
dently loved both the Lord & his people.
He made no ostentatious display of
his piety - was with a quiet, retiring
unobtrusive character - & a man of
few words; but that he had experien-
ced grace & lived in communion with
the "mind of his soul" was manifest
from his whole conduct & spirit;
when he did speak on spiritual
matters, his words tho' few, went to the
point, & - particularly during his
last illness when the love of Christ
displayed to & in him, a power & purity
even the subject - his eyes might be
seen suffused with tears. His char-

ter was such that he was beloved by
his family - Especially his children
when he & his partner strove to bring
up in the nurture & admonition of
the Lord, & that kind blessed their seasons
& heard their prayers) - & respect-
ed by all that knew him
4 or 5 months ago he fell ill of the
jaundice & that he seemed to get over
that disease, dropped symptoms
appeared in his legs, which, after re-
maining stationary for some time,
began to spread rapidly about a fortnight
ago & compelled him to take
almost entirely to his bed. He seems
to have apprehended his approaching
dissolution from the first, but was
perfectly resigned to his divine Master's
will; he was always found cheerful
when visited) - humble yet confident-
ly trusting in our Sav^r; & only desir-
ous to be made ready for his
coming. - Last week he felt some-
what gloomy, & doubts & fears ^{rather} ~~seem~~
overcast him - ^{probably} ~~no doubt~~ in con-
sequence of bodily pain & increasing
debility; - yet in the midst of all he
told his wife he knew it was but a
transient season of darkness - & that
his Redeemer would comfort & assure
him again. - Last Friday I called

upon him, & administered to him the
consolations ^{of} which are calculated to
cheer & strengthen a shield of God, when
walking thro' the valley of the shadow of
death - reminding him of the many sweet
& precious promises given to the afflicted
believer, & above all of the all-sufficiency
of him in whom he had believed - the
atoning virtue of his blood, the perfectness
of his righteousness - of his being so the
deeply compassionate & high-priest -
of his being Jesus the same yesterday
to-day & for ever. These precious truths
& promises seemed to revive his spirit
& I then commended him in fervent
prayer to the mercies of his God & c.
He assured me before I left him that he
felt much comforted, the tears meantime
trickling down his cheeks. - Indeed he re-
mained cheerful to the end, & told his
family not long before he died that he
was perfectly tranquil & happy in his
mind, full of confidence in the Lord.
& longing to depart & to be with Him.
He fell asleep in Jesus without a
struggle or a groan on Tuesday morn-
ing at 5.5 a.m. aged 77 years.

He had 10 children, but 5 of whom have pre-
ceded him into eternity - & 25 grand-
children, most of whom are still living
& many of them scholars in our Uni-
versity - I hope. May the Lord give them all
grace to follow in their father's good ex-
ample, as far as he followed Him. - & richly
comfort & graciously guide & sustain our
dear living but aged & afflicted widow!