

Old Father Williams

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The writer has known the old man since 1837, first at Newnan, Ga. He was then of venerable age, and we were only eight years old. Uncle Joe was born May 22, 1780, consequently he will be one hundred years old next May, if he lives. But the candle of life with him is flickering in the socket, and no one can tell at what moment the light of a long life may go out. For several weeks he has been confined to his room, and we have missed his cordial greetings upon the street. He is not sick, except that he occasionally complains of pain in the chest. His mind is clear as ever, but the glaze of life's dissolution is blinding the sight and he only knows his friends by voice. The old, old man converses freely and intelligently. His memory is remarkable retentive as to dates. To these facts he refers with perfect precision. He does not forget that he came to Cartersville to live with his daughter, the wife of Judge Stokely, thirteen years the 5th of February next.

The good old man has a great desire to live one hundred years. The 22nd of May next would make him a centenarian. May heaven spare him to that time, though we have little hope that he will survive until the flowers shall bloom again. His soul, in all probability, will be basking in the eternal light of heaven by that time, and tender hands, moved by that love, will cast the beautiful flowers of spring over his newly-made grave.

If the light of his good soul must go out, we pray that he will fall asleep, as sweetly, as harmlessly, as goes to sleep the innocent babe upon his mother's breast, and find eternal rest in the bosom of Him who died to save all mankind

Contributed by Patti Andrews

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