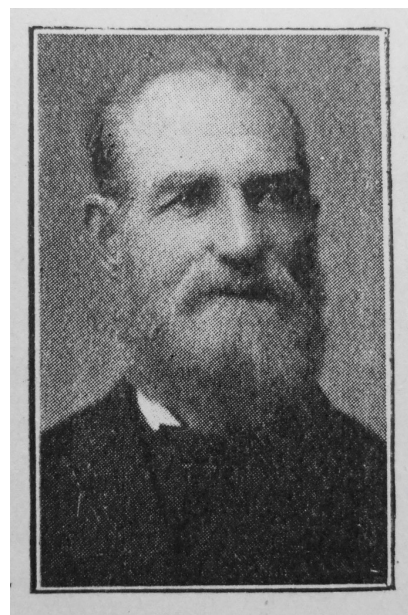


## **Rev. James Austerbury**

### **Transcription of Obituary in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by W.A.H.**

Born March 22nd, 1829, James Austerbury was acquainted with the early struggles of our Church, and loved to recall the conflicts and victories of those early days. His birth-place was Royton near Oldham, then a place of great wickedness. His father opened his cottage for meetings when the place was missioned by evangelists from Oldham. Mr. and Mrs. Austerbury both joined the society. John Garner was then superintendent of Oldham. Under a sermon preached by Rev. J. Clewer, James was led to yield himself to the Saviour shortly after the family had removed to Ashford-under-Lyne. Here he taught in the school before his conversion, but when at sixteen he gave himself fully to Christ he became an earnest worker in the cause. His hours in the mill were from six in the morning till eight at night, but he found time for reading and study, and made such progress that his name was placed on the plan.



The Quarterly Meeting soon recognised his fitness for wider service, and in September, 1851, Hull Second called him to Tadcaster as a hired local preacher. Next year he was pledged and appointed to Patrington.

He travelled for thirty years with considerable success on the following stations:- Hull II., Alford (twice), Driffild, Bridlington, Barton-on-Humber, Scarborough, Grimsby, Brigg, Hull I., Beverley, North Cave, Tadcaster, Pocklington and Market Rasen. He had frequently to deal with cases of financial difficulty, and was successful in raising considerable sums of money for new chapels and debt reduction. It was his joy to witness some very remarkable revivals and to lead many to Jesus Christ. Quiet and unassuming in manner, he was well versed in the Scriptures and in Methodist theology. He made careful preparation for the pulpit, and kept himself well abreast of the thought of the time. He took a deep interest in the church and rendered worthy service during his active ministry. In 1882, owing to his early excessive toil he was compelled to superannuate, and settled first at Barton, and subsequently at Hull, where the eventide of his life was spent. He associated himself with Ebenezer, Hull I., and found great joy in the means of grace. Increasing years brought increasing infirmity, so that through the last winter he could not leave his home, but only for a few days was he confined to bed. Like a tired worker he gently fell asleep Monday, April 8th, 1907, rejoicing that in early life he had been led to the Saviour, and that he had been permitted to serve his Lord so long. The funeral service in Ebenezer chapel was attended by a large number of ministerial companions and friends, and his body was laid to rest in the Hull Cemetery, where so many of the godly sleep. An only son and widow remain to mourn the loss of a tenderly affectionate husband and of a kind and godly father.

Rev. F. Rudd writes: "It was my privilege to know him for over fifty-one years. I learned to esteem him then and have continued that respect for him unto this day."

Rev. R. Harrison says: "He was sincere in his service for Christ, and though that service in the active ministry was not long, yet he lived long enough to sow the good seed of the word for the Saviour he loved."

Rev. J. Wilson writes: "He was a good man, and in circuit work he did well though physically weak."

Thus the good man dies, but the good he does lives on in lives made better by his presence. The memory of the just is precious.

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#### References

*Primitive Methodist Magazine* 1907/740