

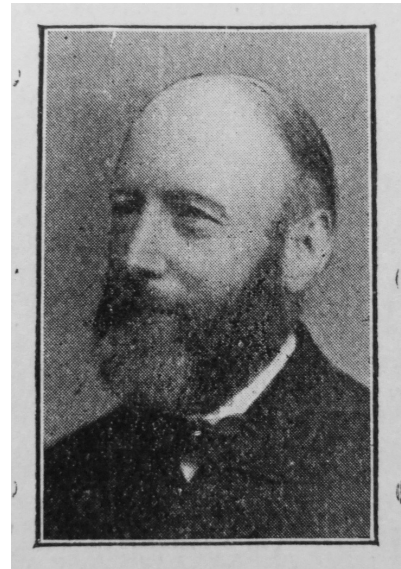
John Worsnop

Transcription of Obituary in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by Henry Pratt

On December 27th, 1904, the Rev. John Worsnop passed quietly away at his home, 97, Wingrove Avenue, Newcastle. Never very robust and vigorous physically, of late it was observed that he was becoming very feeble and his presence was missed from the services of our Kingsley Street Church.

Many have expressed surprise when informed that he was only sixty-six years of age. The long and arduous duties associated with the Primitive Methodist Ministry, extending over a period of forty-two years, had told its tale upon a constitution not naturally strong, and gave him the appearance of one much older in years.

He died as he had lived, rich in hope, at peace with God and man, and amid many expressions of love and regret from the devout and good.



The funeral service was held in the house, and was in keeping with the character of our departed friend and brother.

It was a quiet, reverent and beautiful service that touched all our hearts.

The Rev. W.A. French read the lessons with tenderness and sympathy.

The Rev. James Young led us to the throne in prayer, and we felt that God was indeed present. We were reminded of the beautiful life that the Master had taken to Himself. Its purity, its simplicity, its singleness of aim, and the loving service rendered so freely to our Church, were brought to our memory, and we thought of one "who walked with God and was not."

The bereaved wife and son and daughter were committed to the care of infinite love. The Church also was remembered in her loss of a saintly brother and a consecrated worker.

The service at the grave side was conducted by the Rev. Henry Pratt, resident minister. This service was unique in that it was duplicated by the Rev. W.W. Adamson, chaplain of the Deaf and Dumb Mission, at St. Mark's. This part of the service was rendered with exquisite taste and expression for the benefit of Mr. Worsnop's only son who is deaf and dumb. But notwithstanding this affliction, Mr. Worsnop Junr. is a bright, intelligent, capable young fellow, and follows the occupation of a lithographic artist in the city, and is a great comfort to his mother. The Rev. Charles Tetley, Rev. Robert Clemitson, and Rev. John Alderson with other friends were present.

Mr. Worsnop in his youth was a class leader and local preacher in Bradford. So highly were his services appreciated that in 1860 he was called into the ranks of the regular ministry.

His first station was Whitehaven. The Rev. John Taylor, his colleague at that time, says Mr. Worsnop was recommended by his native circuit "as the best young man in the Connexion." One of the officials remarked "If they had said one of the best," it would have been sufficient praise. But Mr. Taylor affirms that after forty-five years' acquaintance, in his judgment the praise was none too high.

At Whitehaven it was no uncommon thing for Mr. Worsnop to retire to his room with the roll book and pray for every member on the class books. He was a man who lived and breathed in the atmosphere of prayer.

Mr. Worsnop travelled on the following stations:- Whitehaven, Darlington, Barnard Castle, St. Helens, Auckland, Stockton, Mary Port, Brampton, West Hartlepool, Stanhope, Durham, Middleham, Shildon, Tranent, Dewsbury, Ripon, Horncastle, and was with us in the Newcastle second station as supernumerary three and a half years.

At Horncastle he did good work for a period of five years, and according to the testimony of his old colleague, the Rev. A.W. Bagnall, plodded the weary journeys without a murmur, and most efficiently discharged the heavy duties that seemed altogether beyond his strength.

In 1869 he was united in marriage to Hannah Kidd, daughter of Thomas Kidd, of Allenheads, and who for thirty-six years has been a faithful wife and mother of his children.

And now he has gone from us, the like of him we shall not soon see again. His pleasant, cheerful face will be missed in our Church, and the plaintive voice so often raised in earnest prayer in our Sunday evening prayer meetings, will be heard no more.

But we know he is at rest. He has entered the reward of the faithful and is now for ever with the Lord.

References

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