

The Chester record 16 April 1864 - a transcription

Laying the foundation stone of a new primitive Methodist Chapel, Nantwich

The ceremony of laying the stone of the above new chapel, Broad Lane, was performed by M Goodwin, Esq, farmer, Wardle, on Monday last, the 11th instant. The value of the site, £15, was presented by Mr Goodwin to the trustees; the plan and specifications were executed gratuitously by Mr. Beaty of Manchester; and the building of the same by Mr T Bowker of Nantwich. The weather was delightfully fine, and a large number of people were on the ground to witness the interesting ceremony. The proceedings commenced by singing the hymn, 'O will the great eternal God?' after which suitable and fervent prayers were offered by the Reverends Clarkson and Quarmby. Mr T. Wood then deposited in the stone the following articles: – a bill announcing the present event, the preachers plan for the present quarter, list of Chapel trustees, coins, etc. He then presented the troll to Mr Goodwin in the name of the trustees, who duly performed the ceremony, and when on completion placed £15, the amount paid for the ground, upon the stone, amidst great cheering. Mr. Wood took charge of the money, and thanked Mr Goodwin most cordially for his munificent gift. A collection was afterwards made on the ground, when £1 17 shillings was collected.

The Reverend J Guest then addressed the assembly. He said -I am very happy to see you all on this occasion, and to meet you under such favourable auspices . When the object for which we are met together this afternoon is viewed in all its bearings, we cannot fail to see at once it's importance to ourselves and the glory of the one eternal and omnipresent God. We are not now surrounded by the difficulties with which our four fathers were, who had to hold their meetings in the open air; but who were striving for that building of God, not made with hands, eternal to the heavens. Our Connexion has wonderfully prospered and increased since that time; the present number of our Connexion chapels is being 2690; rested ditto 3457; and we have on average, at the present time, two chapels per week building. This is the sixth chapel in this circuit built within the last three years, and two more are in contemplation. The Revd gentleman then gave a succinct history of the doctrine held by the Primitive Methodists, and said they were of the true Wesleyan order; making to themselves not one above another, but one and all as Brothers and fellow workers. He then spoke at length on the duties of the members of the church, and the frailty of all the endeavour of human nature without divine assistance in the accomplishment of any great and, and a few remarks on the prosperity and welfare of the new chapel brought Mr. Guest's address to a close.

The company then adjourned to a tent in the field adjoining, where an excellent tea was provided. After tea a public meeting was held, when Mr T wood was voted to the chair.

The Chairman, after a few preliminary remarks, said – I am glad to think Providence has favoured us with so fine a day for the occasion – the finest we have had this year. We have been in the midst of plenty today, but it has often happened that the poor man has been starved in the midst of plenty. When the chapel was first named, the trustees had no doubt, but they should succeed to a certain extent, that as they had a friend in hand; and I now congratulate them on their success. (Applause)

The Reverend J Clarkson said in trying to do good the Lord would help us. I'm very glad we are going to have a chapel in this place to the honour and glory of God. The founders of Primitive Methodism could never have anticipated the Connexion's would have made such progress as it has done. I am proud to say that I have been in the Connexion for eight or nine years, and hope to continue as until the last. (Applause)

The Reverend P Aston said- a great amount of perseverance has been exhibited in gaining the object to which we have attained– the foundation stone of the new chapel. It is not genius alone that will ensure success, but labour and toil. He related the case of Columbus and the other eminent men, celebrated for their great perseverance; lightning the same in point of fact to the present attainment of the connection, and went on to say, great labour and perseverance is required in order to better our fellow creatures, but faith and prayer will do nearly everything. We shall scarcely find more philanthropy than in Clewes and Bourne, the founders of our Connexion. The triumph of past victories and trials may encourage us to press onward with perseverance; and always may our motto be "onward and upward". (Applause)

The Reverend J Quarmby spoke at some length on the "Path of Life", giving illustrations of encouragement in a very able manner.

The Reverend J Guest said – We don't want our chapels to lean on the parish, and I hope the good beginning which Mr Goodwin has given us, may lead to others from persons in the same position, to follow his example. He then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Goodwin for his gift, which was seconded by Mr Wood, amidst prolonged cheering. Votes of thanks were also given to the ladies who had assisted at tea; to the owner of the field (Mr Fowler) where the tent was pitched; and to the friends of Broad Lane, who had collected £40 towards the building fund.