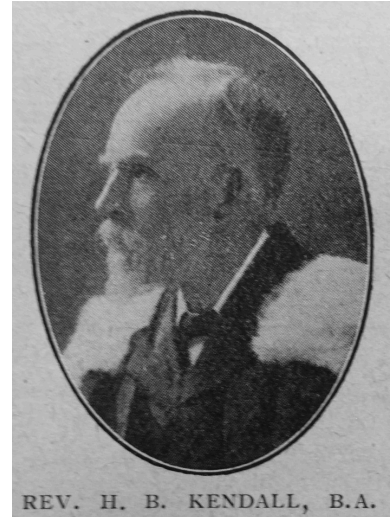


In Memoriam - Rev. H.B. Kendall, B.A.

Transcription of article published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by Rev. Joseph Johnson

THE passing of Holliday Bickerstaffe Kendall into the invisible world removes from our ranks one of our most distinguished veterans. He has been an outstanding personality in the Primitive Methodist Church for nearly half a century, and, notwithstanding his physical disabilities in later years, he has contributed immense influence in shaping its policy and in moulding its character and work. Studied from any and every possible view-point, Mr. Kendall's life, character, and work is suggestive of nimbleness of thought, breadth of vision, clearness of conception, reliability of judgment, nobility of purpose, and intensity of application. It is questionable whether robustness of health would have enabled him to serve God and his generation more efficiently and effectively than he has done under the hampering physical conditions associated with the later years of his useful life. His very physical limitations seem to have forced him into a groove where he found a unique sphere for his exceptional gifts, and in which he has advantageously touched life at more points than might otherwise have been possible.



REV. H. B. KENDALL, B.A.

Kendall is a name that for very many years has stood honourably associated with the Primitive Methodist Church. The father of Holliday Bickerstaffe Kendall was the Rev. Charles Kendall, president of Conference in the early eighties, and in his day one of the leading figures in Yorkshire Primitive Methodism. Charles was one of six brothers who came into our ministry, one subsequently transferring to the Methodist Episcopal Church of America, another to what was then known as the United Methodist Free Church, and a third to the Congregational ministry, the remaining three continuing in the Primitive Methodist Church to the end of their career. It will thus be seen that H.B. Kendall had a notable pedigree, and for quality of mind and disposition of heart he ranked with the best of his antecedents. It is reported that when he was born at Wakefield, 2nd August, 1844, his father prayed that he might be fond of books, and I should say that this prayer was amply fulfilled.

Of his early life it is unnecessary to say much beyond that in his boyhood days he gave evidence of a voracious appetite for reading. Though it is reported of him that he carefully read and digested every book he could lay his hands on, yet his thirsty intellect even then never seemed satisfied. Evidences were not lacking at an early age that he was brainy and thoughtful, and subsequent years amply demonstrated these features in his make-up. He left school for work in a printing house, at the age of fourteen, and at eighteen the great event of his life transpired—his conversion. The surrender of young Kendall to Christ at this period in his career was so real, and the spiritual experience accompanying it so rich, that almost immediately his services were in requisition for preaching the gospel, and into whatever pulpit he went, his fresh thought and easy, natural style made his efforts at preaching a great success; so much so, that in twelve months he found an open door to the ministry, and at the age of nineteen he began his ministerial career at Newcastle-on-Tyne. Here he made a deep impression, remained three years, and his services were greatly appreciated. Subsequently he spent terms of efficient and successful ministry at North Shields, Sunderland and

Durham. Here, in addition to pursuing his work as a circuit minister, he set his mind on winning University distinction, and gave himself with great zest to the University course, and during his subsequent ministry on the Spennymoor Circuit he secured the degree of Bachelor of Arts at Durham University. Middlesbrough next claimed his ministry for five years, and then he removed to Harrogate, where he anticipated exercising a still more successful ministry. But alas! the strain of the previous eight years bore fruit in a complete breakdown of his health at the end of his first year at Harrogate, and all preaching had to be abandoned, at any rate for a time. Being incapacitated only for preaching, he accepted a position as Principal of a training college for young ministers at East Keswick. Here he taught and trained ministers for the churches of America, the Colonies and elsewhere, and exercised a most beneficial influence.

In 1887 the Conference designated him for the position of Connexional Editor, and five years later he took up the duties of the office, which duties he discharged with conspicuous ability and success for a period of nine years. In 1901 he was elected President of Conference, and in spite of physical weakness he worthily filled the position. At the close of his presidential year, he retired from the active ministry and removed to Bournemouth as a superannuate, where for upwards of sixteen years he has used his pen in the interests of his Church and the kingdom of God until his hand lost its strength and he was laid aside for several weeks awaiting the Master's call to higher and fuller service. During his retirement he wrote the monument "History of the Primitive Methodist Church," in two large volumes. Previously he had written a concise shilling "History of the Connexion," which in the last decade of the nineteenth century had secured for him recognition as a born historian. The two-volume edition which he compiled during the earlier years of his superannuation was, however, much wider in its scope, and its completion was regarded as a great achievement. Strange to say, the final piece of literary work he undertook was to re-write and bring up to date the smaller history, which was just completed when his fatal illness overtook him. It was completed in November, and was published only a few weeks before he breathed his last. He saw an early copy of the book, but was too weak to read it. Mention deserves to be made of the fine service he rendered for many years as editor of the *Holborn Review*. He displayed great skill and ability in the editorship of that excellent quarterly, and his own contributions were always eagerly read.

The Hartley Lecture on "Christ's Kingdom and Church in the Nineteenth Century," by Mr. Kendall, in 1901, is also remembered as one of marked ability. We do not forget the "Handbook of Primitive Methodist Church Principles and Polity" he wrote some years ago, nor his numerous articles in our several magazines for many years past. His death on March 10th was a great loss to our Church.

A few months ago, he and his wife were privileged to celebrate their golden wedding, when congratulations from far and near came showering in upon them. It is due to Mrs. Kendall to say in closing, that her constant and tender devotion to her husband contributed much to the usefulness and happiness of our friend's long and unique ministry.

The interment took place at Bournemouth, the Rev. Joseph T. Evans conducting the service, assisted by the Revs. George Armitage (representing the General Committee) and John E. Sunderland. The Rev. Joshua Lindley offered prayer, and the Rev. J.G. Bowran gave an appropriate and sympathetic address.

References

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Transcriber's note: The ?????? refers to a section of text that was not readable in the copy of the magazine that I had access to.