

Rev. William Radnor

Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by John Wilkinson

Rev. W. Radnor was a native of Herefordshire. He had the advantage of pious parents and was trained in a Christian home. In early life he surrendered himself to Jesus as Lord and Saviour and joined our Church in the Ludlow Circuit.

He was soon put on the Local Preachers' Plan, and in 1872 entered the Sunderland Institute for training for our ministry. In 1873 he was stationed at Swansea, and for thirty-seven years has done the hard work of a Primitive Methodist minister. When it is known that he travelled in Monmouth, Pontypridd, Radstock, St. Day, Cwm, Knighton, Marlborough, Yeovil, Motcombe, Buckingham, Spalding, Tarporley, Ashbourne, Bottesford, Witney, and Bristol V., it will be readily understood that he was no stranger to long journeys and the difficulties associated with country circuits.

In each sphere he laboured to advance the cause of God and extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, and in most cases succeeded in making advance. He was a good man, of genial disposition, and spiritually minded. He had the great joy of witnessing some gracious revivals of religion when at St. Day, Cornwall.

His sermons gave evidence of extensive reading and were full of instruction to those who had the aptitude to learn. As a pastor he was indeed diligent, and prepared to make any sacrifice for those in sickness and trial. His social instincts were strong and made him a regular attendant at Association gatherings and District assemblies; and at these he was always prepared to take his full share of work.

He will ever be remembered as a devoted, faithful and earnest minister. How he lived for his circuits and identified himself with the lives of his people! His circuit became ever for the moment the most important plot in the Lord's vineyard, and he gave himself to the promotion of its varied interests with unwearied diligence, with whole-hearted assiduity.

Few would have expected at the last Conference that his earthly course was so nearly run. Careful observers may have noticed that his work was taking a great deal out of him, and no doubt the worry of great financial responsibilities did not a little to lower his strength and sap his vitality. Still none would dream that a life of such usefulness and devotion would so soon be cut short.

He was most fortunate in having the hearty co-operation of a capable and devoted wife, whose labours for the cause were abundant. His daughter and three sons have grown up to be a credit to their parents and a good support to Primitive Methodism. The end came with tragic suddenness on September 17th at the close of a Circuit Committee meeting. Without a moment's warning he dropped dead. Blessed transition! Eternal promotion! He rests in peace.

“With Christ, which is far better.”

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1910/984