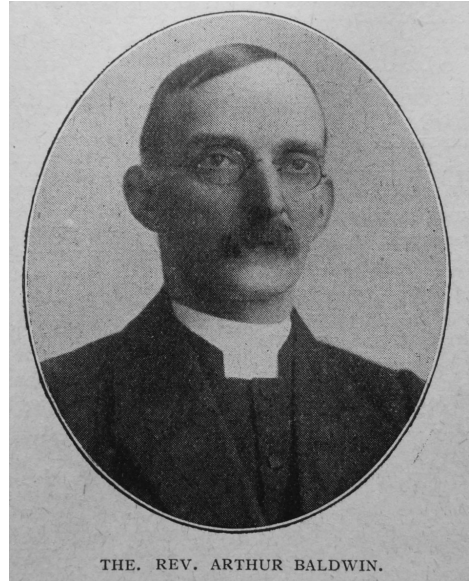


The Financial Secretary

Transcription of article published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by Rev. John G. Bowran

THE Rev. Arthur Baldwin, F.R.G.S., the Financial Secretary, is a worthy successor of the late Dr. Mitchell, and the Revs. H.J. Taylor and John Mayles in this responsible office. It is altogether fitting that one who has been so closely identified with our active missionary service, should become one of the officials of our Missionary Department. Those who know Mr. Baldwin are quite certain that he will more than maintain the good traditions of this position, and that indeed, with his exceptional knowledge and gifts, the position will be magnified.

He was born at Otley, in Yorkshire, on Midsummer Day, 1864. His father, who was a surveyor, was an official of our Church, and his mother for long years an ardent missionary collector. He was educated under Dr. S.R. Kerr, at the collegiate school in Otley. When sixteen years of age he entered a solicitor's office in Leeds. Three years later, with a view to gaining commercial experience, he entered the counting house of a large manufacturing firm.



Invited by Nelson Church, in the Colne Circuit, as a circuit missionary, his first work was the conducting of a fortnight's mission, from which fifty permanent additions to the membership were made. At the candidates' examination he gained eighty-six per cent. of marks, and desired to enter the college. None of that year's candidates, however, were admitted, and he was invited to remain another year at Nelson. From Nelson he went to superintend the Halifax III. Circuit, but his stay there was brief; only nine months, in fact, because he had heard the call to Africa, and in April, 1889, as the colleague of the late Rev. Henry Buckenham, he sailed to found our Central African Mission. He has told how the call came to him. His mother's missionary enthusiasm had its influence upon him. One of the examiners at the candidates' examination surprised him by the enquiry: "Are you prepared to go to Africa?" A year later, when the Rev. W.N. Barleycorn was in this country and visiting Burnley, the query returned with greater insistence. "One morning in September, 1888," he says, "I yielded my life over to God to be used by Him as, and where, He will. I was now prepared to go to Africa or anywhere."

He spent nearly twelve years in the Dark Continent. It is impossible for us even to imagine what those years meant. Returning in 1902 with shattered health, the medical verdict vetoed his return. He has travelled at Brighouse, Nottingham IV., Gainsborough, and at the last Conference completed three years on the Leeds VIII. Circuit. Mr. Baldwin is a great gift of God to our Church. We wish him every success in his new sphere.

References

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