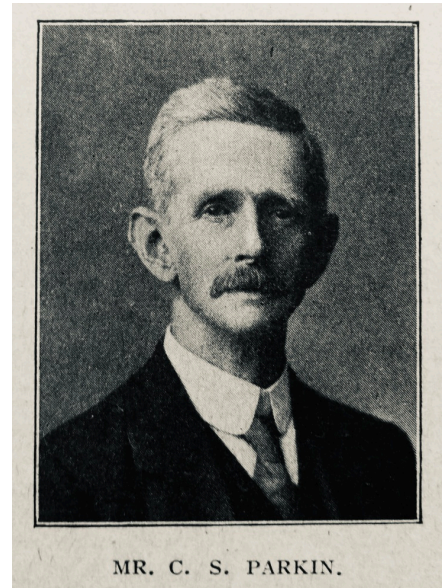


In Memoriam: Mr. C.S. Parkin - Ex-Vice-President of Conference

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

THE late Mr. Chas. S. Parkin was one of the most prominent leaders of our Church, one of its most loyal and generous supporters, a man of lofty character and outstanding ability, a strong and striking personality.

Our friend owed much to his: parentage and early environment. He was a son of the manse. His father, the Rev. Samuel Parkin, was for many years a prominent and trusted leader in the Nottingham District. He possessed great administrative ability and was highly esteemed for his gifts and service. His mother was a devout Christian woman, and her gracious ministry and influence played a great part in the moulding of his early life. He had parents of whom he was justly proud, and the training of his early years was a priceless boon. He built a pure, strong, noble, Christian character. He was a steadfast follower of the Christ he trusted and loved. He had a firm grip of the central verities of our faith, and ever sought to give practical expression to his creed. It was his constant aim to "Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." He placed first things first, and gave supreme care and concern to the supreme things, the spiritual and the eternal.



Mr. Parkin was an earnest and devoted Christian worker from his youth. No man toiled more faithfully and earnestly for his Church and circuit. He grudged neither time, energy nor gifts to promote their welfare. He tendered invaluable service and exerted great influence in Manchester V. Circuit (Stretford), and subsequently in Manchester, XII. (Chorlton-cum-Hardy), in which he was for many years the circuit steward. It is impossible to estimate how much the church at Chorlton owed to his enthusiastic interest, self-sacrificing labour and generous support. In its erection he loyally supported the venerable James Macpherson, its founder, and after Mr. Macpherson's death became largely responsible for its life and work. He did all he possibly could to promote its prosperity.

As a lay preacher, Mr. Parkin ably served our churches far beyond the borders of his own circuit and district. He had lofty conceptions of the nature and duties of the office. He carefully prepared his sermons and delivered them with great force and fervour. His clear, thoughtful, practical messages arrested and held the attention of his hearers, and were always spiritually helpful and uplifting. He aimed at stirring the hearts and consciences of his hearers.

In the administrative work of the Manchester District he took a foremost place. He was for many years a member of various District Committees, and by his wise counsels rendered highly appreciated service. He was especially prominent in the work among the young, and for a long period filled the position of District Treasurer of the Young People's Departments. His business aptitude and brotherly spirit made it a great pleasure to work with him. He was highly esteemed throughout the district and received the highest honours his brethren could bestow upon him,

including the Vice-Presidency of the Synod, which met in his own church at Chorlton-cum-Hardy in 1909.

Mr. Parkin was a strong man Connexionally. He served for many years on the General Sunday-school and other Connexional committees. He was frequently a member of the Conference. He was a familiar figure at these annual gatherings. How he enjoyed attending them! He was an expert in Conference procedure and made his mark by his attention to the business and his keenness and ability in debate. It was but a fitting recognition of his standing and service in the Connexion that at the Reading Conference in 1915 he was elected by his brethren to the high and honourable position of Vice-President. The high distinction was thoroughly deserved, and it was very gratifying to his numerous friends that the Church he had served with such fidelity and efficiency bestowed upon him this highest mark of its confidence and esteem. He filled the chair with marked ability and success. He anticipated a strenuous year of service, but after a few months he had an unfortunate breakdown in health. It is impossible to describe his great disappointment in being unable to carry out his cherished plans in connection with his year of office.

As a Primitive Methodist he was loyal to the core. He served the Connexion with unflagging zeal and devotion, but his sympathies and service were far wider than his own denomination. He was a staunch Free Churchman. He had deeply rooted convictions and was as ready as he was able to expound and defend them. His loyalty to his principles did not make him a bigot. He was a man of catholic spirit and broad sympathies. He was twice President of the Chorlton Free Church Council.

Mr. Parkin was a keen politician, thoroughly conversant with current public questions. He rendered invaluable service in civic affairs and might have occupied, had he been willing, a prominent position in the civic life of Manchester. He was President of the Stretford Liberal Association until necessitated to retire from the position by his regrettable breakdown in health. In 1916, on his return after three months' rest at Bournemouth, the Association held a well-attended meeting and presented him, through Mr. H. Nuttall, M.P., with a beautiful writing desk. He was particularly interested in educational work and gave much time and thought to it. He was an earnest advocate of a truly national system, and laid great stress on the vast importance of the higher pursuits of knowledge. He was to the fore in various social and philanthropic movements and until the last three or four years his life was crowded with activities. It was amazing how he met the enormous demands made upon his time and strength. He was a man with clear vision, sound judgment, brave heart and magnanimous spirit. He was faithful in his household, loyal to his Church, a worthy citizen, a true friend, a good man.

For some time, under doctor's orders, he had given up all public work. In September, 1918, he removed to St. Annes in the hope of deriving benefit from the change, but no permanent improvement was made. On May 8rd, 1919, after a protracted and painful illness, he passed to the higher service. It was a mournful coincidence that, within a month of each other, John Day Thompson, President of the Conference at Reading in 1915, and Charles Samuel Parkin, the Vice-President of the same Conference, were taken from us,

This sketch would be incomplete without a brief tribute to Mrs. Parkin, who for long years was a true helpmeet to her husband. Much that he accomplished could not have been done but for her self-sacrifice and support.

Mr, Parkin is not only enshrined in the hearts of Mrs. Parkin and family, who so greatly miss him, but also in the hearts of a wide circle of friends, to whom his memory will long be fragrant.

References

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