

Alexander Wade Welford

Transcription of Obituary in Minutes of Methodist Conference

Born at Barnard Castle in 1857. The historic associations of the locality and the sturdy independence of its people left an abiding influence upon him. He was a Primitive Methodist of the third generation. After his conversion, it was not long before he was preaching in the village chapels near his home.

In due course he offered himself for the Ministry, and went to his first appointment in the Ludlow Circuit in 1884. This was the beginning of an effective ministerial career. In both town and country circuits he gave himself with unsparing devotion, and was greatly loved in return.

As a circuit administrator he faced difficulties with wisdom and courage. A man of wide human interests, he held very strong convictions concerning many of the public questions of his day. Fearless when those convictions demanded public utterance, he was ever courteous to those who would oppose.

His calm and judicial mind fitted him for the office of District Secretary, a position he occupied for many years. He was a wise counsellor, a true and loyal friend, particularly to the younger men in the Ministry.

In all his work, as preacher, pastor, and administrator, he gave of his best.

Becoming a Supernumerary in 1925, he settled in Poole and continued to give generous service to the churches in the area. Public matters still attracted him. As a member of the Borough Council he rendered valuable service on the Education Committee.

Active to the end, he fell asleep on the 2nd February 1950, in the ninety-third year of his life and the sixty sixth of his ministry.

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References

Methodist Minutes 1950/140

Transcribed by Christopher Hancock