

## **Rev. John Samuel Waltham Stanwell**

### **Transcription of profile published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine**

THE Rev. J. S. Waltham Stanwell is very lovable, and held in affectionate regard by all who know him. The traits combining to make his personality attractive are many—the foremost perhaps being the natural generosity of one who would give rather than receive. His outlook on life is broad; his convictions are deep. He is a wise counsellor and true friend. Troubled hearts find him easy of approach, and instinctively feel their confidences will remain inviolate. He has an almost perilous sense of humour, and funds of irony and sarcasm serve useful ends because redeemed from cynicism by great love to his fellows.

Endowments, both of nature and grace, make him popular on platform and in pulpit. A resonant voice, clear articulation, and choice of picturesque language are among assets that have made him sought after for public occasions.

His keen absorption in circuit work has deepened perhaps rather than widened his influence in our Church. Those associated with him can testify to his shrewdness and success in business, but would pronounce that his vital concern is for affairs spiritual.

A son of the manse, he was born in 1869 at Asken, Bedale, Yorks, his father, the Rev. J. S. Stanwell, of sainted memory, being then stationed at Thirsk.

He was converted at nine years of age in the Gibbet Road Church, Halifax II., Alderman J. Brearley being the school superintendent. After an education at Elmfield he was articled to Mr. T.A. King, the Hereford sculptor, who not only fostered his artistic instincts, but encouraged him towards the ministry, impressed with the character and ability he displayed while accompanying him on note.

The greatest influence upon him, however, was the noble life of his own father, whom he ever revered.

After two years as H.L.P. at Pontypool he spent ministerial probation at Chipping Norton. Thence, after short terms at Malton and Stratford-on-Avon, to Newbury (five years), where he devoted himself with effect to the well-being of the young men of the town.

Coming North, after superintending Pocklington, he moved to Hull VI. (four years), Filey (five years), and Hornsea (six years). He is now in his second year at Lincoln I.

A convinced Free Churchman, he took active part in the Passive Resistance movement, and was the first to be imprisoned in the East Riding for conscience sake.

This sketch would be incomplete without reference to his artistic propensities. Talent that would have carried him far in a solely artistic career he has unstintedly applied to church work. He can use chisel or brush, is extremely musical and a skilled camerist. As a writer and lantern lecturer he is well known beyond denominational borders.

He is, however, best known as the devoted advocate of foreign missions, who directs the lantern slide department, and has produced, the African atlas. To inspire his workers with missionary enthusiasm is his great joy—and he succeeds. His knowledge of the field and keen study of missionary literature, combined with intense zeal, have placed him in constant demand as a deputation.

In his marriage: with Miss Eva Chivers, of Newbury, he found a splendid helpmate as keenly interested in art as himself.

Their little son, Ray—who endears himself to everyone—has brought great joy to their home.—E. S.

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#### References

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