

Matthew Dobinson

Transcription of Obituary in Minutes of Methodist Conference

Born at Seaton Delaval, Northumberland, in 1872. He was accepted for the Primitive Methodist Ministry, and after training at Hartley College served the whole of his probation in the neighbouring town of Ashington.

Here he revealed those all-round qualities that were to distinguish his ministry in a variety of circuits, and won for him the loyalty and affectionate regard of his people.

He lived close to the centre of things, and had a deep understanding of the mystery and wonder of life. He knew that in the heart of God—as well as on Calvary's Hill—there was a Cross, and he was never far from that Cross.

He was conscious of his own need of atoning love, and he knew that others shared that need. It was this that made him such an understanding friend ; that enabled him—shy and sensitive man that he was—to live with courage and dignity amidst the common people.

It was this that gave him the capacity to lead others into the light of eternal life, that compelled him to devote time to the training of young men as ambassadors for Christ.

He had one continuous aim, to serve his Lord and His Church. Skilled in administration, careful in pulpit preparation, forceful in prayer, he sustained extended ministries in Ryton, Prudhoe, and Shildon.

He died on 23rd October 1951 in the fifty-third year of his ministry and the eightieth year of his age.

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References

Methodist Minutes 151/127

Transcribed by Christopher Hancock