

William Brown

Transcription of obituary published in the Minutes of Conference

WILLIAM BROWN: born at Sunderland in 1874. He came of a staunch Primitive Methodist family and was himself a Methodist of the third generation. He owed an immeasurable debt to his parents, whose faith impressed itself deeply on their children. Four of their six sons became Methodist ministers and a fifth entered the Congregational ministry. He was nurtured at Williamson Terrace Primitive Methodist Church, Sunderland, where he became a local preacher. He was accepted for the ministry in 1901, and, standing high on the Candidates' List, was sent immediately into circuit work.

Giving himself unremittingly to the Church he loved, he served her with all his powers, chiefly in the North Midlands, until his superannuation in 1946. Then he retired to Derby, where he had spent two terms of his active ministry. Through all his life he had a virile faith and a capacity to express it, especially when circumstances were unfavourable. He was content with life's simple joys and found Nature a great companion. Above all, he was a man of God, and in God's service his varied gifts found their full expression.

An able preacher, a careful administrator, and a faithful pastor, he was respected for his integrity and valued for the warm friendship he extended to his people. He rejoiced in the companionship of the young, and some of his most valuable work was done among them. Especially he loved the fellowship of his colleagues in the ministry. The latter years of his retirement were clouded by the long illness of his wife, who had so loyally supported him throughout his ministry. He cared for her with the utmost devotion and felt her loss severely. Five months after she died, he too reached life's fulfilment before God's Throne. He passed to his rest on July 31, 1952, in the seventy-eighth year of his age and the fifty-first of his ministry.

References

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