

Elizabeth Vernon, nee Allen

Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by John Graham

Mrs. Elizabeth Vernon, of Ramsor circuit, was the daughter of John and Mary Allen, and was born at Kirkaswald, near Penrith, in Cumberland. She was brought to God in her early days, and became acquainted with the Primitive Methodists soon after their missionaries visited the neighbourhood where she lived, with whom she soon after united in church-fellowship: and being zealous for the Lord of Hosts, and anxious for the conversion of sinners to God, she very frequently took an active part in the religious services, not only at Kirkaswald, but also in some of the neighbouring villages, and became remarkably useful in praying with mourners in Zion, and in directing them to the Saviour. Having a talent for speaking in public, she was often requested to give a word of exhortation, and occasionally she conducted an entire service; but in so doing she met with opposition from different quarters. However, she patiently endured it; and seeing the blessing of God attending her efforts, she persevered in doing good, and her profiting appeared unto all. And it may be truly said of her, that she laboured "much in the Lord." Her zeal for God and the salvation of souls also appeared to increase with the frequency of her public exercises; and she became gradually more fitted for a wider field of labour, and for more extensive usefulness.

She was repeatedly requested to give herself fully to the work of the Lord, and come out to labour in the fields, then white for harvest. To those requests she at length acceded. In the early part of the year 1825 she was called into the vineyard of the Lord, to labour as a travelling preacher in the Hull circuit. She laboured in different parts of that extensive circuit upwards of eighteen months; she then removed to Louth circuit, where she had the happiness of seeing the arm of the Lord made bare, in the salvation of many souls. So great was the revival which took place there, that, according to her journals, for six months together she scarcely ever retired to rest till after midnight, being almost every night engaged till a late hour in praying with mourners. In 1828 we find her stationed for Hull a second time; and the year following her labours were divided between Hull and Pocklington circuits. In 1880, she was stationed for Preston Brook circuit, where she laboured two years, including the part of the time in which she was on the Irish mission and in Scotland, where she was obliged, almost always, to preach in the open air; there being no place sufficiently large to hold the people who flocked to hear her. In 1832 she removed to Tunstall circuit. Two years she travelled in this circuit with great acceptance, and was made a great blessing to many. In 1834 she removed to Macclesfield, where her labours were owned of the Lord to a very considerable extent, and where, according to the statement of brother T. Batty, her name is embalmed in the memory of many who sat under her ministry, and who profited in their souls by her stirring discourses. Many were the seals to her ministry who, if faithful to the end, will be the crown of her rejoicing in the day of the Lord Jesus. In this circuit she ended her itinerant labours, and united in marriage with him who now, with two children, are left to lament their loss. But their loss is her gain.

As a wife she was frugal, industrious, and faithful; as a mother she was affectionate and prudent; as a Christian she was sincere and devout; as a preacher she was fluent in speech, convincing in argument, forcing the word home to the consciences of her hearers; as a leader she was diligent, faithful, affectionate, and attentive to rule. By her death this circuit has lost a useful and valuable member.

After she located she continued zealous, and was very useful in preaching occasional sermons, in which she was frequently engaged; her husband, who is a leader in this circuit, making great sacrifices to oblige our friends in this respect. Since I came into this circuit I have also frequently witnessed her zeal and fervency in praying with mourners. On January 1st, 1850, I was at her house, and conversed with her, and we joined in prayer; but little did I then think that it would be the last time I should meet with her on this side the grave; but so it proved to be. The day following she was taken ill of an inflammation; the physician was summoned, but in vain, - she had finished her work. But her soul was happy in God. To her dear husband she said: "I am packed up, and ready to depart." And with deep feeling she repeated,

"When we tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid each anxious fear subside;
Bear me through the swelling current,
Land me safe on Canaan's side."

It was a season not soon to be forgotten; the power of the Highest rested on all present, the glory of God overshadowed them; the sorrowing relatives and the departing saint were alike brought near to the gates of heaven:

"Night dews fall not more gently to the ground,
Nor weary, worn-out winds expire so soft,"

as fell asleep the valiant and benevolent Elizabeth Vernon, on Tuesday, January 8th, 1850, in the 47th year of her age.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1850/258