

Henry E. Clegg of Leeds

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MR. Henry. E. Clegg is one of two brothers distinguished in Leeds Primitive Methodism. The younger brother, Mr. W. E. Clegg, belongs to our Cardigan Road Church. Mr. Henry Clegg, the elder, though quite young yet, came to our Belle Vue Church, and became a scholar in the Sunday school forty-two years ago. Since then he has taught every class in the school, and been superintendent for twelve years. Two years ago, because of his strong desire to get men into the Church, he helped to start a "Brotherhood," and was appointed the secretary.

For fifteen years he was in the choir, was trust secretary for many years, and for thirteen years he has filled the position of circuit steward. Held in high esteem by the other Churches in Leeds, he has been the President of the Primitive Methodist Council, was Chairman of the Leeds Conference Arrangements Committee, and the Chairman of the Centenary Celebration Committee, which has just completed its work.

In the larger life of the city, his position as a solicitor enables him to render unique service. He is a director of the Leeds Institute, and associated with the Boys' Modern School. In his time he has been active in cricket, has played for Yorkshire in lacrosse, and is now frequently the umpire in various sports.

In his work in the Belle Vue Church he is ably assisted by Mrs. Clegg, who is the only daughter of the late Mr. S.L. Armitage.

Essentially a strong man, he has nevertheless the tender graces of a Christian and a gentleman. When he relinquished his work in the school to take up service in the "Brotherhood," the teachers and scholars presented him with a photograph of himself, which now hangs in the school-room, a testimony to the splendid service he rendered during so many years. As the secretary of the "Brotherhood," he has been successful in building up a magnificent organisation, maintaining a list of speakers and soloists of a high order, and arranging an interesting programme for each Sunday afternoon.

Although fully engaged in numerous spheres of service in the city, he is unfailing in his attendance at the church services, and is scarcely ever absent from the weekly class-meeting and the Sunday night prayer-meeting.

With his wonderful twin capacity for song of a classical or comical order, that stentorian voice of his is in demand for many concerts in his own church and in other associations.



He is also a golfer. As the writer frequently plays with him, the sense of fairness forbids comment. When the little boy was repeating the statement of his teacher that though the peacock's tail was magnificent, the peahen's tail was nothing to speak of, he said, "it was not to be spoken about."

Writing in this happy vein, a suitable though familiar phrase comes to one's mind. He is a fine "big human." Certainly he is big. His humaneness is evident enough, too, because, although hedged about with the law, he is always approachable, always ready to do anybody a good turn in his legal capacity, and a lover of little children.

He is in the prime of life, doing well in his profession, full of good works in his church and elsewhere, as many a charitable institution in Leeds can testify, and we wish for him even brighter and more useful days in the future.

References

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