

John Bell

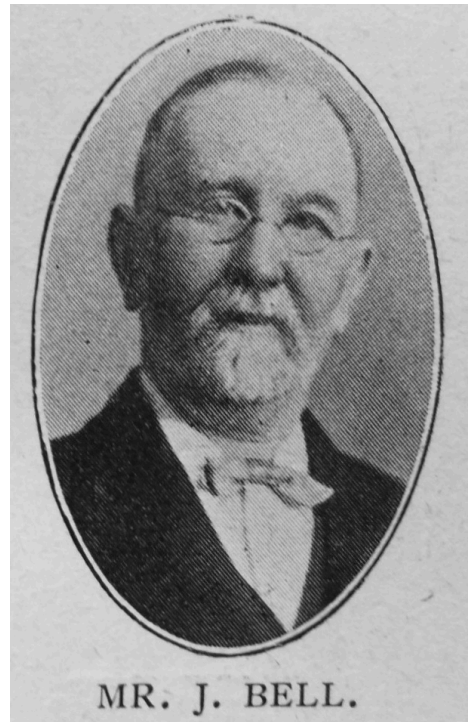
Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by M.J.

John Bell was born at Carville, near Durham, July 1st, 1838. Converted at the age of seventeen he engaged in Sunday school teaching and other forms of service, becoming first class leader, and then, in 1865, local preacher. Steadily he worked his way upwards, and having to reside at several places where we had no services, he at once set about supplying the omission, with the result that Sunday schools were started and chapels erected which are still among the most flourishing in the county. While in full sympathy with other churches, he was first and most of all a Primitive Methodist.

Removing first to Station Town and then to Murton Colliery as assistant manager, in spite of heavy demands on time and energy, he did yeoman service. We never knew a man more punctual or regular in attendance at the services both on week-days and Sundays. It was an inspiration to be with him at the Sunday evening prayer meeting and class meeting.

For some years he was secretary to the trust and treasurer for the circuit houses. To his generosity and sympathy scores of needy institutions and persons can testify! Thrice he went as delegate to District Meeting, and thrice to Conference.

Suddenly and unexpectedly the end came on August 28th, 1915. Rev. F. Firth, B.A., conducted the funeral, assisted by Revs. T. Robson, G. Fawcett, J. Johnson, J. F. Loveday, Canon Firth (Vicar of Murton), and the Captain of the Salvation Army, an address being given by Rev. M. Johnson.



References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1916/157