

## Samuel Barnsdall

### Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by J Tongue

SAMUEL BARNSDALL, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Barnsdall, of Trent Bridge, in the county of Nottingham, was born February 27th, 1836. His parents were formerly members of the Methodist New Connexion, but upwards of eleven years ago they united with our people. At the age of twelve, Samuel sustained a great bereavement in the death of his mother. Early he had to devote his attention and his strength to manual toil; that by the labour of his own hands, he might contribute towards his temporal sustenance. His educational advantages in boyhood were limited; he was, however, for some time trained in a Sabbath-school. During the two years that Mr. Lacey travelled in the Nottingham First Circuit, Samuel was his guide; and about the end of the second year he was converted to God, at the early age of fourteen. From that time, to the close of his short pilgrimage, he persevered in well-doing.

Previous to his conversion he was fond of reading, but afterwards he gave increased attention to mental improvement, and the acquisition of knowledge. In 1852 he was put on the plan of the above-named Circuit, and took his first appointment in August. He gave evidence that he possessed preaching ability, and at the end of six months, he was put on the plan as an accredited local preacher. In 1854 he received a call to the ministry from Hull Second Circuit; but his father being very ill at the time, he postponed his compliance, with the request for a short period. Meantime his father died; and Samuel, after seeing the affairs connected with the death of his parent settled, at once complied with the call, entered the ministry, and dedicated his powers to the sacred work. He subsequently travelled in Patrington Branch, and in Barton, Retford, and Louth Circuits. He entered on his labours in Louth Circuit last July, and attended his appointments until within one month of his death.

His public efforts were rendered a blessing to many. During his short ministerial career, he saw many souls converted. He was much esteemed by the people among whom he laboured; he had the happy art of winning to himself friends by making himself friendly. There was generally a cheerfulness in his countenance, a blandness and freeness in his conversation, and an agreeableness in his deportment, which constrained people to esteem him, and to enjoy his company.

As a student, he meddled but little with the profound and the difficult; he turned his attention, not to those branches of study, which, perhaps, afford the best mental discipline, but to those which he could the most readily turn into the channel of general usefulness. Mr. Dawson, who was his superintendent in Retford Circuit, says, "His talents were I think, respectable; perhaps it would be too much to say, that they were of the order of the first class; nor could he bear up under what may, without attaching anything mean to the term, be called the drudgery of study. Yet he was even here diligent, and taking into consideration the disadvantages for study, necessarily attendant on the duties of a Primitive Methodist minister, perhaps it is not saying too much that he did what he could."

Usefulness was his grand object; the love of Christ constrained him. He was ever suggesting means by which societies might be benefited, and the cause of God advanced. That he was truly pious, multitudes are convinced. "My opinion of him is," says Mr. D., "that he was a very good, prayerful, pious young man; and his going in and coming out among the people did honour to himself, and credit to the Connexion. I say this deliberately of him, after having had, for two years, ample opportunity for judging." The last sermon he preached was at Louth, October 30th, 1859, from Jeremiah viii. 20. He warned the people faithfully, and then told them that he had cleared his blood of them. Thus he finished his work in the ministry, and his warning voice was heard no more.

Having taken cold, it, fixed on him, and brought on the low fever, which was followed by the typhus. As death drew near, he spoke more and more of his Saviour. The Saturday before he died, he on one occasion appeared suddenly to receive a flood of joy, and with renewed vigour he said, "Hallelujah! Glory be to God!"

"How great our joys will be,  
When all the saints get. home."

After this, scarcely a sentence could be understood; his tongue was so parched and swollen, that he could not articulate. A few hours before death, he spoke much; what, we know not; but we often heard the name of Christ escaping his lips. This was enough; we knew he was resting on the Redeemer, and therefore must triumph. As death advanced, his countenance brightened; and a few minutes after twelve o'clock at noon he sweetly fell asleep in Jesus. This solemn event transpired on November 28th, 1859, We mourn our loss, yet we sorrow not as those without hope, for if faithful, we shall meet again.

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#### References

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