

EXTRACTS FROM AARON BELL'S JOURNAL.
Reading Circuit,—1837.

Dear Brother.—As Brother Aaron Bell is now dead, an early insertion of his journal will much oblige your brother in Christ, John Ride.

Thursday, June 22, 1837.— I parted with my parents and friends at the city of Bath, and set off for Reading, my new circuit; where I arrived on Sunday, July 2.

Monday 3.—Spent some time with Bros. Ride, Guy, and Whitfield, to arrange for our future proceedings. At night I preached at Beech Hill.

Tuesday 4.—Visited many families; and preached at Swallowfield. And while directing the people to the Lord Jesus, the Divine power was mightily felt; and in the prayer meeting after, four professed to find liberty.

Wednesday 5.—Preached to a disorderly congregation, near the town hall at Wokingham. The Lord was with me. I had good liberty. After preaching I walked through the street, and gave tracts. Lord, make them a blessing, and open our way in this town.

Thursday 6.—Preached at Lower Earley, after visiting nearly all the families in the neighbourhood.

Sunday 9.—Opened a new place called Sindesham. Preached at Wokingham twice; returned to Reading and assisted at the prayer meeting in the chapel, when two professed to find the Lord.

Monday 10.—Visited many families in Reading; and in the evening led a class, at which one backslider was reclaimed. Praise the Lord for ever and ever.

Sunday, July 16.—Appointed at Waltham St. Lawrence. Got there about nine, and led a prayer meeting. At two I went out into the street, and the members with me. We sung, and a large congregation assembled, who appeared to receive the word, as I preached Jesus to them as an all-sufficient Saviour, for a fallen world. Satan's kingdom begins to shake in this place. He is collecting all his forces to make against us, but we shall conquer through Jesus Christ. In the evening I preached again to many of the same people, at a place near; on the Holy Spirit bearing witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And that night five souls professed to receive that witness. Halleluia to Jesus for ever!

Monday 17. Returned to Reading, and in the evening met class, and found the members in a prosperous state. Thank God.

Sunday, July, 23.—Attended prayer meeting at six. Held a meeting on the Forbury at seven. Preached in Coley street at nine. A good congregation, one wept bitterly. Lord, save her. At ten o'clock I preached in the chapel; it was a good time. At two, o'clock at Chaise Heath. A large congregation. At half-past four at N. Caversham. At half-past six at Reading. A feeling time. This has been a day of much labour; but the Lord helped me. Praise his holy name.

Monday 24.—Walked nine miles to Basildon, to hold a Camp meeting to counteract the revel. We had a good time. The preachers were in the Lord, and had good liberty, while preaching a free, full, and present salvation. We had the largest congregation, and I hope lasting good was done.

Walked five miles more, and preached at Common Hill. Thus ends this day's labour. Thank God for work to do, and a mind to do it,

Friday 98,—Visited many families; preached at Basildon to a large congregation. One cried for mercy, but did not find relief.

Sunday, July 30.—Preached in Reading chapel twice, and once on Forbury. A good day. In the evening three declared that God for Christ's sake, had pardoned all their sins. May they stand till the day of his coming. Amen.

Sunday, August 6.—Preached at Swallowfield morning and afternoon; and at Heckfield in the evening. Returned to Swallowfield and held a prayer meeting. A powerful time. Three professed to find liberty. To the name of the Lord be everlasting praise.

Sunday 20. Appointed to preach Quick's Green chapel anniversary sermons, with Sister M. Ride. A blessed day. In the evening we formed a mourner's ring. One found the Lord; and many were much affected. I expect to see the fruits of this meeting in eternity.

Thursday 24.—Went to Waltham S. Lawrence. Visited several families, and preached in the open-air. A man insulted me by spitting in my face, &c., but God was with us, and we had a good meeting.

Sunday, August 27.—Reading Camp Meeting, the first that had been held near this town. It was a fine day. A great congregation assembled. Many heard the word to profit, and one found the Lord in the lovefeast.

Tuesday 29.—Went to Henley and preached in the open air to a large congregation. A good time. Lord Jesus, clear our way, and save sinners here.

Wednesday 30, —Preached in Henley again this morning to a number of children. Visited many families, and preached at Boyn Hill.

Sunday, Sep. 10.—Went to Henley again. Sung through the town at half-past one, and at half-past four, stopping to pray occasionally. A great many attended the preaching. Processioning is a new thing here. The opposition is great; and I believe our success will be good.

Monday 11. —Attended our quarterly meeting at Reading. It was a day of peace, and encouragement. The circuit is rising.

(To be continued.)

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Reading Circuit,—1837.

(Concluded from page 224.)

Sunday, Sept. 14.—Walked fourteen miles to Marlow, a town we have lately missioned. A little after one, sung to the market-place, and preached to a large congregation. Then moved to the preaching place, singing, praying, and exhorting as we went along. Held a prayer meeting, and formed a society of fourteen members. Lord keep them to eternal life.

At five, preached in the open air, to upwards of four hundred. A solemn time. And returned to Twyford, thankful to God for all his mercies.

Monday, 25.—Walked fourteen miles, visited several families, and preached once.

Sunday, Oct. 1.—Preached twice at Reading; and in the afternoon led a prayer meeting. In the class I heard that a man who had never before been at our chapel, was there this morning, and had gone home deeply convinced. May he become an heir of salvation.

Sunday 8.—Went to Marlow, preached and led class, and joined two. I intended to have processioned and preached without, but the rain prevented.

Sunday, 15.—Preached at Henley, at half-past one, with good liberty.

At half-past four sung and prayed in an open place, and gave an exhortation to the children. Sung to the market-place, and gave an exhortation to an immense multitude. Then sung to the top of a street, and preached with the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven.— Some one threw an egg, and splashed my coat. But it was a good day. Praise God.

Tuesday, 17.--Went to Henley, visited several families, and preached to a large congregation.

Wednesday, 18.—Visited thirty families at Henley. Then went to Marlow, and seeing four or five children in the street, I shook hands with them, and commenced talking to them. There was soon about fifty. The Lord blessed what was said both to children and parents. One person was powerfully wrought on, and has since become a member. To Jesus be all the glory.

Sunday, Oct. 29.—Preached twice at Marlow. Led prayer meeting and class, and one joined.

Monday, 30.—At Marlow: a fellowship meeting. We made a mourners' ring. Several came forward to be prayed for. The power of the Lord came down; sinners cried for mercy, others shouted for joy. Four professed that God, for Christ's sake, had pardoned their sins. Halleluia for ever.

Sunday, Nov. 12.—At ten, preached and led class at Burghfield, and one joined. Returned to Reading; baptized a child, and gave an exhortation to parents.— We had a blessed time, and one professed to find the Lord.

Sunday, 19.—Preached at Longmore at nine, Beech Hill at two, and Grazley at five. The Lord made bare his arm and converted two souls; and we left one in distress.

Monday, 27.—Visited several families, and preached at Lambeth Hill, and joined one. Tuesday, 28, preached at Grazeley, and joined one. Praise God. His work is going on.

Sunday, Dec. 3.—Preached in Reading chapel twice, to large congregations. In the prayer meeting at night the mighty power of the Holy Ghost came down, and two souls were converted. To the name of the Lord be all the glory, now and ever.

Tuesday, 5.—After visiting many families, I preached at Burghfield. A good time. One joined.

Sunday, Dec. 10.—Attended a missionary meeting at Reading.— it was encouraging to hear how the mission work was going on. I long for that day when the kingdoms of the world shall become the kingdoms of the Lord.

Monday 11.—Attended the quarter-day at Bradfield. A day of peace and harmony. At night souls were converted.

Sunday, 17.—Led class in Reading. Five joined society. In the evening the power of God came down, and four professed to find peace with God.

Thursday, 21.—Went to Boyne Hill. Visited several families, and preached. Rather a hard time.— After preaching, a man said, he came merely out of curiosity. He had been a hearer at different places all his life, and his heart was hard. But he now wept, and cried for mercy, and the Lord pardoned him. Also three others professed to receive the same blessing.

Sunday, Dec, 24.—Preached at Marlow twice; led class, and held a prayer meeting. Three converted: joined two.

Christmas Day.—Preached at Marlow morning and evening. Two more were converted, and two joined. All glory to Him, who on this day came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost.

Sunday, Dec. 31, 1837.—Preached at Kingwood. Then led a lovefeast at Kidmore End. The ungodly interrupted, so that we did not see much visible good. But the matter is with the Lord. I returned to Reading, and attended the watch-night. One was in distress, but did not get through.— Thus ends another year, which has been the best year of my life,
Aaron Brett.

(Approved by the Quarterly Meeting, held at Reading, Sept. 10, 1838.)

Brother Bell has since died in the Lord. Death has uncovered the face of eternity before him; and the Lord has given him to see of the reward of his pious and zealous labours.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1839/223; 1839/290