

## Richard Bentley

### Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by E. Ball

RICHARD BENTLEY was born at Newport, in Shropshire, February 9, 1809. His youth, so far as we know, was free from those sins which blacken and embitter the lives of some men. He was quiet and gentle in his demeanour and bearing; but, withal, a stranger to the saving grace of God. It was under the ministry of the Rev. G. Dobson that he was led to Christ and obtained the pardon of sin through faith in the blood of sprinkling. After his conversion he manifested a desire to be useful, and was put on the plan as an exhorter, and shortly afterwards was called into the ministry. Through circumstances of a discouraging nature, he abandoned the work for a time and returned home to his friends, but felt that he had been too precipitant, and applied to be again received into the ranks of the ministry. His request was granted, and his name once more appeared on the printed stations.

He travelled in the following stations: Wrockwardine Wood, Prees Green, Ludlow, Dudley, Cwm, Bromyard, Birmingham, and Redditch, with acceptance and success. Several years after finishing his probation he entered into the marriage state with Miss Sarah Lea, the widow who now mourns his loss. In 1858 his health failed, and he was superannuated, and came to reside in Hereford, where he spent the last twenty years of his life.

For the last twelve months of his sojourn on earth, he suffered much affliction, but bore it with patience. The writer saw him several times while ill, and found him calmly trusting in the merits of his Saviour. Among his last utterances were the following, 'My hope is in Christ. He will save me. I shall be eternally saved through the blood of the Lamb. I fear no evil.' He fell asleep in Jesus on Saturday, June 1, 1878, in the seventieth year of his age, and was interred in the cemetery at Hereford on Thursday, June 6.

Like other men he had his failings, and no doubt was conscious of them; but he also had his excellences — he was a peace-maker. In his will he has left £1,000 towards the funds of our new chapel in Hereford, for which a freehold, eligible, and splendid site has recently been obtained.

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#### References

*Primitive Methodist Magazine* 1878/651