

Transcription of Journal Extracts published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine

ON THE WORK OF GOD IN KEIGHLEY CIRCUIT, 1826.

March 21, 1826—I preached at Botany, near East Morton, to a serious congregation; some penitents groaned to be delivered from the horrible pit. The Lord displayed his mighty power to save, and brought three of them up out of it, set their feet upon a rock, and put a new song in their mouths; a song of salvation, Halleluia.

25—Fellowship-meeting at Keighley. The Lord dwells in Zion, to comfort, direct, and strengthen, his people; as also to: comfort them that mourn. One soul got liberty to-night, and two the last fellowship-meeting. Also one, while a local brother preached last Monday night.

27— Preached at Keighley, held a leaders'-meeting, excluded five members for neglecting their class, and admitted twenty-one on trials.

April 4—Preached, at West Morton: a powerful, time. Held a leaders'-meeting, the first in this place, and admitted ten on trial: . most (if not all) of whom enjoy the true fellowship of Jehovah.

7— Attended my class; about forty people, it was a profitable season. Six persons gave in their names, to join.

8—To-night the fellowship-meeting commenced at seven. o'clock, and continued four hours and twenty minutes. One soul saved, more seeking.

15—Fellowship-meeting. A glorious time; heaven begun below. One got justified, and two sanctified wholly.

Sunday, April 16—Attended, six o'clock, prayer-meeting; one or two seeking the Lord. Hastened to Harden to hold a camp-meeting. We had as many in the forenoon as could be expected. Some got awakened.

In the afternoon about as many attended as could hear; and all behaved well. It was a mighty time; the power of God seized the hearts of many; tears descended in abundance; and, towards the close, seriousness and solemnity seemed to pervade the camp. I spoke from 2 Cor. v. 20, after exhorting them to be reconciled to God; I urged them no longer to halt between two opinions, but to return home, either the decided friends or enemies of God; and as many as were on the Lord's side, and determined for heaven, to manifest it by lifting up their hands. Many resolved, decided, and raised their hands in favour of religion. At this moment divine glory seemed to rest upon the camp. To me it was a satisfying and an affecting sight; so many acknowledging the Lord among the people.

I then cried out, as many of you as are determined to serve sin and the devil, and to be the decided enemies of God; lift up your hands." Not a hand was raised. Sinners are cowards; some seemed struck with seriousness, others appeared to be abashed and confounded.* Doubtless many who were there, do by their conduct declare in the favour of sin and satan, and say of Christ; "We will not have this man to reign over us." Then why did they not declare themselves the enemies of God to-

day? Were even their infatuated minds struck with horror at the idea of doing that with a hand which they do by the whole of their conduct? O Lord, do thou in thy boundless goodness pour light into those benighted minds.

After the camp-meeting we held a lovefeast in the chapel at Rycroft A mighty moving: some in the gallery were seeking the Lord. After the close of this glorious lovefeast, I returned to Keighley, weary in body but happy in mind.

May 6—Fellowship-meeting, It was not very powerful till we called a prayer-meeting, when three souls obtained salvation through faith in the Divine Redeemer.

9—Preached at Keighley in the afternoon, and Scartop at night. One soul received Christ by faith, while I spoke from Rev. iii. 20. It was a powerful time.

12—In Harden, one of the best seasons I ever witnessed: two have got liberty here this week. I renewed tickets. Thirty-four in society, (Rycroft included,) about six months ago we had only four,
“The little cloud increases still.”

19—Met my class, it was too large, so we joined one out of it of sixteen members. We have upwards of twenty left. It was as profitable a time as ever I enjoyed.

Sunday 21—At ten o'clock, at Morton Banks. A mighty influence attended the word; one man awakened. At half-past one o'clock held a lovefeast at Keighley.

More people than on any former occasion. They spoke so quick, and were so desirous to confess what Christ had done for them, and what the Holy Spirit had wrought in them, that it was difficult to keep them from speaking together; so many beginning at once, that I could not tell either who begun first or who ought to speak next. Sinners wept, trembled, and cried for mercy; while, among believers, the falling tear! the sonorous voice! the sweet halleluia! and the powerful amen! displayed that the Lord was at work among the people. Three souls got plunged by faith in the fountain open for sin and uncleanness, More were struggling to lay hold of the hope set before them, so that, although the preaching service should have commenced at five o'clock, it was near six before we could get them from their knees.

May 29—We held our Quarter-Day, and have added during the quarter forty-eight; making one hundred and eighteen for the last half-year.

“Who, I ask in amaze, hath begotten me these?
Yea, I ask from what quarter they came?
My full heart, it replies, they're born from the skies
And give glory to God and the Lamb.”

June 4—Held a lovefeast at Morton Banks. I left them praying with the mourners, and preached at Keighley at five o'clock in the chapel; and at seven by the Low Bridge, in the open air. A large attentive congregation; and one got liberty at a prayer-meeting held after.

June 18—Attended the camp-meeting at Keighley. About eight o'clock we held a prayer-meeting for half-an-hour in the chapel, then sung through the street, as a little army sounding to battle. Our fortitude, courage, and faith, increased while we sung. The travelling and local preachers led the van; the leaders, followed close to them, and the members and hearers brought up the rear. We opened the meeting with prayer, and continued the service with preaching, (about twenty minutes each,) exhorting; and twice we went out for prayer-meetings. The manner of conducting the meeting; was much the same after dinner; only about sixteen or eighteen pages (selected for the purpose,) of the History of the Primitive Methodists, was read, with occasional remarks. This had a good effect; the congregation was very large; souls were awakened on the ground.

But it was at the lovefeast held after the camp-meeting, especially, that the power of God was made known. If ever I saw the glory of God rest upon a congregation, or felt it in my own soul, it was at this lovefeast. To all appearance, almost every heart melted before the power of God. We could sing,—= :

“Satan feels his power is gone;
He falls like lightning from his throne,
Hosannah to the Lamb of God.”

How many were awakened I cannot tell, but seven souls got delivered from bondage into liberty. The prophet cried, “Unto him shall the gathering of the people be,” and they are coming to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

J. BOWES

*Some who were awakened at this camp-meeting have since got converted and have joined society, Lord keep them.

References

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