

Thomas Haslam

Transcription of Journal Extracts published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine

SHREWSBURY CIRCUIT.—MISSION to IRELAND, 1832.
(Journal of Thomas Haslam.)

Sunday, April 1, 1832. In the evening preached in Shrewsbury chapel, for the last time previous to my going on the Irish mission. There was an overflowing congregation, and many in tears.

Monday, April 2. At seven this morning we held a prayer meeting in the chapel: many attended, and it was a good time. I do believe God will hear their prayers in behalf of Ireland. At eight o'clock I took an affectionate leave of the friends, and, setting off on the coach, arrived at Liverpool in time to assist the brethren there in a missionary meeting. Brother F.N. Jersey, from Preston Brook, and Br. Joseph Hutchinson, from Chester, were present; and I was happy in their company.

Friday, April 6, Brothers Oliver and France accompanied me to the ship, where we found many friends waiting. The vessel left George's Pier-head a few minutes past two o'clock, p.m. (afternoon,) but it would be difficult to describe my feelings at this important moment. I thought of the many blessed seasons I had enjoyed among the brethren, on the happy shore of my native land.

My attention was soon called by the blaspheming of some of the passengers. It would have been unwise to have reproved them while in their rage; but I thought to take the earliest opportunity to introduce religion; and it was not long before I was favoured. The passengers became more acquainted with each other, the night coming on, and there being a pleasant sea, they joined in requesting some one to sing a song. I observed, if it were agreeable, I would sing; and I sung—
“ My soul's full of glory,” &c,

They appeared much delighted with the words. A female* then sung another hymn; after which, they joined in requesting me to pray with them. I readily complied; and, after this, the conversation turned on religious subjects, and there was no more swearing during the whole voyage.

Saturday, April 7. This morning, about five o'clock, we had a view of the Irish shore, and about eight we landed at Belfast, after a pleasant voyage of eighteen hours. Praise the Lord for journeying mercy.

I spent a great part of this day in looking through the town for a suitable place to fix my stand on the coming sabbath.

Sunday, April 8. The morning showed for rain, but towards noon the sun broke out, and seemed to invite me to my work. At one o'clock I stood up in Smithfield market-place, and began to sing, and soon had a considerable number of people. After prayer, I began to preach the word of life; but in about twenty minutes some Roman Catholics made disturbance; but I went on, finished the service, and published to preach there again at five. Many gave great attention, and I believe good was done. One young woman, with her father, kindly took me home and made me welcome.

At five o'clock I commenced, and soon had a large company of attentive hearers. But one disturber interrupted me, but was soon taken to the prison by two police officers. After this, another man interrupted me, and was speedily also taken to prison, And after I had concluded many showed marks of kindness. May the Lord hear the prayers of his people, and revive his work,

* This young woman has since become a member of our society.

Monday, April 9. This morning the two men were brought up before a bench of magistrates; but as they expressed great contrition, they were fined two shillings and sixpence each, and discharged. The magistrates treated me with kindness, and said I should be protected in the discharge of my duty.

At night, preached at a place called Campbell's Mill; a good time. Many people offered me a house to preach in. To God be all the glory.

Tuesday, 10. My way is opening, and I believe our people will be a blessing in Ireland. Preached in Brown-street, Belfast, to a large congregation. I had liberty in speaking, and good was done.

This day I have taken a large room, sixty-seven feet long, by twelve wide, for the use of the P. Methodists in Belfast.

Sunday, April 15, Preached in the market-place, and was interrupted by a publican, who is a Roman Catholic; the police took him to prison, and the next day he was fined five shillings, and discharged. These fines are given to the poor. The publican afterwards brought the police-men up for false imprisonment, and gave a lawyer one pound to plead his cause. But when the lawyer heard the case opened, he refused to plead, and gave his fee with the fine to the poor.

Monday, 16. Preached at Campbell's Mill, and formed a society of four members.

Tuesday, 17. Preached in Brown-street, and added five members to the society. There is a move among the people, and sinners begin to cry for mercy.

Sunday, April 22. Met the class in our large room for the first time; and it was a very powerful meeting. The Lord is with us.

Tuesday, 24. Preached at Whitehouse, a village about three miles from Belfast. Gave an account of our people, and published to preach again next week.

Sunday, April 29. Preached in our large room twice, and once in the market-place. Joined some in society, and many seemed to get good.

Monday, 30. Preached at Campbell's Mill. The word ran, and was glorified. Many souls in distress; many cried aloud for mercy, and some found liberty. To God be all the glory.

Thursday, May 3. Preached at Whitehouse, and held a prayer meeting. Joined ten in society. To God be glory.

There is a prospect of great good by our people in this country. During the last eight or ten days, I have joined upwards of sixty in society, and about twelve souls have professed to find liberty from the guilt of sin. The work is breaking out on every hand. We have about eighty in society, and are expecting a greater work. May the Lord of the harvest send forth labourers. Amen.

T. HASLAM.

Belfast, June 25, 1832.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1832/426