

Rev. Thomas Lagar

Transcription of obituary published in the Minutes of Conference by G Bicheno

THOMAS LAGAR.—Serious heart trouble compelled the Rev. Thomas Lagar to seek superannuation in 1909 at the comparative early age of fifty-five years, and from that time until his death he lived in rigid retirement from ministerial work.

He was born at Glasgow in 1855, and entered into his rest at Lytham on May 6th, 1914, He began the work of local preaching when eighteen, and entered the Sunderland College in 1876, when twenty-one. Ever manifesting a high type of Christian character and a fine devotion, he was privileged to win in marked degree the confidence and affection of the people in his various stations, and to see many added to the churches. 'Within the Manchester District,' a leading minister writes, 'his name is still treasured as a sacred memory, He tackled two difficult stations from which hope had fled, and lifted them out of the wilderness towards the sunrising.'

As a pastor he excelled, and showed a singular diligence and winsomeness in visiting; he was also a wise and judicious superintendent. The long years of suffering, borne with a rare charm and courage, approved him of those choice souls whom the Lord loveth, the while He chasteneth. The remembrance of his victory over pain and weakness while in them will live as an inspiration to all who knew him.

The Rev. James Travis gives the following testimony: 'I had something to do with making the Rev. Thomas Lagar a local preacher forty years ago, and I have had a general knowledge of his life and work to the time of his death, He was in endowments, gifts and preaching ability a good average Primitive Methodist minister while in spiritual character, ethical conduct, transparent sincerity and conscientious discharge of his duties he stood in the foremost ranks. He belonged to a type of ministers to whom our Church is much indebted. They never attain to what is called fame, but they preach the saving evangel with spiritual fervour and common sense, and shed around them a godly influence as they go in and out amongst their people and point them to heaven and lead the way, and their churches highly esteem them in love for their work's sake.'

For the last two or three years of his life Mr. Lagar was in membership with our new station at St. Annes-on-the-Sea. His body was laid to rest in the beautiful churchyard of 'Leafy Lytham,' the Rev. T. Parr, M.A., conducting the service, but his spirit realises now that hope 'blooming with immortality and eternal life' faintly paralleled in the sweet blossoming of May so abundant here.

References

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