

Rev. Benjamin Moore

Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by S Geo. Delafield

The Rev. Benjamin Moore entered the ministry in 1894, after the usual training at Hartley College. Thirty-one years is not a long ministry measured in time, but measured in quantity and quality of achievement Benjamin Moore's service was a big contribution to our Church and to that kingdom of righteousness which knows no denominational boundaries. He worked hard to qualify himself for his calling, and was a diligent student up to the last, with the result that his preaching was increasingly fresh and virile and his public utterances the more eagerly welcomed as the years passed.

Benjamin Moore never ceased to grow. He spent his probation at Gloucester, followed by five years on the Walkden Circuit, with the Rev, German Hunt as superintendent and the writer as third man. Never could a probationer fresh from college have a better superintendent and colleague to work with. No one could be dull in Benjamin Moore's company. His wit and humour was unfailing and his laugh infectious. What happy times we spent together! How sweet their memory still! After leaving Walkden our brother was in turn superintendent at Lowton, Stockport, Ashton-under-Lyne, Workington, Luton and Heywood. In each of these circuits he displayed tact and good judgment in business affairs, and on each of them witnessed gratifying progress in the churches under his charge.

His kindly nature, transparent character and cheerful spirit endeared him to many, and wherever he went he diffused the radiant hope and gladness of his own warm heart and enriched mind. He was an able preacher, his sermons showed originality of thought and were freely illumined by choice and apt quotations from his extensive reading. He prepared carefully for the pulpit, but when in the pulpit was always master of his subject and absolutely free from the use of notes. He was equally successful as a speaker on the public platform, when his ready wit and abundant humour were allowed fuller play.

Benjamin Moore was deeply interested in social questions — and was ever ready to expound and advocate the Christian solution. He once confessed himself a Fabian by tradition and temperament, in favour of revolution by reform rather than reform by revolution. He quoted approvingly Will Crook's dictum that it takes three generations to solve a social problem—one to get at the facts, another to get at the cause, and a third to get at the remedy. He insisted that passion needed to be guided by knowledge, that social reform must be intelligent as well as impulsive,

As a Connexional man and as a District official he rendered valuable service, particularly in the young people's department. As C.E. Secretary and as Sunday School Secretary for the Manchester District, his work was conspicuously successful. He served on various Connexional Committees, including the General Committee, the Hartley College Committee, the General Sunday School Committee, and the Committee on Methodist Union.

Benjamin Moore was fond of literature and his hobby was literary work. He had a good literary style. Several short stories and more than one serial from his pen were published in *The Methodist Leader* and the Connexional magazines, where they found a large number of appreciative readers.

He was born near Haworth; his mother was in Charlotte Bronte's Sunday school class, and one of the three curates in "Shirley" visited his grandfather. It is in this West Moorland, made famous by the Bronte family, that his best stories have their setting. In the opinion of the writer, however, Mr. Moore's best literary work appeared in *The Holborn Review*, *The Quiver* and *The Aldersgate*. These articles were invariably characterised by felicitous phrasing and clear thinking.

As a member of the Ministerial Association his contributions were eagerly anticipated and always highly appreciated by his brethren.

Mr. Moore passed peacefully on to the Homeland on November 27th last, after a long illness borne with great fortitude and patience. His passing, when larger prospects and wider fields of service were opening up for him, is one of those inscrutable events which perplex our limited judgments.

“If we could push ajar the gates of life,
And stand within and all God’s workings see,
We could interpret all the doubt and strife,
And for each mystery could find the key.”

The interment took place at Heywood and was attended by several officials and representatives of the Connexion and by ministers and friends from all the local churches. The Rev. German Hunt delivered a tender and beautiful address, full of sympathy and Christian hope. Professor Humphries, M.A., the Revs. C. Humble, H.E. Ross, M.A., and J.E. Woodfield also took part in the last rites. For Mrs. Moore, a sister of the Principal of Hartley College, and of the Rev. F. Pickett, our prayers shall ascend that in her loneliness she may be supported by the God of all grace and consolation.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1926/656