

Extracts of Francis Jersey's Journal published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine 1823

a) 1823/168

THE KENDAL MISSION.

KENDAL is a large town in the county of Westmoreland, and this mission was undertaken by Hull circuit.

We shall give an account of it by inserting extracts from Francis Jersey's Journal, for 1822.

MAY 24. Set off from Silsden on a mission to Kendal, and arrived on the 25. May the missionaries' God be with me. Amen.

May 26. Preached at Kendal for the first time, at half-past three, in a barn, to a good company of people. A good time. The master was there to do the people good. Preached again at six, in the open air, having a large stone for a pulpit. Evident good was done; the people came to me weeping, and asked where we should hold a prayer meeting. I informed them, and they came, and blessed be God, he was there: one woman fell down and began to cry for mercy, the Lord set her soul at liberty. Others began to weep, and the Lord set two or three more souls at liberty. O Jesus ride on.

May 27. Intended to open a fresh place, but the rain prevented: Held a prayer meeting at Kendal. There was a cry out for mercy; the Lord set one at liberty, and others were under conviction. May 28, Preached at Fell Side, a place where a number of poor people live. Two drunken men came by and made an outcry, but soon made haste to get out of the sound of the gospel. When I was speaking on death, a woman fainted, and fell to the ground. Some came weeping and said they wished to go to heaven. We held a prayer meeting, and several were in distress. May the Lord comfort them. May 29. Held a class meeting: numbers seeking the Lord, and thanking God that ever the Primitive Methodists came to Kendal. Added eight members. Praise the Lord for ever.

"He is bringing to his fold,
Rich and poor and young and old."

May 30. A small company of us sung through the streets of Kendal. Numbers came out flocking like doves to the windows. A man came running with a chair, and I preached to a large company of people. May 31. Went to open Milthorp near the sea side. It begun to rain, but I stood up under a walnut tree; several came to hear, and the word reached one aged woman's heart, near the borders of eternity.

Sunday, June 2. In the morning held a prayer meeting, preached in the afternoon, and again in the evening, to a great concourse of people: numbers were melted into tears. Held a prayer meeting after; one woman cried aloud for mercy; God set her soul at liberty. Some more were in distress, and another woman got liberty. Praise the Lord for ever. Amen. June 3. Went to open Sedburgh, Many people were waiting at the market cross, numbers followed me through the streets. I stood in a cart and preached. The God of Elijah was present and worked on the hearts of the people. A quaker who stood by was cut to the heart; he said the days of John Wesley were come again. O what a prospect of good being done in this vale. The harvest truly is great. The Lord send labourers. Amen.

June 7. Preached at Cockbeck The Master was at the feast. Some were in tears. Held a prayer meeting. The house was filled; numbers were in distress but did not get liberty. May the Lord comfort them.

(To be continued)

b) 1823/259

**HULL CIRCUIT.
ULVERSTONE MISSION, IN LANCASHIRE.
EXTRACT OF F.N. JERSEY'S JOURNAL. 1823,**

“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, even as is with you: and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.” 2 Thess, ili. 1, 2.

MARCH. 26. I arrived at Kendal in Westmoreland. March 27, Rested at Kendal, and visited a number of our friends, who were glad to see me. Truly as iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance. of his friend. March 29. Set off to Ulverstone and travelled over the craggy mountains of Westmoreland. I kneeled down and praised God that I was going upon such an errand of merey. Got off my knees and pursued my way till I arrived at my journey's end. My body was fatigued, but my soul was looking up to that rest that remains fur the people of God.

March 30. In the morning met a class, a good time. At two o'clock spoke in the room to about thirty, and at six to about the same number. This was very discouraging, but being a wet day, I could not get out of doors to speak the word of life. May the Lord of life and glory revive us. Amen,

April 3. This morning I spent in my room, thinking what a hardened, wretched place I was stationed in, and what was best to be done for the salvation of souls; for scarce any came to hear, either Methodists or Ranters. After some consideration, I resolved to get on my knees, and pray and wrestle a few times with the Lord, and then visit the people from house to house, and invite them to come to the preaching. I Visited about 150 houses, entreating them to come and hear. I spoke at night to about forty souls, A good time. When I had nearly done speaking a drunken man came in, and the power of God cut him to the heart. He smote upon his breast and said, “I have robbed my soul.” I prayed with him, and told him to go to bed and get sober, and then pray to God for mercy.

April 6. . This morning went to open Dalton. Preached at the market cross to about two hundred. A good time. Came to Ulverstone and spoke at two o'clock, at the market cross to about 800 people, who had gathered together to hear what this babbler had to say. When I told them of their sins they laughed at me. But this did not move me, my feet were upon the rock of ages.

April 7. Went to open Broughton. Spoke at the market cross. Some set the bells a ringing, so that I could not hear myself pray. After a time they gave over and I spoke, and the Lord was there.

April 8. - Came to Ulverstone, and held a prayer meeting. One woman seeking Jesus. May God set her soul at liberty. O Lord revive thy work.

April 9. Met a class. A powerful time, One man who was seeking Jesus said he could stop all night. Praise the Lord. for ever.

April 13. Spoke at Dalton, at nine o'clock, at the market cross to a great many people. The Lord was there and good was done. Spoke at two at the market cross at Ulverstone. After I had prayed and was giving out my text, a drunkard came with a pot of beer and asked me to drink. I told him the Lord was here, and all the people laughed at me, to confound me. But I got on my knees again, and prayed with all my might and the Lord came down, and I spoke on without interruption A good time. Spoke again at six at the meeting house. A powerful time. Held a prayer meeting after. Some souls seeking Jesus. May the Lord deepen the wound and then heal them for his name's sake. Amen.

April 15. Held a prayer meeting at Ulverstone. A powerful time. Some hearts were softened. The persecutors at the outside were fit to shake the windows to pieces. After we came out, they followed us home, playing music and cursing us; but we praised God.

April 17. Spoke at eight in the evening, to a great many people. A drunkard came to stone me, with some great stones in his hand. But a friend took them out of his hand. A good time. Praise the Lord for ever. Amen.

April 18: Spoke at: Dalton market cross. A good time. Praise the Lord for ever,

April.20. This morning set off to Dalton. When I got to the cross I began to sing. The head gentleman of the town, and two constables came to pull me down, He asked me what my name was. I told him. He set it down. He asked me what my trade was. I told him a preacher of the gospel. I sung away, and got upon my knees and prayed. He called on the constable to take hold of me. But the power of God smote the constable, so that he trembled every limb; he pulled off his hat to take hold of me, but had no power to touch me. The gentleman laid hold of my hand, and told me to give over; and he began to tremble. I never opened my eyes, but prayed on. They went to the people, and told them if they stood to-hear, it would be worse for them; and then they left us. I spoke on, and truly the Lord was there, and good was done.

April 27. Went to Broughton Got upon the market cross, and began to sing. Two drunken men came and began to sing songs, and make a noise. I told them God would reckon with them if they did not be quiet. But one of them cursed me, and told me to come down. I told him I should not come down till I had spoken the word of life to the people. So he came and pulled me off the cross. I got up again, and got upon my knees, and prayed for him. And the time I was praying they both shouted in my ears. But I prayed on, and they went away. But as soon as I had done praying and begun to-sing, they came again, and pulled me down. I got up again One of them swore he would kill me if I did not give over. I told him I was willing to die for my master's sake. He then dragged me off the cross, tore all my coat, and dragged me down the street on purpose to thrust me out of the town. But another man came to my assistance and delivered me out of the hands of this uncircumcised Philistine; and the best of all, God gave me patience to suffer whatever this wicked man could inflict on me. I went to the cross and sung and prayed, and spoke the word of life, and the Lord was with me. Praise him for ever. After speaking I came home. While I mused on the road, the fire kindled in my heart, and I had in my soul a little heaven. The next morning when I waked, I found my body was sore; and some places in my arms, where these wicked men had nipt me, were bruised. But what does my soul good is, — glory is at the end. Praise God.

April 30. Went to Dalton to speak the word of life. When I was going to speak a friend told me a gentleman in the town, (if I may call him so,) had hired three men to blow some horns, to hinder the people from hearing the word of life, and me from speaking. I got upon the market cross, and committed the cause in which I was engaged, into the hands of my blessed master, who does all things well. I began to sing praises to God, with three horns and a large watchman's rattle making a din in my ears. I kneeled down and prayed, and shouted glory to Jesus as loud as I could. They then put the horns to my ears till they made me quite dizzy in my head. I got off my knees and shouted glory to Jesus, I can praise thee amidst all the din of hell. By this time, numbers of people had gathered together. I told them my soul was happy in the midst of all this; and they wondered, and every one seemed to pity me; for they shook their heads as I went down the street, and said, "Poor man." My soul was so happy I could do nothing but smile and shout glory.

May 1. Spoke at Ulverstone, a powerful time. Held a prayer meeting after. Two or three seeking Jesus, but did not get liberty. May the Lord comfort them.

May 4. Spoke at Backboro'. A good time, Some professed to find good under the word. Praise God. Came to Ulverstone. Spoke to a large congregation in the open air A good time. Held a prayer meeting after in the meeting house. About 100 attended, and we had a good time, This is the beginning of good days in this place. Praise the Lord.

May 5. Spoke at Broughton, at the market.cross. A deal of rabble round about, but some paid attention. Came to Ulverstone that night. Just as I was coming out of the town, a lawyer swore he would send me to the house of correction. I told him to get upon his knees and pray for his soul, and left. him. May the Lord save my soul.

May 7. Met the preachers' class at Ulverstone, a good time. Added two souls to the society. Lord increase the number for thy name's sake.

May 7. Went to Dalton to speak the word of life. No sooner had I begun to pray on the market cross, than heard the din of war afar off. But before I had done praying, three horns had approached me the second time in this place, and made such a noise I could not preach. This is the hardest place that ever I was in. But I believe God Almighty will have compassion and save some souls yet. This night Satan was divided against himself; for a number of those that wanted to hear me speak, took up arms for me, and threw a number of rotten eggs at the horn men; and then drove them off the cross; and a general battle ensued. And so fierce was the contest that one man who was an advocate for me speaking, very nearly got his thumb bit off by one of the trumpeters, who was so enraged that he got beat in the Devil's service that he bit his fellow creature like a cannibal

In this town they have a market every Sunday during the harvest, for the purpose of hiring, and fight and get drunk, And surely we as a religious body will do all that lies in our power to send missionaries into such dark comers of England as this, and I trust, we as preachers and soldiers of Jesus Christ, can venture forth with our lives in our hand for the sake of the gospel. Yes;

"Brother soldiers still fight on
Till the battle you have won;
The great captain you have chose
Never did a battle lose."

May 8. Spoke in the open air at Ulverstone; a good time to my soul. Praise the Lord.

May 9. Held a prayer meeting, but few attended. But the best of all, God was with us. Glory.

May 10. Went to Dalton to speak the word of life. Got upon the market cross, and endeavoured to speak, but was interrupted by some wicked men, who came and sat all around-the cross, and called upon the publicans for ale, and swore, and blasphemed, and got drunk, This was on the Sabbath Day; and they shouted the king and church for ever. I came away. May the Lord have mercy on them, and bless my soul,

May 14. 'This day the constable from Ulverstone came to the house where I stopped, and said he had a warrant for me, and he read it over. I found I was called to appear before two of his Majesties Justices of the Peace, for riotous and tumultuous worship, which I never had been guilty of. But it was for preaching Jesus the friend of sinners at the market cross of Dalton. If that be rioting, I shall, by the help of him who commanded me in his great name to go out in the highways and hedges, riot on till my latest hour.

"Happy if with my latest breath
I may but gasp his name;
Preach him to all, and cry in death
Behold! behold the Lamb."

The constable said I must appear before the lawyer, who said I was to find bail for my appearance at the Justices' Meeting to-morrow. But I said I want no bail but my word. He said that would not do, and ordered the constable to confine me till the morrow. The constable took me to his own house, and behaved to me like a Christian. The time I was confined, Mr. Biggs, a Methodist, brought me some books to read, for which I felt thankful. And the best of all, my soul was happy in the Lord,

(To be continued.)

F.N. JERSEY'S JOURNAL
(Continued from page 262)

MAY 15. This day I appeared (with several others who were hearing me preach the word of life) before two justices, viz. Bradwell and Gale. We were sworn against by false men, viz. Butler and the constable of Dalton, that we were rioting. I felt for the men who kissed the word of God, (as sealing their oath with the testimony of truth,) which was a false one. The justices asked me first if I made a riot, I told them, no. Then he said, you was preaching and gathering a crowd. I said 'yes.' I also said, 'why do you send your Church Missionaries abroad to preach in the open air to dark heathens.' They said, 'That's not in England; and we do not want to know any thing about your religious opinions, you have been preaching in the open air.' I said 'It is according to the law of God for he says, Go ye out into the highways and hedges and preach the gospel.' And I told them I was determined to preach Jesus. One then asked my brethren that was hearing me, whether they were in the crowd, and they said they were, hearing the word of life; but never made any disturbance. But said they, you were there, the men answered, 'yes,' Then they turned to me and said, 'Mr. Jersey, you must find surety or be imprisoned for four months for breaking the peace.' I told them I could not find any such thing. Then they said, I had better find bondsmen than go to Lancaster castle for four months. I told them I could not do it for conscience sake: they said, 'well, well,' and turned to the others which were most of them Old Methodists. Some of them found bondsmen, and two of them would not. So the justices asked me again the third time to find sureties. I told them Christ was my surety, if that would do.

Then they said to the constable, 'Take him away, take him away.' Then I praised God. Just as I was going away, the lawyer said, 'Mr. Jersey, remember you'll have to pay all your expences to Lancaster Castle.' I said, 'indeed, sir, I am very glad of that, because if that be the case I shall never get there, for I'll never pay a farthing.' 'Well,' said he, 'that will not keep you out of the castle, We will get you there. Very well, sir. Good morning, and we parted.

Then I and my two friends were committed to the castle for four months each, four mouths for me preaching, and four months for them hearing. But this trial will be tried over again at the Great Assize at the end of the world. May God for Christ's sake blot out their sins. Amen.

May 16.. Set off this morning with the constable of the town to Lancaster Castle. Numbers came round the coach, (as I was getting up) with broken hearts to see me off. When I got up I said, God bless you. all; and the coachman drove away. It was a most dreadful stormy morning. A gentleman of the Methodist society, lent me his travelling coat, and that kept me dry. After a passages of four hours, through the tender mercy of my God, we arrived at Lancaster. I saw my brother George Herod who was travelling there at that time. I told him I was going to prison for Christ's sake, and we praised God, After dinner the constable took us up to the castle. When I came there, the governor, turnkey, and prisoners asked what I had. come here for. I told them for preaching the gospel. They were astonished. But, praise, God, I have a good clean, prison, and am amongst some very civil men, and my Jesus is here also. Praise God for ever.

May 17. This day my brother George Herod came to see me, and brought me something to eat. And through the, day, several of my Christian friends came to see me, and rejoiced, with me that we were counted worthy to suffer imprisonment for Jesus's sake. Spent this day in praising God, and reading my bible. At night. I kneeled down and made prayer among the prisoners before we went to bed and it was by them thankfully accepted. Glory to Jesus for ever and ever.

May 18. This is the sabbath of the Lord cur God, and praise God, at ten o'clock this morning the bell rung for us prisoners to go to the chapel. This did my soul good when we got to the chapel we were all locked up in our pews. This appeared strange to me, yet I felt thankful I was not fastened up in the bottomless pit of hell.

I was likewise astonished to see so many good looking young men in prison for crimes too numerous to mention. This made me thankful for that grace which opened my blind eyes and brought me out of the horrible pit. For it is by the grace of God I am what I am. In the afternoon we attended the chapel again, and heard two sermons in the course of the day. Several of my

Christian friends came to see me from different parts, as there was a camp meeting to-day at this place. I wished to have been there preaching the atoning blood, but I wish to sink into the will on heaven; at night I made prayer among the prisoners, and the Lord was with us. Praise God for ever. Amen. And let all the people say, Amen.

May 19. This day several of my Christian friends visited me. Truly I can say, I was in prison and they visited me, hungry and they fed me. This was a good day to my soul. At night I made prayer with the prisoners. Praise God, a praying heart never wanted a praying places. Glory to Jesus.

May 20. This day three of our preachers came to see me, and asked me how I was coming on. I told them my soul was happy in prison, for Jesus was with me. They sent me some food to eat. May Jesus reward them for his name's sake. At night I read a portion of God's word to the prisoners, and went to prayer. Glory to God and the Lamb for ever.

May 21. This day has been a good day to my soul. An old mother in Israel visited me to-day, and brought me a pillow to lay my head on. This is more than my master had; for he had not where to lay his head. At night, read a portion of God's word, and prayed among the prisoners. Glory to God and the Lamb.

May 22. Spent this day in reading the bible and praying; and found it as good exercise as I could be engaged in. Two gentlemen came to see me, and gave me a little money to get me any thing I wanted. The God of my master Abraham deals kindly with me. At night I read the word of God and prayed with my fellow-prisoners. Glory to God for ever.

May 25. This day being sabbath day I attended divine service with the prisoners twice in the chapel, and heard two profitable sermons, This has been a good day to my soul; and likewise the past week my soul has enjoyed many blessings from Jesus the sinners' friend. By the help of Jesus, I still attend to pray and read the scriptures. May God for Christ's sake, render it a blessing. Amen.

June 1. I attended twice in the prison chapel, and heard two sermons and was much benefited thereby. This last week has been a good week to my soul, but through confinement my body has suffered. I have had two days of affliction. But through the tender mercy of my God, I am restored to my health again. Praise God for ever. This last week I have still continued to make prayer and supplication among the prisoners, and read a portion of God's word; which I trust has been rendered a blessing to their souls. Glory to Jesus for ever.

June 2. Received a letter from Hull, wishing me to find bail. I did so, to preach Jesus again. I got my liberty and I spoke that night at Lancaster; and while I spoke, God spoke in me and by me; and one man near the borders of eternity cried out for mercy but did not get liberty. May God save him. Amen.

June 8, Set off from Lancaster and arrived at Kendal. Among good Samaritans. Praise God.

June 4.. Went to Ulverstone to see after my little flock. Found them looking to Jesus. May God save them, for his mercy's sake. Brother Summersides spoke, and good was done. Praise God for ever.

FRANCIS NATHANIEL JERSEY