

## DARLINGTON BRANCH, OF THE HULL CIRCUIT.

### Extract from the Journal of Samuel Laister, now deceased, 1821.

EARLY beloved brethren, on May 6, I took up my appointment in the Darlington branch, in the county of Durham, and preached at two and six, to a very small congregation. My mind seemed to be somewhat cast down; perhaps it might be on account of so large congregations in the branch I had left. Nevertheless} strove to exhort them not to fear; though the flock was little, it was their Father's good pleasure to make it larger, and to give them the kingdom. I spoke to them on the 9th, and found the Lord was there. On the 10th preached at Brafferton to a very few indeed, and no society. Cold barren place. May 11. Longnewton; we had a good time, The Lord's name be praised. On the 12th, spoke at Bishopton; very few. No society.

Sunday May 13, I spoke at two and six, at Stockton-upon-Tees Cold hard place. No society. On the 15th, I spoke at Norton; a very good time. On the 17th, I spoke at Darlington. A good congregation, and there was a moving among the people. Glory be to God. May 20. Preached at Bishop Auckland, to a good and attentive congregation. The Lord was present among us: many tears were shed, my mind was raised up, and I praised the Lord.

Sunday May 27. Spoke at Evenwood at two, Ingleton at six. A good time. 28th spoke at Cockfield in the open air, A good time. No society. 29th Southside. The Lord was there to comfort his people.

Sunday, June 3. Preached in Darlington, in the Market place. A blessed time; a large congregation, and many wet cheeks. I then saw the Lord was beginning to revive his work. Praise his holy name for ever. On the 4th I spoke at Cockerton; very few, No society. I then was obliged to repair to Hull, for the quarter-day. The increase in these few weeks is about twenty souls. Praise the Lord for these.

During the quarter-day, it was a blessed season, and many souls were saved.

June 25. Preached at Ingleton to a small congregation, they not knowing of my coming up. June 31, spoke in Darlington, A good congregation, and the Lord began to add to our number. Glory be to God.

Sunday July 8. We had our camp-meeting in Darlington. It was a blessed time; many souls were saved, and the Lord watered his people. My soul shouted, Glory, glory be to God. On the 10th preached at Hamsterley. A good congregation, the first time. 11th, at Southside; and the Lord did begin to revive his work. Praised be his name. On the 12th preached in Darlington Market place; and it was a shaking time indeed. They wept on every hand and the word ran and was glorified.

Sunday July 15. We had a camp-meeting at Stockton. The day was wet and unfavourable. But I believe, Stockton, hard as it was, hath never forgotten that day's labour. Souls have since been saved. Praise the Lord for ever. July 17, preached at Hamsterley, and had a good time. Praise the Lord. 19th, spoke at Southside. A very good time. Sinners began to tremble under the word. Praise the Lord.

Sunday July 22, Preached at Ingleton. A good congregation, and a blessed time. The Lord's work began to revive and good was done. Lord humble my soul in the dust that the glory may be thine. 22rd, spoke at Redworth. A good time. 24th, spoke at Heighington; a large company; a new place, a very good opening. Praise the Lord for ever.

Sunday July 39. Camp meeting upon Cock-field Fell. More than 20 found peace with God. I began to think it was beginning to be like the branch I had just left. Praise the Lord for ever. On the 30th preached at Darlington; and the Lord was present, and saved souls.

August 9, spoke at Wolsingham near the bridge, to a very large congregation. It is a new place; a society is formed, and the prospects are very good. Praise the Lord for ever. On the 11th spoke at Southside; and the Lord is adding to his church daily at this place. Praise the Lord for such displays of his power.

Sunday August 12, we had a love-feast at Evenwood; and we had an out-pouring of the Spirit of the Lord; and souls were converted to God. At night preached at Ingleton, and truly the work of the Lord did run from place to place, and was glorified; and many souls were added.

Sunday 19, spoke at Darlington, and the Lord, blest many souls. But the place would not half hold the congregation, and there began to be a stir about a chapel.

While discussions about a chapel were going on, I thought we would make a push to take Barnard Castle. As we had many invitations, brother Evans went to see what kind of an opening there was; and he preached in the Market-place; and gave it out for me the fortnight after. I went and spoke to many hundreds of well-behaved people; and formed a society of nine members. The Lord was there, and his power went through the congregation, We attended that place about two months and had more than eighty in society. What a wonder-working God have we! When he works who shall hinder? The prospect in this place is very ggreat. The Lord grant that this little leaven may leayen the whole lump.

During the last six months we have added in the Darlington circuit two hundred and seventy three, May he that sitteth above the water floods, keep them till we all appear before the throne, Is the prayer of SAMUEL LAISTER

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Reference

*Primitive Methodist Magazine* 1822/92