

## **Rev Charles George Tetley**

### **Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by H.Y.**

The Rev. C. G. Tetley, of Whickham, Gateshead Second Circuit, has joined the great majority at the age of seventy-three. He was born at Fakenham. His father, one of our early Presidents, who did valuable work in London and in Norfolk and Suffolk, was an intimate of Hugh Bourne, and a gentlemanly, scholarly man. Our brother owed much to his parents, who were of Puritan stock and of strong and gracious personality. He received a good education at Bedford, and afterwards taught in a private school at Hockham.

After making the supreme choice he soon gave promise of usefulness. He entered the ministry at Crook in the county of Durham, and subsequently travelled in Carlisle, Durham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Staithes, Hetton, North Shields, Guisborough, Crook, Berwick and Hayward's Heath Stations. At the latter place his health broke down, and he was superannuated. After residing at Newcastle he finally settled at Whickham and took part in various forms of literary and religious work.

As will be seen, his sphere of service has been almost wholly in the North, and here his record lives. He held certain District offices, and his presence in committees and at conferences was always helpful. On some of his circuits he made choice and lasting friendships, and had very considerable success in spiritual work. He was well read and had decided literary tastes. The part he took in the ministerial associations of the old Sunderland District was most helpful. A true lover of nature, he could finely interpret her various moods. He sometimes cultivated the muse, and was a mystic in the true sense.

He was a most reverent and intelligent student of the Bible, and a profound believer in the reality of the spiritual and unseen. He could never be an agnostic, his feet were too firmly planted on the Rock for that, and it was his joy to prove the highest truths on the pulses of his soul. Yet he was broad and open-minded, sought ever to get at the heart of things, and particularly in his later years was wonderfully optimistic. His interest in current affairs both in the Church and the world was both keen and wide.

He was a loyal Free Churchman, and he was highly esteemed beyond his own communion. Manly and straightforward in all his dealings, he was a hater of shams and pretences. He was highly strung and sometimes disclosed (it may be admitted) an undue sensitiveness, but he was never bitter or rancorous, and those who knew him best admired and loved him most. He made a capital companion and was a staunch friend. He did not wear his heart on his sleeve, but all the same it was tender and generous, and gave of its best in many unnoticed ways. His ideals were high and his spirit most eager to attain them.

As a preacher he had special gifts and took rank with the ablest and most effective of the brethren. His gift to the North in this direction is still a happy and refreshing memory. Evangelical conviction was allied with true culture and a pleasing, impressive address. He kept a fresh, alert mind to the end, was glad to serve the churches as occasion served, and above all held the old man's best dower, a ripened spirituality.

In his closing years he suffered from defective sight, but he was ever patient and uncomplaining. Despite this infirmity he bravely undertook a spell of service for the soldiers in camp at Winchester with the Y.M.C.A., and was thankful for this opportunity of showing his Christian patriotism in the nation's crisis, and doing a little voluntary work for his Master.

The end came suddenly. It was a swift and painless transition. He was fully prepared. The loss to his highly esteemed widow and family is great, but he has had “the abundant entrance.” An impressive service was held in the Dunstan Chapel, at which the Rev. William Johnson, F.L.S.—a life-long friend—gave a fine appreciation in a touching address. The remains were interred in the old Jesmond Cemetery, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

With the circuit ministers (Revs. J. Jopling and J. Fitzpatrick) and a goodly number of friends from our own and other churches, there were present Revs. W. Johnson, W.A. French, W. Gelley, G. Armstrong, S. Palmer and H. Yooll. The latter read the Committal Service.

So has passed another veteran, another link with the past, drawn upward and inward to the circles of the blest.

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#### References

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