

MANSEIELD CIRCUIT.

EXTRACT OF JAMES SNEAT'S JOURNAL.

Dear Brother in the bonds of a peaceful gospel.

As an enlargement of the kingdom of Christ cannot fail to excite much pleasure, satisfaction, and joy, to every true follower of Jesus, and sincere lover of the truth; I therefore embrace the privilege now put into my hands, to transmit to you, the following extract of my journal, hoping that you may think it worthy of an insertion, In our now widely-extended, and useful Magazine; and I pray God, that it may produce the designed effect on the hearts of all those into whose hands it may fall.

Sunday, June 10, preached at Southwell. This is a new place, I therefore of course, preached in the open air, to a large and attentive audience. While I was preaching, many like Felix trembled, others wept bitterly on account of their sins, being given to see how they had grieved the Almighty and thereby exposed themselves to his inflexible wrath. May they never rest till they obtain mercy, through the merits of our Immanuel.

Monday, June 11, preached at the above place again in the open air, to a larger audience than the preceding day. I enjoyed much liberty while speaking; the people appeared to receive the word of life with considerable eagerness, while the penitential tear rolled down their sorrowful faces. After I had concluded, the people crowded around me, while their unanimous enquiry was, "When will you come again?" I pray that God may satisfy them early with his great salvation.

Wednesday, June 13, preached at Farnsfield, to a very attentive and solemn congregation. The Lord was with us indeed and of a truth, his word was attended with power and directed to the heart; the arrows of the Almighty were sharp, and stick fast in the hearts of his enemies; whereby two were brought cheerfully to bow to the will of Immanuel, to the joy and satisfaction of their souls. They have joined our society, and appear to walk worthy of their vocation. May, he who never slumbereth nor sleepeth, keep them night and day.

Sunday, June 17, I attended a camp-meeting at Blidworth. The morning appeared very unfavourable, on account of which the people began to express their doubts of a favourable day. I exhorted them to have faith in God, assuring them that all things were possible to them that believe. We got the waggon to the place, after which we sung through the town. The very heavens seemed to echo and utter, forth praise to their Almighty Creator. The people's doubts gave way; the clouds dispersed, and all things, seemed to work for our good. After we arrived at the place appointed, we held a prayer-meeting about twenty, minutes, we then ascended the stand, and I opened the meeting with a short exhortation. My local brethren spoke very lively and powerful. The zealous praying companies, were very active, and strove together for the faith of the. gospel.. The power of God descended, one cried aloud for mercy; faith was exercised, and she soon found the pardoning love of God to the joy and rejoicing of her soul. The after part of the day being more favourable, a large. concourse of people attended, the most part of which, listened with the greatest attention. I believe the word pierced the hearts of sinners, while the free unspeakable grace of God nourished the souls of his people, whereby they were enabled to rejoice in the God, of their salvation. The meeting was so conducted in the afternoon as to give liberty for four to speak, and the lively praying companies had an opportunity of getting twice out.

Held a lovefeast in the evening, The people spoke freely; their experience was sound, and pointed; the grace of God. was communicated, his power was displayed, sinners cried out for mercy, believers rejoiced, faith was exercised, Jesus appeared, and three received the remission of all their sins, and were enabled to rejoice in the possession of forgiving love.

Tuesday. June 19, preached at Hucknal Torkard, to a vast concourse of people. I enjoyed much liberty while speaking; the Lord was with us indeed, sinners wept, believers rejoiced, lukewarm professors, (as I was afterwards informed) got quickened, and the shout of a king was heard in our camp.

Sunday, June 24, preached at Farnsfield. The Lord was with us, and guided his word to the heart, the penitential tear rolled down the sorrowful face, while their countenance bespoke the bitter pangs of the soul produced by a consciousness of guilt. After preaching in the evening I administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper; and I don't know that ever I experienced such a glorious time. It was both administered! and received with the utmost solemnity; tears of joy appeared in almost every eye, sighs, groans, and cries, were heard for mercy; one of whom, in a prayer-meeting held after, obtained the pardoning love of God. Two also professed to get fully sanctified.

Tuesday, June 26, preached at Mansfield Woodhouse, in the open air, to a large and attentive audience. The God of Jacob was with us, the people drank eagerly of the grace of God, believers rejoiced, sinners wept, and good was done. Led the class after preaching, and joined two to the society. I pray that God may truly convert their souls, and set their feet on the rock of ages, and establish their goings.

Tuesday, July 2, preached at Newton. I enjoyed extraordinary liberty while speaking, every word seemed to be attended with divine power, several were deeply convinced of their sins and wept much.

Led the class after preaching; the Lord poured out of his Spirit in a wonderful manner: several wept. I endeavoured to show clearly the nature of justification by faith in Christ Jesus. In the mean time the fire kindled, faith was exercised, power was given, Jesus revealed himself to the joy and rejoicing of 'three who obtained the pardon of their sins. O may God ride on prosperously, because of truth, and meekness; and righteousness.

Tuesday, July 24, preached at Mansfield Woodhouse, in the open air. I enjoyed much liberty which enabled me to speak boldly, and while the Lord thundered in the clouds, and caused the lightnings to be vivid in the heavens, I endeavoured to hold out a crucified Saviour, as a most willing Saviour and able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. vii. 25. Which I understand, left a lasting impression upon the minds of many that attended.

Sunday, July 29, I, together with Brother Hopkinson, attended a camp-meeting, at Mansfield. We met at the chapel, and from thence proceeded in regular order, singing as we marched through the town, till we almost arrived at the place appointed to hold the camp-meeting. Heaven seemed to breathe in the singing, while we had got the earnest of it in our hearts. We held a prayer-meeting about twenty minutes after we arrived on the camp-ground, after which Brother Hopkinson opened the meeting and was very lively; the Lord was with us, and blessed our souls. We were well attended with local preachers, who spoke lively, short, and powerful; a vast concourse of people attended, estimated at two thousand and upwards; the greatest part of which gave serious attention. The zealous praying companies chiefly imitated the preachers — prayed short, lively and powerful; which seemed to have a good effect on the minds of many who attended, who also were much interested with the manner in which the meeting was conducted.

Held a lovefeast in the evening, when many could tell of the wonderful works of God, and testified that God had power on earth to forgive sins, because they had received the witness of the spirit, which beareth witness with our spirit; by which all those who are born of God, possess a bright and animating prospect of future blessedness; to which the people could testify. The power of God descended, the penitential tear appeared, which bespoke the inward sensation of grief arising from a deep conviction of the heinousness and aggravation of sin; while cries for mercy were heard in different parts of the chapel, and which continued for a considerable time. The Lord however, was gracious to us. The power of faith was imparted, which was put into exercise, and the kingdom was taken by a holy violence. Peace was imparted to the souls of many, who yielded to the dying love of Christ, and adopting the language of the prophet, could say, "O Lord I will praise thee; though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away and thou comfortedst me." Isa: xii. 1. We endeavoured to ascertain the number of those who professed to obtain liberty, but could not fully.

(To be continued.)

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Sunday August 5, I attended a camp-meeting at Stainsby. The morning part was very unfavourable, in consequence of which, we held the meeting in the house in which we regularly preach; where the Lord assembled with us and owned the preaching of his word. While one of our local brethren, J. Sims, was preaching, one professed to obtain the pardon of all his sins, praise God forever. The afternoon being more favourable, we lifted up the blood-stained banner of the cross of Christ in the open air, and I trust good was done.

Held a lovefeast in the evening, believers spoke with much liberty and power, and pointed and short. The mighty power of God descended, when truly there was a shaking amongst the dry bones, many wept, some cried out for mercy, and soon found it to the joy of their souls. Glory be to God for all his mercies. The number that professed to find liberty were five souls. In this instance, the honour due to my local brethren is worthy of remark, for I think all without exception, were fully engaged in the work of the Lord, earnestly desiring the salvation of precious and immortal souls; in consequence of which, all together with myself, strove together for the faith of the gospel. I pray that God may ever reward them, and constantly support and nourish the vital spark of Jesus love in their souls.

Sunday, August 12, preached at Sutton, at half-past two and six in the evening, to a very attentive audience. I enjoyed extraordinary liberty, and an unspeakable love for precious souls, arising from a sense of God's towards me. I also felt the importance of my subject, the sacredness of that office which I sustained, and the absolute necessity of warning faithfully all who came within the sound of my voice; in fine, the necessity of preaching as a dying man, to dying men, as one that must give an account. And I am willing to hope that good was done. Praise God for divine assistance.

Tuesday, August 14, preached at Hucknal Torkard, to an uncommonly large congregation. I enjoyed blessed liberty while speaking, the Lord was with us, his grace distilled on the souls of his people, like the gentle rain upon the green herb. The souls were quickened, and they were enabled to rejoice in the God of their salvation. I pray that God may make them like trees planted by the rivers of water that bring forth fruit in their season; that their leaves may not wither, and that whatsoever they do may prosper.

Wednesday, August 22, preached at Langworth, many wept bitterly while I was preaching, and the place seemed to be on a general move.

Led class after preaching, when we had a blessed time, two who got convinced under the preaching, cried aloud for mercy we prayed with, and talked to them, but they did not then get liberty. O may they never rest till they find rest in the bleeding side of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, August 25, was at a camp-meeting at Oxton, when a vast concourse of people attended, who gave great attention during the various services of the day. The meeting was well supported by local preachers, who spoke with great power, simplicity, and plainness, which was I trust attended with much good. The various services of the day, were generally very powerful, and both preachers and zealous praying companies, were, as I am informed, generally respected by the people, for their lively exercises.

Held a lovefeast in the evening, when the fruits of the camp-meeting were clearly seen. The powerful grace of God descended, which constrained his people with one heart and voice to glorify God. Many hearts seemed to flow with gratitude, their eyes sparkled with pleasure, their tongues burst forth with strains of praise, while many spoke of the redeeming love of Christ, and the wonderful things which God had wrought out for them. At length however, several cried out for mercy, and wept bitterly, on account of having sinned against their unspeakably kind Benefactor. Prayer was made; faith was exercised, when peace was spoken to the souls of sinners who professed to obtain the liberty of God's dear children.

Monday, September 3, was our Mansfield Circuit Quarter Day. The Lord was with us, and he blessed us wonderfully. Business was done I think decently and in order. The circuit appeared prosperous. Had a blessed ingathering of souls, for all of which, may the Lord's name be praised.

At the preaching in the evening, the Lord made bare his arm in a wonderful manner, many souls cried out for mercy; thirteen of whom professed to obtain the pardon of all their sins.

Sunday, September 9, I attended a camp-meeting at Langworth, and opened the meeting with an exhortation from the following words, "And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain and when he was set, his disciples came unto him, and he opened his mouth and taught them." Matt. v. 12. The services were very powerful during the former part of the day. The word of God reached the hearts of the people, many tears were shed, some cried out for mercy, two of whom professed to obtain the pardoning love of God. The afternoon being very unfavourable, we were forced to hold the meeting in a house.

The word was delivered with the Holy Ghost, and with power sent down from heaven. The arrows of deep conviction were sharp in the hearts of the King's enemies, whereby several were brought to sue for mercy at the footstool of Jehovah. The Lord soon revealed his glorious face to four, who professed to obtain peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Held a lovefeast in the evening, when many could testify that Christ had power on earth to forgive, sins. The spirit of God powerfully operated on the hearts of the people; many cried out for mercy, three of whom professed to obtain liberty.

September 11, preached at Hucknal Torkard, to a large and attentive audience. I enjoyed much liberty, and experienced much of the power of God while speaking, and I trust good was done.

Wednesday, September 19, Preached at Langworth, when surely the good will of Him who dwelt in the bush was towards us. His grace was communicated to the hearts of his people, whereby they were enabled to rejoice in the God of their salvation. Their hearts were cheered, and their affections animated, and fixed on things above, where Jesus sitteth at the righthand of God.

Led the class after preaching, had a most precious time, several who got convinced under the word, stayed, and during the meeting, cried out for mercy. I endeavoured to shew them clearly the plan of salvation, and that upon the conditions of the gospel, God was, willing to save them even at the present time, and to set their captive souls at liberty. We then prayed for, and with them, the power of faith was imparted, and God immediately revealed himself as a God merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercies for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; Exodus xxxiv. 6, 7, when three obtained the pardoning love of God; and five joined the society. May God establish their goings.

Sunday, September 23, held a lovefeast at Blidworth. This was certainly a melting, powerful, and reviving time. Believers spoke short, boldly, and pointed. The power of God descended, the Spirit operated, till at length one arose and expressed that he was as miserable as he possibly could be, who had for some time been in a backsliding state, and desired us to pray for him. We did so, and the Lord again restored unto him the joy of his salvation, healed his backsliding, and loved him freely. Two others also, who had lost their confidence got it restored, and could rejoice in the God of their salvation,

Tuesday, September 25, preached at Newton. The Lord was with us and attended his word with power: one soul got deeply convinced of sin, who after the preaching found liberty in the class meeting; and we joined one to the society.

J. S.

Accredited by the Circuit Committee.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1828/101; 1828/133