

Rev. Samuel Wade

Transcription of obituary published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by H.B.

SAMUEL WADE was born in January, 1802, at High Town, in the parish of Birstal, in the county of York. Little is known of his early years, excepting the fact that, on the Lord's-day he occasionally accompanied his father to the neighbouring village of Cleckheaton, to White Chapel, an ancient Episcopal place of worship, formerly called "Old White Chapel in the North." From this circumstance it would seem that his religious training was not entirely neglected. He had not the advantage of education at school, beyond the mere rudiments, as he appears to have been put to the woollen business at an early age. While yet a youth he removed with his parents to Armley, near Leeds. At this place, in the year 1821, he was graciously favoured by the Holy Spirit with an earnest desire for that "peace which passeth all understanding."

He commenced to meet in class with the Primitive Methodists, and after some time was blest with peace and joy through believing in Jesus. Holding fast the beginning of his confidence and manifesting signs of usefulness, he was, after some time, placed on the plan as a local preacher in the Leeds circuit. In this capacity he laboured about ten years, with some degree of credit and usefulness. It was the opinion of the brethren that he was adapted for a wider sphere of usefulness as a travelling preacher. Accordingly, at the Conference of 1836, he was stationed to the Oswestry circuit. He was successively stationed in the following circuits—Cwm, Tunstall, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Dudley, Motcombe, Aylesbury, Pillawell, the Maidstone, Brentwood, and Summercotes missions, Kniveton, Brough, and Durham. In the Durham circuit he was eminently successful in bringing about a gracious revival of religion, and to this day his "name is as ointment poured forth."

His next station was Penrith, where crushing sorrows came upon him in the death of his two children—one seven and the other three years of age—from scarlatina. He was passionately fond of his two boys, and the painful bereavement contributed to prostrate an already shattered constitution. Yet, even under this overwhelming visitation, he was enabled to say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." Mrs. Wade being a woman of energy and courage, was privileged to render what aid she could in the circuit work in the stead of her enfeebled husband.

His last station was Darlington. When he came to this station in 1856, he was so much debilitated that he could not take his appointments, and at the following Conference he was superannuated. Having fixed his residence at Old Shildon, in the Darlington circuit, Mr. Wade still continued to labour, when his health would permit, in the capacity of a local preacher. He had also the charge of an interesting class, the members of which were much attached to him. For several years he held the office of treasurer for the chapel; and such was his desire for a more commodious place of worship in the village, that he rested not until the debt was extinguished, and a considerable sum was raised and paid down as a deposit for an eligible site for a new chapel.

Mr. Wade had been for many years afflicted with disease of the brain, primarily brought on by excessive labour and exposure to cold while in the discharge of his ministerial duties. His sufferings were occasionally very severe; but even at those times he repined not, but expressed a calm satisfaction in the assurance that through the merit of his Redeemer a glorious and eternal rest awaited him.

A few days before his departure he was repeatedly convulsed, his sight and hearing failed, and he lost the power to speak. For a moment, while a few of the friends were singing, "There is rest for the weary," he opened his eyes, and they seemed to glow with delight, while his lips moved as if joining in the song. Some

hours after he was heard to say, "All is well." The following midnight the convulsions ceased; he sank into slumber until noon, when he lifted his hand in token of triumph, then crossed the flood, and landed safely on Canaan's side. Thus entered into that rest which remaineth to the people of God, on December 18th, 1865, in the sixty-third year of his age, this faithful servant of the Lord, of whom the neighbours said, "The best man in the village has now gone home."

As a preacher, Mr. Wade did not belong to the eloquent class. Yet his method of handling a subject was perspicuous, his divisions were natural and distinct, and his familiarity with the Scriptures enabled him to substantiate with authority the propositions he laid down. He was remarkably pointed and heart-searching in showing up the secret sins and failings of professors, and in urging upon them the necessity of entire holiness. This made him somewhat unpopular among those half-hearted ones who could not say, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." He was peculiarly grand in prayer; and his powerful lungs enabled him to exercise freely, which made him a great help in a prayer-meeting. He was also a man of much private prayer and communion with God. He lived in the enjoyment of the blessing of full sanctification, and frequently in converse with the dear friends who gathered around him, he would express his earnest desire to depart and be with Christ for ever.

His funeral sermon was preached to a very large congregation, by his old friend Mr. Bastow, from Rev. xiv. 13 — And I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1866/356