

MANCHESTER CIRCUIT.

Extract of John Verity's Journal. 1821.

SATURDAY June 16, I arrived at Manchester. Sunday 17, Preached at the New Cross to a very large congregation: much affected. In the evening spoke in the room at New Islington,— The place was filled with divine glory. Twelve professed to have received pardon. I afterwards made the collection for the room; when one man, who had previously been much affected, cast all he had with him into the box. May the Lord keep him to the day of his coming.

Monday June 18, I attended the Quarter-day, (Manchester.) It was a precious day indeed. Peace, harmony, and love, pervaded the meeting.

Sunday June 24, Preached at Bolton to about three thousand people; and in the evening to a much greater number.— Joined twenty to our society. There is the appearance of a great work here. Monday 25, I preached at New Islington, (Manchester;) the Lord was very present. One soul got liberty. Thursday 28; spoke at Hope Town. Many in deep conviction on account of sin.

Sunday July 1, In the morning preached in the room at New-Islington, in the afternoon at the New Cross; and in the evening again in the room, The people were so much affected that I was obliged to desist from preaching twice. One woman, who fell down under preaching received liberty. Twelve joined the society. Monday July 2, Preached again in the room and joined three.—Praise the Lord. Tuesday 3, Spoke at Stretford, and joined four. Thursday 5, Preached in Hope Town, and joined nine.

Sunday, July 8, I preached twice in the room at New Islington, and held the love-feast. Many got liberty.—Joined nine. Two more got liberty at the close of the meeting.— Praise the Lord for ever and ever.

Sunday 15, In the morning I preached at Newton, and formed a society of seven members. In the afternoon at Staley Bridge, and formed a society of eight. In the evening I preached on the Market Cross at Ashton, and formed a society of nine. Thursday 19, Being the day appointed for His Majesty's coronation, we held a love-feast, and many got liberty. It was one of the best days I ever enjoyed on earth.

Sunday July 22, I attended the camp-meeting at Bolton. It commenced about nine o'clock, with one preaching stand, and three praying companies, and continued till twelve, when we broke up for one hour. After this we were obliged to have two stands, and it was difficult then to make all the people hear. The weather was very favourable. and every service of the day was attended with much of the power of God. Believers were baptized, sinners were convicted, and; it is supposed twenty souls got liberty.

In the evening we held a lovefeast in the Cloth Hall. It was full, although it will contain a great number of people. It was a profitable time. Glory to Jesus.

Sunday July 29, I preached at New Islington in the morning; in the afternoon at the New Cross, and in the room at New Islington again in the evening. The place was much crowded, and was filled with the glory of God. One got liberty, one sanctified, and one backslider recovered.

Monday 30, Spoke, in the room again, and joined three. Tuesday 31, Led brother Scott's class, three got liberty,

Thursday August 8, Preached in Hope Town, and joined three; many were much affected, and cried for mercy.

Tuesday 14, I went to solicit the assistance of the inhabitants of Ashton, in the fitting up of a room.— How strikingly is that passage of the inspired volume fulfilled, 'He will make the wrath of man to praise him.' Although we have suffered much persecution, and even one of our preachers has

been imprisoned on account of preaching there, they are now coming forwards and fitting up a small chapel for us, and the work is going on well.

Sunday 19, Spoke in Bolton three times in the open air; it was said that we had more than five thousand present: in the evening the power of the Lord was evidently present to heal: many were blessed.

Monday August 20, Preached again at Bolton, and joined several to our society.

Tuesday 21, I went about collecting in Bolton for the fitting up of a large room, and had amazing success, one circumstance I cannot help remarking:

A number of Mechanics in the employ of Mr. _____ of Bolton, being about to have what they term a footing; occasioned by the employment of a new workman. The man paid his half-crown, and each of the other men their respective shares, which amounted to sixteen shillings: they were about to send for the liquor, when an influence which alone could proceed from Almighty God, caused them to deny themselves, (though the day was extremely hot,) and devote the money to what they called the poor Ranters, towards fitting up the place above-mentioned: I received it with gratitude.—Oh! that all the money spent on such occasions, might in like manner be applied to the erection of houses for the worship of the Lord.

In the evening I preached at Vitriol Houses, and had a most blessed time: one got liberty,

Wednesday 22, Preached at Ashley Bridge: one got liberty.

Friday 24, In the evening formed a Leaders' meeting in Bolton, the society in a most flourishing state; we have nine classes here, making about one hundred and sixty members.—Praise the Lord,

Sunday 26, Assisted in holding a camp-meeting in the neighbourhood of Ashton; the day was unfavourable. A farmer very kindly offered the use of a large barn and a Sunday school; we gladly accepted them, and it was a good day: five or six got liberty.

Sunday September 2, Preached in Oldham, afternoon and evening; thousands crowded to hear the word of life in the open air; and a life-giving word it proved: one got liberty; two backsliders reclaimed, and seven joined us,

Monday 8, I spoke again in Oldham: two or three got liberty, two backsliders recovered, and eleven joined our society.

Monday 17, Attended the Quarter-day. Peace, joy, and harmony generally attended the meeting; and it is with pleasure I state, that, in this small circuit we have increased three hundred and nineteen members this Quarter.

JOHN VERITY,

Reference

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1822/44