

Oldham Circuit.

WILLIAM WOOD'S JOURNAL, 1826,

July 1.—This day I reached my new circuit. May God open my way, and make me useful among this people. July 2. Being sabbath-day, I preached at Oldham in the morning and evening; the people seem alive to God; but my body was weary with my journey, and I had not much liberty. May the Lord uphold me and save me. July 7. I attended a band-meeting at Oldham, many of the members were present, and we had a very lively meeting; the experiences were simple and sound, and the Spirit of God rested upon us. One woman, who had been a backslider, got her soul set at liberty.

July 9—This day we held a camp-meeting between Dukeinfield and Stayley Bridge. After singing through each of the above villages, we went to the camp-ground, there to erect, the standard of the cross, and to call poor sinners to Jesus. We commenced with prayer; and while we were calling upon God, his power descended; and we were filled with the Holy Ghost, and were enabled to believe that good would be done. We then went to the preaching-stand and I addressed the people from, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation!" The Lord was with me, and gave me much liberty in speaking. Praise his name; I feel I am growing in grace.

A local preacher from Manchester circuit then addressed the people; and we then went out in companies for prayer. While we were praying with the Almighty in behalf of sinners, he made bare his arm, and set a young man's soul at liberty; and after praising the Lord for what he had done, we returned to the preaching-stand. When one of our own local preachers gave a short exhortation, and we broke up for dinner; and Brother Jersey exhorted the people to spend the leisure part of their dinner-hour in religious conversation, prayer, &c.

About two o'clock we again met on the camp-ground, when the people from all quarters flocked in like doves to their windows, so that we soon had a good congregation, which were addressed by a sister from Manchester; after which we again went out for prayer, and wrestling with God for some time, we invited the penitents to come into the ring and be prayed for. Several immediately came forward; and a cry for mercy was immediately heard: and He, who hears the cries of the penitent, was near at hand and saved some of their souls: Glory be to God. We then went again to the preaching-stand, and heard two discourses, and again went out for prayer, when more souls found the Lord. After this we had two sermons and an exhortation, and the meeting was concluded; the fruits of which I hope to see in eternity.

In the evening we held a lovefeast at Dukeinfield, and the Lord was still with us; the people had liberty in speaking, and the experience was in general, sound. After the lovefeast had been carried on: for some length of time, several were brought into distress, and a person requested that prayer might be made for the mourners. We accordingly commenced a prayer-meeting, when the Lord descended to the delivery of the captives, and made some of them happy in his love. Glory be to God; angels have had to rejoice to-day over sinners that have repented of their sins. This has been a good day to my soul. May God grant that I may see many such.

July 23—At two o'clock I spoke at Dukeinfield, in the open air; at half-past four at Ashton cross. One woman was very much wrought on under the word, and the penitential tears gushed from her eyes. May God save her soul. At six in the evening, I spoke at Dukeinfield. When the preaching service was concluded, we commenced a prayer-meeting; cries for mercy were heard in different parts of the chapel; but, for some length of time, a cloud seemed to hang over the meeting, and we scarce had any liberty; but, knowing that the promise of the Lord could not fail, we were determined to persevere. So we formed a ring, and invited the mourners to come forward and be prayed for; they did so, and we again began to pray, when the clouds were quickly dispersed, the power of God descended, and in the course of the meeting, as many as six souls professed to find liberty. One of them had been a backslider; and he told me, after the meeting was closed, that it was three years to-day since he lost his confidence and that he had now regained it. Glory! glory be to God, for what my eyes see and ears hear.

July 24—This afternoon we held a prayer-meeting the: chapel at Dukeinfield the people being out of work. Two young women, belonging to the Methodist Old Connexion; were going through the

town, and hearing the noise, came in. One of them had been in the way some length of time, the other had only lately started for the kingdom, and had not as yet found peace. The power of the Lord soon took hold of her and she began to cry for mercy; and, in a short time, the Lord spoke peace to her soul. I preached afterwards and had a good time. To God be all the glory.

July 30—Spoke at Oldham in the morning. At Little-Moor-Lane in the afternoon; and at Oldham at night, and held a prayer-meeting. A man cried out for mercy, and requested us to pray for him. We did so, and in a short time, he professed to find the Lord.

July 31—Spoke at Duckenfield. And in the prayer-meeting which we held afterwards, three young women were in distress. I encouraged them to look to Jesus as their only Saviour. We prayed for them, and they joined us in prayer; and at the close of the meeting, they told me, that the Lord had spoke peace to their souls.

Aug. 1—Attended the Oldham band-meeting. One soul professed to find the Lord. Aug. 16—Spoke at Ashton, in a room which we have lately opened. We held a prayer-meeting after preaching, and one soul was set at liberty. Aug. 21, I spoke at Dukeinfield, had a very powerful time, and in the prayer-meeting, which we held after preaching, several were much affected: but I don't know that any found liberty. I was told, that two, found liberty the next day at their own houses, The Lord is not confined to times nor places.

Aug. 22—Spoke at Charlestown. I had not much liberty in speaking, but the Lord was with us in the prayer-meeting; several souls were brought into distress, and some of them professed to get some good, There is a prospect of a good work at Charlestown.

Aug. 24—Spoke at Brook and renewed tickets, it was a precious season, and one that had been in a backsliding state came forward and joined us again. Aug. 27. This morning I renewed tickets to one class at Oldham; an old man, who has lately began to seek the Lord, had his name enrolled with the people of God. Sept. 19. Spoke at Charlestown. In the prayer-meeting two souls were converted.

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Reference

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1827/50