

## **William Dinnick**

### **Transcription of Obituary In the Primitive Methodist Magazine**

The Rev. William Dinnick, whom many knew as one of earth's noblest sons, climbed the golden stair in the morn of January 21, 1901, and left not a few to mourn their irretrievable loss.

He was born at Devonport, May 26, 1840, From his mother he inherited a strong physique, a powerful mind, and a deeply religious nature; and to his father he was indebted for his wonderful determination, great power of endurance and almost boundless energy.

From his Childhood he dwelt in an atmosphere of prayer of no ordinary kind. His home was the rendezvous of some of the saintliest souls. There such men as the venerable Hugh Bourne, Billy Bray and Johnny Oxtoby feted themselves unto God, and brought heaven down to earth. No wonder that in such an atmosphere sturdy men and women were grown. These mighty prayer meetings left their mark (and a blessed one too) upon William Dinnick. He was educated for the Government service, but his early religious activities proved his predestination to a higher service, and to the regular ministry he was called in the twentieth year of his life.

Words can give no adequate conception of the remarkableness of his ministerial career, for his life was one continual manifestation of Divine leading, unique providential deliverances and glorious triumphs. He was no ordinary man, he walked with God, and God by him wrought marvellous exploits. His outstanding characteristic was his invincible faith in God. He laid tremendous stress on the efficacy of prayer. This was unquestionably the secret of his heroism in circumstance most trying, and his success where many would have failed. Sometimes his phenomenal zeal provoked antagonisms and brought him into collision with his contemporaries, and yet those who knew him best loved him most.

His was no half-hearted ministry; his love for the Christ and His work was an all-absorbing passion. He was a born leader, a capable organiser, and knew well, both how to create and develop the resources which came within his reach. He was richly dowered physically, mentally and morally, and must have been a king in any sphere. In a ministry of forty years he built twenty-three chapels and two manses, and has largely paid them, for not only churches but circuits have grown up out of his effort; and our churches generally in the south have drawn inspiration from his forcefulness and originality. From apparently sterile soil Mr. Dinnick has elicited appreciable harvests in unpromising situations, as at Ramsgate and Brighton; his tactful energy, intrepid perseverance and indomitable faith have achieved brilliant success. As a preacher he was thoroughly earnest, deeply spiritual, always practical and Methodist. He knew the Christ of the Cross and the resurrection, and delighted in making Him known. Those who listened to him the longest never failed to detect the note of conviction, he gripped the truth, and the truth gripped him, and to him was given the joy of leading many of his fellows to the feet of God. As a man he was opulent in some of the choicest qualities, those who came closest to him were impressed with his hopefulness, gentleness, patience, courage and kindness. His nature was not of tinsel, but of gold. Faithlessness to duty he strongly condemned, yet he was tenderness itself to the faithless. His home life was ideal. In Mary, the only daughter of Captain and Mrs. Quance, whom he married in the year 1865, he had one of the best of

wives, and together they made the home fragrant with an unusual love. To his children he was a father indeed, and the love-ties betwixt them were of no common strength. This busy servant of the Lord was not too busy to forget to lavish his heart's best affection upon his family. To them, whatever he was to others, he was one of God's heroes. Chapel and circuit building did not hinder this prodigious toiler from taking his share of District and distinctively Connexional work. For at least a decade he efficiently served his own district as secretary of two of its committees, and we are not surprised that so zealous a worker should be thought of as a fitting candidate for high Connexional office.

To the last his all was given to God, and the day before his ascension he preached the word Divine in two churches he had lovingly reared, and to which he had generously contributed not only of his service, but of his substance. We thank God for the gift of such a one, and our gratitude is accentuated as we look on the many memorials of his self-expending life.

The following is the resolution of the London Second District Committee on the "departure" of our late and deeply revered minister:—

The Rev. William Dinnick:

"That this meeting learns with sincere regret and deep sorrow of the sudden death of our esteemed friend and beloved brother, the Rev. William Dinick, which sad event took place on Monday morning, January 21, 1901, after preaching twice on the Sunday in our London Road Church, Brighton, and having served the Church of Christ for forty-one years as one of our most devoted and successful ministers.

"That we place on record an expression of our cordial admiration of Mr. Dinnick's eminently Christian character, his beautiful saintly life, his unstinted devotion to the work of God and exceptional success in his long and noble ministry. We call to remembrance his fine sturdiness and strength of character, so happily blended with a rare gentleness and an exquisite tenderness of spirit, and we shall ever cherish a very high appreciation of his extensive labours, valuable services, and successful achievements, especially during his ten years at Ramsgate and his twenty-five years at Brighton. He was signally successful in the erection of many beautiful and valuable sanctuaries, and extending the work of God in numerous directions, and securing for our Church a position and influence such as we never had previously, and we give God thanks for the exceptional success thus achieved during this ministry.

" We also record that for the period of ten years Mr. Dinnick served this district as secretary to the 'District Furnishing Fund,' and then as the 'District Committee Secretary,' in all of which work he was most diligent and faithful, and in his death this district has lost a true friend, a faithful servant, and an honoured minister of Jesus Christ"

" (Signed) William E. Crombie,

*"Corresponding Secretary."*

"Remarkable testimony to the esteem and admiration in which the late Rev. William Dinnick was held by Nonconformists was afforded by the great gathering which witnessed the impressive ceremony attending his funeral. Prior to the committal of the late minister's remains to their last repose, a service was solemnised in the London Road Primitive Methodist Church. The sacred edifice was crowded to the doors, many being unable to obtain admission, and the service was profoundly impressive. When the funeral procession arrived the great gathering arose, and the organist (Mr. Ed.

Harper) rendered that beautiful composition, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," as the coffin was borne up the aisle of the Church and laid in front of the pulpit. . . ."

The officiating ministers were:— "Rev. G. Bell (Horsham), the Rev. B. Beckerlegge (Exmouth), the Rev. G. Bromley (Worthing), the Rev. G.P. Clarke (representing the South London District), the Rev. F.W. Morris, the Rev. A. Norris, and the Rev. W. R. Widdowson. Among the congregation were to be seen the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton (Alderman Stafford, J.P. and Mrs. Stafford), Alderman Lowther. J.P., Alderman Sir John Blaker J.P., Alderman Sir Joseph Ewart, M.D., J.P., Alderman Martin, Councillor Dutton Briant, Councillor Greenyer, Councillor Fester, Councillor Watts, the Rev. J.J. Brooker, the Rev. David Davies, the Rev. E.A. Dowsett, the Rev. G.H. Fowler, the Rev. W. Felmingham, the Rev. J.B. Figgis, the Rev. S. Hassall, the Rev. S.B. Lane, the Rev. D. Llewellyn, the Rev. Edmund Phillips, the Rev. J.F. Reed, the Rev. J.P. Street, the Rev. A.D. Spong, etc., etc., .....

"Eloquent testimony to the lasting character of the work which the deceased had accomplished during his life was given by the Rev. G.P. Clarke during the service.

"The committal ceremony at the graveside was performed by the Rev. W.R. Widdowson, and here also a very large gathering witnessed the solemn service." – *The Sussex Daily News, Jan 25, 1901.*

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## References

*Primitive Methodist Magazine* 1901/785