

Elizabeth Spring, nee Winfield

Transcription of Obituary In the Primitive Methodist Magazine by W Watson

ELIZABETH SPRING was born at Prinknash Park, Gloucestershire. on the 29th day of December, 1822. Her maiden name was Winfield. In her early years she attended the services held by the Wesleyans at Upton St. Leonards, and there received her first religious impressions. Happily these impressions resulted in the consecration of her young life to God, and from that time her growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ steadily went on. Fifty years ago she began to attend the services of the Primitive Methodists of Painswick, at that time being held in a cottage in Tibbywell Lane. Here she received much blessing and benefit from the preaching of the Rev. W. Leaker, and, being attracted by the lively singing and the hearty character of the services, became a member. In 1851 at the Congregational Chapel at Painswick she was united in marriage with Brother Thomas Spring, who now survives her. The ceremony was performed by Rev. C.T. Harris, who was then the circuit minister. Their union was most happy in every respect. As a wife and mother she attended to her arduous duties with a devotion most exemplary, and it is indeed true of her that her children "rise up and call her blessed," while her bereaved husband mourns the loss of a helper whose worth he feels it impossible to exaggerate. Though somewhat retiring, her life was spent in well doing. Her husband, in his labours as a local preacher and leading official, had her full sympathy. In everything relating to the work of God she took a deep interest, which, notwithstanding increasing infirmity, was maintained to the last. For many years her house was the preacher's home, ministers and locals being equally welcome, and not a few will have recollections of her unfailing kindness. Her death took place on Thursday, Dec. 29, 1898, the anniversary of her marriage, and also of her birth. The summons found her quite prepared. Just before the end she repeated the lines—

"Whoe'er he be, believes in Me,
Shall never die eternally."

Her last words were, "Me, even me," quoted from the well-known hymn which was afterwards sung around her grave.

The burial service, held in the chapel where she had worshipped for so many years, was conducted by the circuit minister, assisted by Rev. S. Thomas, pastor of the Congregational Church. A large number of friends and neighbours bore silent testimony by their presence to the respect felt for the deceased. The body was then conveyed to Sheepscombe, and laid to rest in our own burying ground, where it awaits the resurrection of the just.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1901/310