

Sarah Knowles, nee Piggott

Transcription of Obituary In the Primitive Methodist Magazine by F.W. Wilkinson

One of the remaining links between the earlier days of the Connexion and the present was severed, on Sunday, January 20th, 1901, by the passing away of Sarah Knowles. She had been a faithful and loyal member of the Connexion for nearly 60 years. Seventy years ago John Atkin Knowles went to Hilgay, in Norfolk, and after a short courtship married Miss Sarah Piggott. They were both 17 years of age. After their marriage they went to live at Southrey, and associated themselves with our Church. Mrs. Knowles' conversion was the outcome of earnest prayer and expectant faith, not only on the part of her husband, but also the society and the Rev. John Smith, senior. For many years Mrs. Knowles' house was the home for the preacher, and it was her delight to recall the sayings and doings of the old fathers of the Connexion who shared her hospitality. viz., Hugh Bourne, Robert Key, W.G. Belham, W.H. Meadows, and many others. The good old times were treasured up in her heart and mind, and the progress of our cause in East Anglia was always a favourite theme. After her husband had retired (with a pension) from his position as a postman, they came to live at Woolwich, and immediately joined the cause here. For 36 years she earnestly sought the welfare of our Church in this part. She was one of the first members of the Eglinton Road Chapel, and for years her seat was regularly filled at the Sabbath and week day services; but old age and infirmities crept on apace, and for the last few years she was unable to attend the services. For a year or two prior to her husband's death (October 26th, 1899), he being also infirm, it was their custom to have services at home. Mrs. Knowles' forte was prayer, and whilst she was unable to attend the services she did what she could in lifting up the hands of the preacher by her prayers. Two books were her constant companion, her Bible and hymn-book, and were to her means of consolation and comfort. The loss of her husband after 68 years of married life was a great blow to her, but the separation was only a short one (fifteen months). Her confidence in God was strong. She bore a clear and loving testimony to the saving and keeping power of Christ, and like a ripened shock of corn was ready for the garner; having journeyed here for 86 years, she left the worn-out body to join 'the great throng.' Her body was laid to rest in Plumstead Cemetery. The Rev. F.W. Wilkinson conducted the funeral services and afterwards preached the memorial sermon. She leaves four daughters and one son (a local preacher) to mourn their loss. Our sister has passed on, but her influence and work abide as a rich fragrance.

References

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