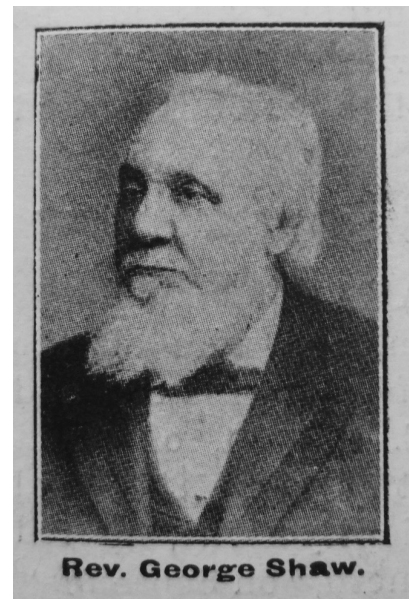


Rev George Shaw

Transcription of Obituary in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by Robt. W. Keightley

Conversing with my dear old friend, a few weeks before his demise, he said, "I want you to promise to write a very *modest sketch* of me for the *Aldersgate* after I go home." Shortly after this his illness began, which terminated on July 20th, 1903, Mr. Shaw's earthly course.

Our brother was born in Grimsby, September 26th, 1830, just eleven years after the Primitive Methodist Church was established in the town, and his grandmother was one of the earliest members of the first society. In early life he joined the same communion (1849). Preaching gifts and graces were soon discovered in him, and at the age of twenty-two he entered the ministry.



Our friend's active ministry was spent on the following stations:- Bridlington (Branch of Driffield), Winterton, Scarbro', Hull 1st, Louth, Filey, Pocklington, Swinefleet, Scotter, Howden, Leeds 6th, and Dewsbury - 33 years in all. When failing health compelled him to ask for superannuation, in 1886, he returned to his native town, and rendered such assistance as he could in Grimsby and surrounding circuits, both to Primitive Methodism and the Free Churches generally. The temperance cause found in him an earnest advocate, and progressive politics a stalwart friend. He closed his life in membership with the same society as he had joined in his youth, viz., Victoria Street, the fruitful mother of a large and flourishing family.

As a preacher Mr. Shaw was a distinct type. His public ministry evinced wide and varied reading. In knowledge of the scriptures, and ability to forcefully and intelligently expound them, especially the more obscure and difficult portions, he excelled. His great stores of pathos, humour, and reminiscence contributed largely to his pulpit power. He held fast to the central and vital truths of the Gospel. Christ had in every sermon "the pre-eminence." The joy of preaching increased as the years rolled by.

When his emotions were deeply stirred his preaching was irresistible. He preached at the morning Camp Meeting of the 1875 District Assembly held in Grimsby, shortly after the first Mrs. Shaw had been "translated," and taking for his subject the death of Stephen, or as Mr. Shaw designated it, "The man with the Angel-Face," the whole congregation was moved to tears, or transports of spiritual delight, in a most wonderful manner. That service still lives in the memory of those who were privileged to be present.

Our friend could listen eloquently as well as preach well. Full of appreciative and responsive sympathy, he has been a great inspiration to many of the younger ministers (to none more than to myself), during his years of superannuation.

What a lover of books! An omnivorous reader all his life, new books were always welcome, and old favourites were turned to like old friends.- His intellect was young to the last.

The literary labours of Mr. Shaw were very considerable. He wrote "Old Grimsby," also a Grimsby story, called "Councillor Kerwood's Investment," which appeared in serial form in the Aldersgate, "Gems and Pearls," "Johnny Oxtoby," "Filey and its Fishermen," "Our Religious Humorists," "Twistings and Twinings of Mr. Timothy Turnabout," the biography of his life-long friend, Rev. Parkinson Milson, together with many other books, of which over 100,000 have been sold.

Not a little of family affliction and bereavement fell to his share. But through all he bore himself with the hopefulness and buoyancy which spring from a simple faith.

The high esteem in which our friend was held in his native town was manifest on the occasion of the interment of his bodily tabernacle, on Thursday afternoon, July 23rd. The first part of the service took place in the Victoria Street Church, when many of our ministers, and officers and members of our Grimsby churches, and representative townspeople were present. Several of the ministers took part in the service, and a brief address was given by the writer at the request of the family of the deceased. The *Grimsby News*, speaking of the service, said, "Almost every one in the big congregation had known Mr. Shaw, and for them the service possessed even a deeper feeling and significance than that of simple solemnity and impressiveness."

On Sunday evening, August 2nd, Rev. J. Scruton, an old friend and former colleague of Mr. Shaw, conducted a memorial service at Victoria Street, and based his discourse upon the words, "Thou art greatly beloved."

Many letters have been received by Mrs. Shaw and her family, bearing high testimony to the rare worth of their beloved one.

Rev. J.P. Bellingham: "Your husband was the greatest lover of books I have ever known. And now he will enjoy the thoughts of the higher and nobler life."

Rev. R. Harrison: "He was easy to understand. There was no guile in him. I felt always that I could trust him. His religious life was of the bright and cheerful kind. He lived on Mount Olivet rather than on Calvary. He was a son of the Resurrection."

Rev. B. Fell: "What a friend and companion he was! So bright, so sociable, so playful, so versatile in conversation, so racy and full of wit and fun, and yet so *good*. I loved him much."

Rev. J. Hughes (Free Methodist): "He was a lovable man, and an able minister of Jesus Christ. I shall cherish in many a sweet reminiscence, his cheerful - often his humorous - sallies, mixed with serious and tender reflections, and frank glimpses into personal experiences of the religious life. His was a life well lived - a testimony for God bravely borne."

Rev. A. N. Cooper (Vicar of Filey): "I learnt with deep regret of the death of your delightful and cultivated husband."

Rev. J. Dodd Jackson: "It was a great pleasure to me to have the privilege of Mr. Shaw's friendship. He was so kind and sympathetic. Our church in Grimsby is surely much poorer for his departure."

Such are the testimonies of fellow-workers left behind. What must have been the congratulations of those colleagues and friends who preceded our brother to glory? Among his ministerial fellow-labourers were J. Petty, W. Gamer, R. Cheeseman, D. Ingham, R. Langham, B. Stansfield, P. Newton, W. Whitby, S. Oates, and many others.

Here we have the pain of separation. There our sainted ones delight in the joys of re-union. May such joy bathe the future of the widow, sons and daughters, and all the friends of him, upon whose grave we lay this wreath of grateful appreciation and love.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1904/489

[Census Returns and Births, Marriages & Deaths Registers](#)