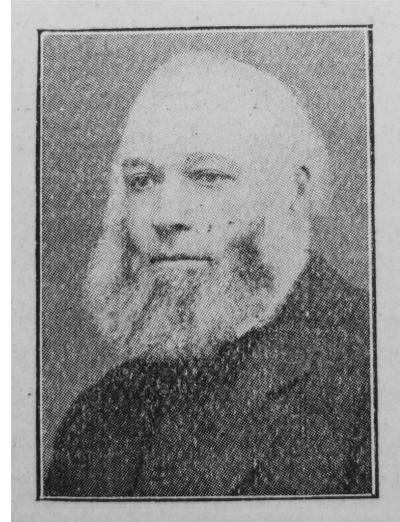


Richard Norton

Transcription of Obituary in the Primitive Methodist Magazine

Richard Norton was born at Sandford in the Chipping Norton Circuit. He was converted when quite a boy through the preaching of our early ministers and at once joined the infant community, and in the year 1851, was sent out to exhort sinners to turn to God, and for fifty-two years he continued in this good work. It fell to his lot to do a great deal of real home mission work in those early days, when there were no chapels nor rooms, and when services must be held in the open air if anywhere. Population was sparse, wages a pittance. We have heard him tell of the difficulties and privations of those times, how his widowed mother would make him up a parcel of food on the Sunday morning as he started on his long and toilsome journey, so that he should not faint by the way.



In process of time he came to live and work at Chilson in this the Witney Circuit. There was no Free Church service in the village, but he opened his house for which he brought down upon himself the wrath of the squire, who sought to starve him out. However, amidst fears and doubts, and perplexities he held on, wrestling with God for guidance and deliverance.

The answer came in a gracious revival of religion. The way was opened for a chapel to be built. Friends from unexpected quarters were raised up. The squire cleared out, but Richard Norton became established, and the work of God has prospered from that day to this. People came to Chilson to get converted, and went out to be pillars of the church in this and other lands.

Brother Norton was a soul winner, conscientious in the discharge of his duties, no journey too long, no place too poor or small if good might be done.

His home was a resting place for the preachers all the years. He was blessed in the helpmeets which God gave him. Though he had his full share of affliction and trouble still he did not complain, his heart was steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

He was taken ill when attending the Banbury District Meeting, for he enjoyed the confidence of his brethren both in the Circuit and District, and had represented them in Conference as well. His health gradually failed, until a few weeks before his death, an operation was recommended under which he sank, to rise into the light and love of the Father's House above.

A large company gathered to show their respect to the life and character of our brother. He lived well, he died triumphantly, he rests with his Lord.

References

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