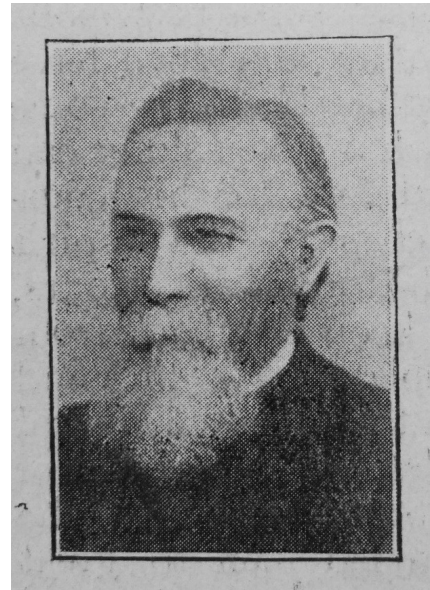


Rev. John George Smith (2)

Transcription of Obituary in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by F Rudd

The Rev. John George Smith was born in the City of Durham, but when about six years of age, his parents removed to the village of Foxholes, in the Driffield Circuit, so that youth and early manhood were spent on the wolds of Yorkshire. When about nineteen years of age, John George was deeply impressed with a sense of his sinfulness during a mission conducted by the Rev. T. Greenbury; and shortly after, Mr. G. Cherry, a very earnest lay preacher, had the joy of seeing him make a personal surrender of himself to Christ. About two years after his conversion he removed to Hornsea, and soon after his name appeared on the circuit plan. His ministrations gave evidence of more than average ability, and proved to the authorities of the circuit that he was designated of God for a wider sphere of usefulness; and the Quarterly meeting most cordially recommended him for the work of the ministry. Feeling his educational deficiencies he entered a boarding school for six months, and applied himself with such diligence, that when at the end of that time a call came from the Epworth circuit, he had no hesitancy in accepting it, believing it to be the call of God. The following year he removed to Retford under the superintendency of Rev. H. Knowles, and became acquainted with the daughter of his superintendent, who, on the termination of his probation, became his happy and faithful life companion.



It was during his probation that the writer became intimately acquainted with him; when stationed together in Doncaster, I found him a most agreeable colleague, and being about the same age, we were brought into close fellowship. We prayed together and rejoiced in each other's successes. He was a most companionable brother. His cheerfulness, and genial and kindly disposition, made him welcome to the homes of the people. The Rev. A.J. Bull, who was his colleague, says in a letter to Mrs. Smith, "I have very pleasing recollections of our two years' happy sojourn together in circuit work; I ever found him kind and considerate, and realised in him a true comrade and helper. He paid great attention to the details of circuit work. He was a good preacher and pastor. It was his custom to devote Friday afternoons to pastoral visitation in the town, and he and his colleague usually went together. The habit thus formed under his guidance has been a help to me up till now."

His ministerial labours were divided amongst the following circuits, viz. :- Epworth, Retford, Doncaster (twice), Market Rasen (twice), Barton (twice), Grimsby, Driffield, Winterton, Louth, Walthamstow, Patrington, and Pontefract; in all of which he realised a fair measure of success. He was a hard-working, plodding minister of Jesus Christ, who had the deepest interest in his work, and whose greatest joy was in seeing sinners converted to God - a joy in which he often shared. He was no mere hireling, but conscientiously and faithfully His who had called him to such high and holy service.

To build up believers in the most holy faith and persuade sinners to be reconciled to God was his constant aim, and in this work he realised much success.

The men to whom our Church has owed more than can be estimated are men of the type of our now sainted brother - plain men, practical men, men of strong common sense.

Our brother Smith was a builder rather than an artist, one whose work will abide though the workman no longer uses the trowel and plummet. The Rev. A. Jubb says, "What I owed in my boyhood to Mr. Smith I do not know, it was while he was stationed in Doncaster twenty-six years ago, that I, a very young boy, publicly came out for Christ at Duke Street Chapel. I know that the revival amongst the children was largely promoted and assisted by Mr. Smith's care and labour and love for the young people." The President of Conference, Rev. R. Harrison, says Mr. Smith "bore the highest character among his brethren. He was a genuine minister of our Church - faithful, diligent, and successful. In all his work he had the glory of God and the good of men before him."

The Rev. T.C. Showell of Walthamstow, says, "Mr. Smith did splendid work here years ago, and is remembered by many who speak of him with affection and respect."

About ten years ago, while stationed at Pontefract, his health broke down and he was compelled to seek superannuation. He settled in Hull and joined the Ebenezer Church, but his working days were over. That terrible disease, creeping paralysis, held him in its grip, and gradually destroyed his ability to walk to the House of God, and ultimately rendered him helpless. He patiently bore the long drawn out deprivation of serving his Master, which had been his greatest joy. He served in suffering by accepting his lot without murmuring. Mr. Smith owed much to her who shared his joys and sorrows for more than forty years, and whose wifely solicitude and tender and unwearied attentions to him left her so weak that she was unable to attend the funeral. Many ministers and friends attended the funeral, and several took some part in the last rites for the dead. His remains lie in the Hull Western Cemetery until the last trump, when the dead shall be raised. incorruptible, and the mortal shall have put on immortality. May He who knows all, impart to Mrs. Smith and family those consolations which greatly mitigate the sorrows caused by bereavement, and enable the mourners to "kiss the rod and Him who hath appointed it."

References

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