

James Ernest Thorp

Transcription of 'Sketch' In the Christian Messenger by J.G. Bowran

The Rev. J.E. Thorp!

Before we met Mr. Thorp we had heard a great deal about him. He was described as a man who got things done, and now that we have seen him and heard him and familiarized ourselves with his record, we see that he is one of the best assets our Church possesses today. He is the man for difficulties and extensions, with the happy art of pioneering and consolidating. He has only been in the ministry fifteen years, but his record is magnificent. He is one of the men whom we feel sure all our Church would delight to honour.



A Few Facts!

He is a Yorkshire man, having been born at Sowerby Bridge thirty-seven years ago. Beginning as a Hired Local Preacher in the Leeds First Station, he was fortunate in having the Rev. M. P. Davison as his Superintendent. The Harehills forward movement was on the way, and doubtless our friend learnt a great many lessons in that wise and successful venture. He was equally fortunate when he became the colleague at Plymouth of the Rev. J. H. Best. His four years at Coventry have made a deep impression. He seemed to project his vitality into every part of the station. Four out of six chapels were either rebuilt or extended, three sites were purchased, large sums of money were raised, and, best of all, a second minister was called out. For three years he ministered in Torquay, and only left at the urgent call of the Missionary Committee for the work in Wales.

The South Wales Coalfield Mission!

Our readers will know of the great industrial opportunity here which also presents a glorious religious opportunity for our Church. Ten places are covered by this Mission. Mr. Thorp was invited as the Superintendent, and during the two years everything has been speeded up. Two new churches have been opened, and £500 has been paid off debts. Recently we were privileged to visit the Gilfach Goch Garden Village, and we can speak of the excellent opportunity presented to our Church there, and of the admirable provision which has been made. Those who know him best speak of his courage allied with prudence, of his strength mingled with gentleness. Busy as he is in practical concerns, he never forgets the claims of his mind, and the need of spiritual culture. Since he is only in his thirty-seventh year, we dare to prophesy that he will go far in our Church's life. He is the type of man who gathers up all the good qualities of our fathers, and yet catches the modern mind and view. He is entirely devoted to the immediate task to which he has been called. It monopolises his thought and engages the highest activities of his life, It is through concentration of effort that the best results are achieved.

References

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