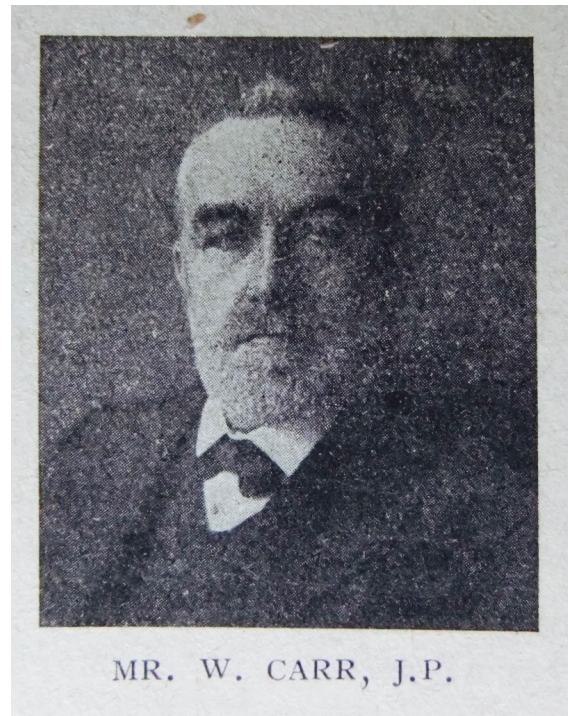


William Carr

Transcription of Sketch in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by Rev. W.A. French.

MR. WILLIAM CARR, J.P., is an outstanding personality in the vigorous life of Primitive Methodism on Tyneside. He is a man of varied and ceaseless activities, of abounding vitality, magnetic temperament, intellectually strong, clear and resourceful, and governed by ideals of highest moral excellence; large hearted, genial and generous. To the good cause and the poor he is a friend indeed. Mr. Carr's activities, both secular and religious, have been of such a character, so freely and disinterestedly offered for the good of others, that they have won for him an honoured place among his townsmen of Gateshead. In business, as the head of the firm which bears his name, by his energy, enterprise and tactful management, securing the goodwill of his employees, he has achieved a great success.



As a member of the Town Council, he quickly made clear his moral quality. The movement to blot out betting news from the newspapers in the public library he strongly supported, and his zeal for temperance ranged him on the side of those whose vigorous opposition stopped the issue of drink licences to theatres, a service he remembers with pride, though in the end it cost him his seat on the Council.

Mr. Carr's many and valued services for the town are highly appreciated, and received fitting recognition when in 1907 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the borough.

Our special interest in him, however, arises out of the stalwart service he has, and still is, rendering to the cause of Primitive Methodism in Gateshead and the district. Here he is seen at his best. This is the Church of his choice, and the Church of his love. To strengthen her pillars, extend her boundaries, and to multiply her members, bringing to them the experience and aspirations of a new life, has been the passion and the delight of his life, and in this respect he has been both a sower of seed and a reaper of harvest.

Born of Primitive Methodist parents, taken to Sunday school at three years of age, and still there, entering into membership on February 21st, 1864, these were the beginnings of a religious career remarkable for its progress, intensity, and supreme devotion to its high purpose. The jubilee of Mr. Carr's membership was celebrated in 1914, when occasion was taken to present to him a framed portrait of himself, which he at once returned to the trustees of Durham Road Church, and which now adorns the wall of the lecture hall.

He became a local preacher in 1869, and is now celebrating his fifty years of service in that capacity. As a local preacher he has done honour to his order. He was quickly discovered to be a man with a message, and a definite evangelical aim. To this work he has given of his best, preparing thoroughly and being faithful to all engagements. Gifted with a voice rich in tone and finely modulated, his thoughts clothed in language chaste, racy and picturesque, and often

with an added touch of humour, but always with intense fervour, he has ever been welcome in all our pulpits.

From 1873 to 1888, under the direction of the Quarterly Meeting, he was engaged, with others, in distinctive mission work, and during that time his zeal, tactfulness and winsome manner gained attention, and his intelligent and interesting presentation of the Master's message bore good fruit. The Teams, Askew Road, and Sunderland Road Churches are standing memorials to the spiritual conquests then won.

In official life his record is great: class leader, local preacher, Sunday school superintendent, Trust Secretary, and for a while Circuit Steward. But he has always been more than a circuit official. His sympathies are not parochial. He is a connexional man, possessing its spirit and outlook, and delighting in its larger life and ever-extending work. In District Committees his presence is familiar and counsels valued. To District Meetings he has been delegate five times, once being appointed vice-chairman when the meeting was held at Gateshead. To Conference he has been a delegate five times. His interest, however, in these higher courts has not been limited to official membership. To both he has been a regular visitor for thirty-six and twenty-five years respectively.

In these later years Mr. Carr has planned and purposed, with a large-heartedness that does him credit, schemes for the emancipation of the sanctuary from financial burden. By his generous gifts Sunderland Road is now free, while other churches have greatly benefited by welcome help. The Joicey Road, trustees have recently received from him a stimulating challenge and splendid offer of twenty-five per cent, if they will clear the debt of nine hundred and fifty pounds in six years. Needless to say the challenge is accepted, and it is pleasant to know that in this good work Mrs. Carr and family are in fullest accord. We are equally glad to say his son, Mr. Councillor W. Carr, jun., is serving the Church with great acceptance as local preacher and senior circuit steward. Mr. Carr has now his face toward the west, still his heart is young and mind busy with projects for the future we cannot now unfold. He loves his Church, but longs to see her mightily sweeping onward from conquest to conquest, resting not on victories won, but making every success the vantage-ground of further effort. Having faith, vision and hope, he sees the golden age is coming, and the best is yet to be. We thank God for him, and rejoice in his success.