

Arthur Longstaff

Transcription of sketch in the *Christian Messenger* by the Editor

The Rev Arthur Longstaff comes of Weardale stock and bears the marks of his ancestry. He was born at New Shildon, county Durham, of saintly parents who hailed from the dale famous as a seed-plot for our ministry. Whilst in his early teens he removed to Newcastle-on-Tyne, where he came under the influence of the Rev. J. Harryman Taylor, M.A., and his own brother, Joseph Longstaff, Ex-Vice-President of Conference, with whom he went out "on note." In that busy northern city Mr. Longstaff received a commercial training which he supplemented by night-work at Rutherford College and then Newcastle Second "called" him to enter the ministry. His preparation and equipment were enviable, and enabled him to pursue his college Course with distinction and secure the high average of ninety-two per cent. of marks in his examinations as a probationer. There was good stock and careful training, but this meant hard work as well, and as Daniel Neilson used to say, "It's 'work that pays, man, it's work that pays."



A Good Beginning.

Burnopfield, county Durham, was the first circuit to test the young preacher's mettle, and it must have been satisfied with its quality, for he remained there six years. Nor could the years have been uneventful ones, for during that period six new chapels were erected - surely a record even for the robust North. The lure of the North still held, for Gateshead II. claimed the next five years, but here the emphasis was on building young people in the Church, successful missions conducted at Prince Consort Road, Dunston, and other places, leading many to Christ. A flight south gave change of soil at Newbury, where for two years he served the Free Church Council as President, but through the nine years divided between Newbury and Crowle, his present station, the care of the young has been his special charge.

Steady Growth.

Careful and painstaking toil of this order is never fruitless, and results in increased membership as well as reduction of debts. It also inspires confidence in Districts and these have requisitioned service as Secretary of important committees, and sent our brother twice to Conference - once as G.C.D. Wide reading in theology and philosophy has laid an excellent foundation for preaching, and to preach Christ is Mr. Longstaff's consuming passion, and with gifts ripening and increasing he could leave Crowle after four happy years to take up the work at Barnoldswick, where again the story of successful labour may be expected to be told.

References

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