

CHAPEL OPENINGS, &c., IN OSWESTRY CIRCUIT.

*Ellesmere.* — For several years the Primitive Methodists have suffered greatly at this place for want of a more commodious place of worship. Several attempts were made to obtain a suitable plot of land; but in vain, until Robert Roberts, the class leader, who was remarkably zealous both for the cause and chapel, with much difficulty succeeded in purchasing property to the amount of six hundred and fifty pounds. He had fifty pounds offered to relinquish his purchase; but he said, “No, we will have a chapel;” and, March 2, 1840, the Trustees bought of him a suitable portion for a chapel and a house at the end of it. When the chapel was built, it was opened for divine service, July 12, 1840, when three sermons were preached; at half-past ten in the morning, and at six in the evening, by James Bourne, from Bemersley; and at half-past two in the afternoon, by John Hallam, of Bemersley. And on Monday and Tuesday, July 13 and 14, William Roaf, an Independent minister, preached. The congregations were numerous and respectable, and the sermons powerful and impressive. The presence of the Lord was felt in a powerful degree; and the language of the attentive, lively, and delighted multitude was, “It is good for us to be here. And several were converted to God. The spirit of Christianity has admirably prevailed here, and has been exemplified by the inhabitants of Ellesmere and its vicinity, in their contributions towards the erection of this chapel.

This chapel is thirteen yards and a half long, by seven yards and a half wide, inside, and sixteen feet from the floor to the ceiling. The front end adjoins one of the main streets; and the door faces this street. Over the door is the inscription, as follows: “Mount Zion Primitive Methodist Chapel, 1840. ‘Come in, thou blessed of the Lord; wherefore standest thou without,’ Gen. xxiv. 31.”

The chapel has seven windows, each five feet three inches high, and three feet two inches wide, inside. Eight gas lights, three on each side, and two in the pulpit. The gas is burnt by measure.

The floor is boarded, except the aisle, which is laid with good quarries. It has fourteen pews, two of which are double. The pews comfortably seat ninety-eight, most of which are let. It has seventeen free benches; and the chapel is plain, neat, and commodious.

The expenditure of this chapel is two hundred and fifty-three pounds seven shillings and three halfpence; donations, subscriptions, and collections, one hundred and three pounds, seven shillings, and eleven pence halfpenny; borrowed on a note of hand, one hundred and fifty pounds.

The manner in which the society and other friends have exerted themselves to bring their undertaking to a successful termination, has been highly creditable to their liberality and piety. They had laboured in vain for many years, to obtain a suitable building site; but, persevering in their laudable endeavours, they have now realized the object of their desire, and the house of the Lord is completed. The congregation and society are prosperous, and we have instituted a Sunday school.

The Trustees tender their thanks to all the kind friends; but more especially to Mary Ann Hignett, for her laudable undertaking in begging the sum of thirty pounds; and, through her medium, a letter was written to John Bird, Esq., of Manchester, and he sent ten pounds as a donation. And she has willed fifty pounds to be paid over to the circuit steward at her death, for the use of this chapel.

“Her works shall praise her in the gate.”

R. WARD.