

NEW CHAPEL AT HORBURY
(BARNSELY CIRCUIT.)

Horbury is a large and respectable village near Wakefield, containing a population of more than two thousand souls. From authentic sources it appears that the inhabitants were decidedly hostile to the introduction of Methodism. Of so desperate a character was their opposition, that they resolved to drown, in the river, the next preacher that came to the place; a resolution which they attempted to carry into effect on the person of Mr. John Nelson. See his Journal published at our Book-room, page 160, 161. Methodism, however gained an establishment, and in the year 1766, a commodious chapel was erected, which continues to be a house of prayer for a respectable Wesleyan Society.

The entrance of our own people into Horbury, does not appear to have been attended with any degree of persecution worthy a place in this article. The zealous and faithful Missionaries succeeded in raising a society, which from its commencement has been of some note in this neighbourhood. For nearly twenty years the society worshipped in an old building which they fitted up at their own expense, and for which they paid a yearly rent of seven pounds. Of late years it was frequently too small to contain the congregation, and was most uneligibly situated. The brethren felt the need of a New Chapel, and some fruitless attempts were made to obtain land prior to my appointment to Barnsley circuit. Soon after my arrival, it was decided to try again, and we happily succeeded in purchasing more than three hundred square yards for the sum of sixty-one pounds.

Plans, specifications, &c. were gratuitously furnished by Mr. Whitworth, the principal architect in Barnsley. And the various works were let in March, 1841. The foundation sermon was preached by Mr. W. Sanderson, on Easter Monday, and the opening services commenced Thursday, Sep. 23rd, 1841, when Messrs. Thomas Scales, of Leeds, and J. Sowerby, of Flockton, (Independents,) officiated. On Sunday, 25th, Brother T. Holliday, preached morning and evening, and Mr. Kilner, (Independent,) in the afternoon. Brother Brownson also preached in the Independent Chapel, and was allowed to make a collection for our New Chapel. And the opening services were resumed the following Sabbath, by Brothers W. Antliff, and J. Verity.

The unprecedented depression of trade, and the opposition we had to encounter from a religious society, who were preparing to erect a new chapel, near the site of ours, had a very unfavourable effect on our subscription list, and some said that we should not beg twenty pounds; but the Lord has wonderfully helped us. Viscounts Morpeth and Milton were applied to, and sent us five pounds each. The Hon. J. S. Wortley, M.P. sent us three pounds, and many persons in the neighbourhood have been very kind, so that, including the collections at the opening, we raised about one hundred pounds. The chapel stands in a most delightful situation, fronting the turnpike road leading from Wakefield to Huddersfield. It is built of stone, and its dimensions are thirty-six feet by thirty-one feet and a half, and twenty-five feet and a half high. It has an excellent front gallery, which will seat about ninety persons, and lights are put in for side galleries. The inscription stone is inscribed thus,

PRIMITIVE METHODIST
CHAPEL,
1841.

“We preach Christ crucified.”

The whole cost, including large accommodations for a Sunday school, is about four hundred and forty pounds. The deed is strictly connexional, and is enrolled in her Majesty's High Court of Chancery. Every sitting in the gallery is let, and about forty persons have taken each a sitting in the bottom, where we have forms with backs to them. The treasurer has received five pounds eleven shillings and sixpence for the first quarter's seat rents: a sum justifying the expectation that the *bona fide* debt will be annually diminished.

The sum of three hundred pounds is borrowed at five per cent, and it is hoped that a great part of the remaining forty pounds, which is temporarily provided for, will be paid off at the close of the first anniversary, as more than fifteen pounds is promised on the Golden System. Since the opening, the chapel has been well attended, and some sinners have been converted to God in it. That the Horbury society, now consisting of eighty-eight members, may be holy, happy, and prosperous, is the prayer of yours truly,

JOHN BROWNSON.