

Stephenson Stobbs

Transcription of Obituary In the [Primitive Methodist Magazine](#)

Born at Allenheads, Northumberland, August 12th, 1839, Stephenson Stobbs came of a Primitive Methodist ancestry. Converted during the famous revival under Colin Campbell McKechnie in 1860, he became a local preacher of extraordinary popularity and usefulness, and in such request were his services that he once received thirty-seven applications for one Easter Sunday. He was widely sought after all over the North, and conducted fifteen hundred special and as many ordinary services, walking ten thousand miles and travelling by rail twice that distance to and from his appointments. Often his journeys were over wide moors and in rough weather, and once he was lost on the fell between West and East Allendale in a snowstorm in which many preachers perished in Wales and Yorkshire. His sermons not only delighted thousands by their eloquence and rhetorical power, but no fewer than five hundred persons were converted under his labours. He rendered valuable social service as member of the School Board and as Urban District Councillor, etc., and addressed innumerable meetings on political questions in connection with the General Elections from 1874 to 1895. From Allendale he removed in 1873 to Page Bank, Spennymoor, and for thirty-nine years occupied a distinguished and honourable position as mine surveyor for Messrs. Bell Brothers. In 1896 he removed to Middlesbrough, and continued his useful work till an accident to his ankle interfered with his activities. He managed to attend the Centenary Camp Meeting, however, at Mow Cop, and continued to be keenly interested in the work of the Church and in political affairs. He had a wide acquaintance with our ministers, from Hugh Bourne, who placed his hand on the boy's head and blessed him, to Harland and Sanderson and Key, and the leaders of a latter day. His services among the Baptists were especially appreciated, Mrs. Spurgeon presenting him with a parcel of books. He paid annual visits for twelve years in succession to Sunderland, sixteen to Stanhope, thirteen to Chester-le-Street, and preached the anniversary sermons of his native chapel for twenty-seven years without a break. Suddenly, when seated in his chair, and conversing with his family, he passed to the higher service in the evening of March 20th, 1912. God's finger touched him and he slept

J. RITSON.

References

[Primitive Methodist Magazine 1913/658](#)