

Rev. Thomas Bryant

Transcription of Obituary in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by Isaac Brentnall

Our dearly-loved brother, Thomas Bryant, was born at St. Ives, Cornwall, on October 11th, 1831, and entered peacefully into rest on June 3rd, 1903, in the 72nd year of his age. He was brought to Jesus in the days of his youth, and soon began to exercise his gifts as a local preacher. He was called into the regular ministry by the Redruth Circuit in 1855, and for nearly 50 years made full proof of his ministry, being active in season and out of season.

On his superannuation he came to reside at Exmouth, and during his sixteen years residence here rendered valuable service at both the places in this circuit.

Most of his ministry was spent in purely mission work, and the following fields of toil afforded him many opportunities of exercising his zeal and faith, viz., Redruth, Abergavenny, Pontypool, Chippenham, Radstock, Burton, Dorchester, St. Albans, Alderney, and Dover and Deal. In 1867 he was sent by the General Missionary Committee to Canada, and for twelve and a half years he was in labours more abundant, and left behind him many sons in the Gospel, who still revere his memory.

In consequence of his wife's failing health and the Union of the Methodist Churches, he returned to this country in 1880, and after serving the mission cause at Chichester, Dover, Deal and Horsham, superannuated in 1887, and came to reside at Exmouth.

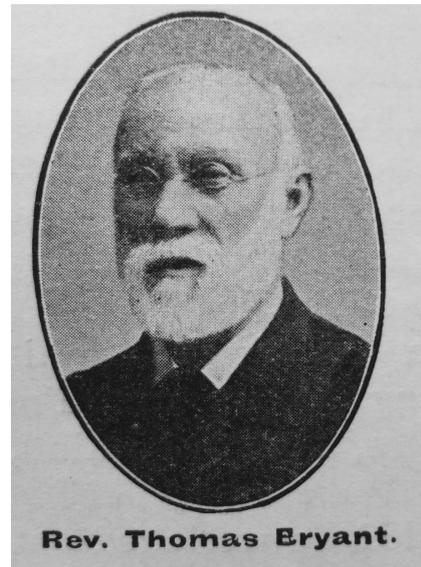
His was not a brilliant career, but it was a useful one. He made no pretensions to extraordinary ability and culture, yet he possessed a vigorous mind, a lively fancy, and a discriminating judgment.

His sympathies were strong and tender. Some of his circuits were very wide, and often in Canada the deep snows would prevent him returning home for days.

But he did not murmur or complain. He endured as seeing Him who is invisible, and cheerfully sustained the Cross. In all his circuits his ministrations were profitable, experimental, and practical. '

About a year ago he had a painful illness, when it was thought his end was near. But by care and God's blessing he rallied.

His last illness was short and sharp. But his spirit was so calm, his faith so strong, and his hope so bright that his chamber seemed quite on the verge of Heaven. He had no doubts or fears. He said "I am realizing what I have preached to others."



Rev. Thomas Bryant.

A few days before he died he said to his wife, “When I am dying sing to me ‘I’m sweeping through the gates,’ sweeping, mind, not *creeping*.”

Just before he ascended he stretched out his hands and said, “Come! come!” and Jesus came and fulfilled his own words — “Where I am, there also shall my servant be.”

His funeral sermon was preached in the Exmouth Church by the Rev. B. Beckerlegge, one of his old colleagues, amid many tokens of respect and esteem.

References

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