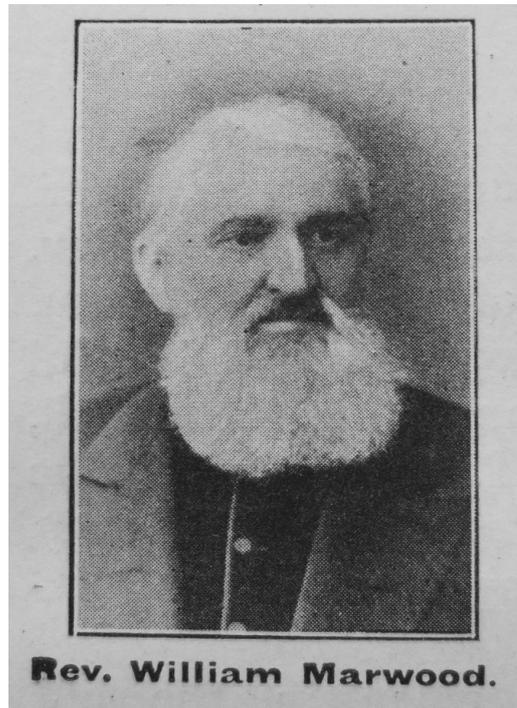


Rev. William Marwood

Transcription of Obituary in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by George T. Fawcett

The late Rev. William Marwood was born at Brompton, North Allerton, Yorkshire, June 15th, 1820. His parents were regular worshippers at the Parish Church, his father being bell-ringer there for a number of years. Attracted by the early Primitive Methodists, and intensely interested in their worship and earnest evangelistic efforts, he would hurry from his belfry to the meeting place. He ultimately became a member of our Church at Brompton, and doubtless this fact was an important link in the chain of providential circumstances which led to the conversion of his son, William, the subject of this sketch, at the early age of fourteen, at the Primitive Methodist Chapel of his native village, May 23rd, 1834.



In September, 1837, when our departed friend was a youth of seventeen, his name appeared on the circuit plan as an "exhorter," and having proved his character and worth during four quarters of willing and often arduous service, he was accepted as a "full local preacher," his name appearing as such upon the circuit plan for September, 1838. In 1840 a letter was received by his superintendent minister from the Ripon Circuit, asking whether there was a young man upon the station suited for the work of a travelling preacher. Mr. Marwood was heartily recommended, and in April of that year he opened his commission as a Primitive Methodist minister by preaching at Bedale Market Cross, in the Thirsk branch of the Ripon Circuit, where for a time he laboured under the superintendency of one of our Church's most illustrious sons, the late Thomas Greenfield. Says our friend in his journal, "The Thirsk branch was then very extensive and very poor. The first quarter's income was only £9 13s. 6d. and that for the support of two ministers; at the June Quarterly Meeting I received £2 14s. 2d. for ten weeks' service." At the end of eight months he removed to Ripon which then included within its area the ground now divided amongst eight circuits. From Ripon he removed to Alston Moor, in Cumberland, and thence to Hull, where for a considerable time he was associated in fellowship and service with the Ven. William Clowes, in the city itself, and in the various missions connected with the mighty Hull Circuit of those days. He says in his journal - "the last services I attended with him (William Clowes), were at Ayton, near Scarborough. He preached two practical discourses, but owing to his great weakness I read the scriptures, announced the hymns and prayed. We stayed at the same house together, our intercourse being very pleasant and profitable." After leaving Hull, Mr. Marwood laboured at Scarborough, Swinefleet, Louth, Market-Rasen, Brigg, Northampton, Silchester, (then a branch of the Reading Circuit), Leicester first, Ripley, Nottingham, Wirksworth, Mansfield, Ilkestone, Spalding and Sleaford Circuits. How easy to read this list of places, but how difficult to form any adequate conception of the strenuous and earnest toil such a life involved, and how entirely impossible to estimate the beneficent influence of such a ministry for Christ and humanity. Whilst at Spalding our

friend sustained a great and irreparable loss in the death of his devoted wife, who with rare sympathy and self-abandon had shared the joys and struggles of "his busy, blessed life." At Sleaford, owing to broken health, he was obliged to relinquish his beloved work and seek rest and relief in superannuation. Says our friend in closing his modest record of his life and labours.— "Here (Sleaford), I finished my forty years laborious service as a Primitive Methodist minister. Some of my circuits were very wide, involving very much walking and frequent open-air services. "Very few, if any of them, could be called moderately easy; some were comparatively barren of results, others successful. The latter far exceeded the former. The decreases 146, the increases 955, the net increase 834. To God be all the glory." The Rev. James Flanagan writes:- "The going home of your loved and honoured father has recalled to me the days of yore, days which I would not readily forget. I recall the time when I, a poor prodigal, turned my feet to the Father's house. Chief among the Christian evidences that rooted the new faith into my life were those who professed Christianity, and chief among these was your sainted father. He was to me a living witness of the glory and power of the Christian religion. I do not forget also that God made his ministry to me the means of my heart's own assurance in the way of the Lord. His life gave delight to those who knew him, to every spiritual sense. To me he was one of those men whom

'Nature has broadly
Severed from the mass of men.'

He thought on God in his youth. His life was virtue's natural soil. He breathed the air of purity and has passed in a ripe old age, but with a soul as young as ever, to his immortal crown. I thank God that I ever knew him."

Rev. William Suttle writes:- "I knew your dear father well. I spent five years of my ministerial life with him without a jar, and I have had unbroken friendship with him for thirty years. Since his superannuation I have corresponded with him, and looked for his quarterly letter as thirstingly as one does for a cooling and refreshing stream in summer. His letters were full of cheer and breathed an atmosphere charged with the spirit of the Cross. He was a true friend, and I feel that the world is poorer and lonelier for his absence. I never heard him but what there was freshness. He was able to fix the attention of his hearers from first to last. What a long and fruitful ministry! Sixty-three years a minister of the unworn gospel. What a large number will be the crown of his rejoicing."

For twenty-three years after his superannuation, Mr. Marwood resided in Derby, winning for himself a large place in the love and esteem of our own and other Churches in the town. As long as he was able he gave himself without reserve and with much acceptance to public work, but with increasing years came increasing infirmity and weakness, and for some four years he had not been able to attend a public service. But his interest in the work and his sympathy with the workers was untiring.

He suffered much during the last few days but unmurmuringly, heroically, and in the spirit of his strenuous and self-forgetting life. He passed away on the 19th of March, 1903, in his eighty-third year.

A large number of friends assembled at our Central Church, Derby, for the funeral service, which was conducted by the writer, the following ministers taking part:- Rev. T. Mitchell (President of the Conference), who gave a most appropriate and helpful address, Revs. John Wenn, J.H. Hemshall,

A. Ward, W. Evans and T.A. Wagstaffe. The Rev. G. Pagett (Congregational Minister), also attended representing the Derby Ministerial Union.

The interment took place in the Old Cemetery, Uttoxeter Road, Derby.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1904/237