

1869—1919


Jubilee Souvenir

- OF -

EASINGTON LANE

Primitive Methodist Church



Programme of 
Jubilee Celebrations.

September 27th to November 10th, 1919.

Price—ONE SHILLING.

W. KAY & SONS,

Beef and Pork Butchers,



High Street, Easington Lane,
AND
Church Street, Murton Colliery

Noted for English and Scotch Beef and Mutton.

SAUSAGE AND POTTED MEAT A SPECIALITY.



KNOWN FOR HALF-A-CENTURY

FOR

GROCERIES
and
PROVISIONS
of the
Finest Quality.



J. ROBINSON & SONS

HETTON-LE-HOLE.

ESTAB. 1870

1869

JUBILEE

1919.

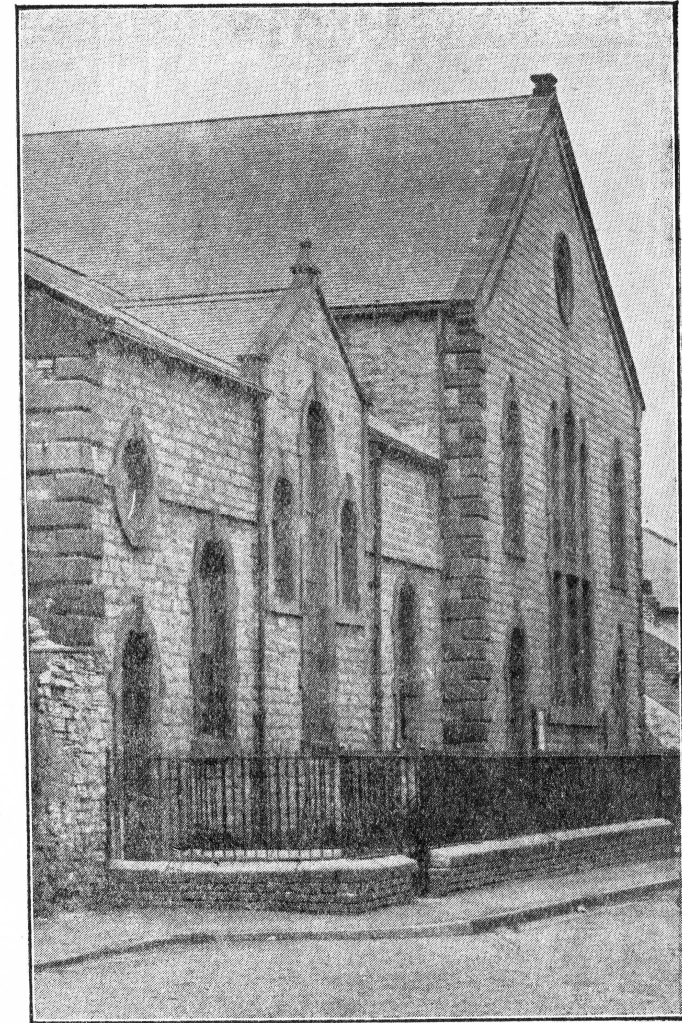


Photo by J. Fletcher & Sons, Hetton.

**EASINGTON LANE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH
AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

HISTORICAL REVIEW.

THE FIRST YEARS.

EASINGTON LANE has for nearly a century occupied an honoured and distinguished place in Northern Primitive Methodism. The Society dates its beginning from the year 1823,

so that in four years from now the Church will be justified in celebrating, not a jubilee, but a centenary anniversary. The first services were held in a schoolroom built by William Dent. The few years thus occupied may seem now to have faded and left us trace of their varied activities, but the strong and progressive spiritual influences of those times have been largely responsible for the later work in which the church at Easington Lane has been engaged.

DEVELOPMENTS.

After about 16 years in the schoolroom already mentioned, a small chapel was bought from the Methodist New Connexion Community (the present Miners' Hall) which very soon became too small for the congregation and school, in spite of the fact that it was enlarged on two occasions. We can imagine something of the activities of those times.

Though the material for an historical account of the first beginnings may be meagre, yet we can picture those Pioneers, with their tremendous energies and their irrepressible enthusiasm, toiling hard that God's Kingdom might be firmly established in men's hearts and His Throne set up in the community.

THE NEW EPOCH.

The efforts of 1869, however, being much nearer to us, concern us this year even more than those of 1823. After 46 years we discover that there was no slackening of zeal, but a continued devotion to the cause, which had its issue in the block of premises the Jubilee of which we now celebrate.

The original cost of the new Chapel and School built in 1869 was about £1,800. The foundation stone was laid by an honoured gentleman who has been noted for his generous interest in the cause of religion, and who is still with us to show in a very practical manner his deep sympathy with all that concerns the Kingdom of God, Sir Lindsay Wood.



MR. GEORGE ROBSON,

One of the First Trustees, whose most conspicuous work was done in Sunday School and Trust Departments.



MR. JOHN ROBSON,

One of the First Trustees, for many years Trust Treasurer and Local Preacher for over 50 years.



MR. WILLIAM PARKER,

An Original Trustee, Local Preacher, and Class Leader.

Four Original Trustees.



MR. JOHN DALKIN.



MR. THOMAS CARR.



MR. JOHN HOWE.



MR. HENRY TONKS.

TIMES OF REJOICING.

There are several still in harness who were present at the opening, and they can tell of the rejoicings when the expectations of God's people were realized in such a way. The Rev. Peter Clarke superintended the Hetton Circuit at the time, and to his exceptional ability and untiring ardour the success of the efforts was largely due.

Stirring times were these, in which men and women worked with quenchless zeal. More than one man knew what it was to work "double-shift" his labours at his daily employment often being followed by a few hours willing service freely given to the building of the chapel.

FRIENDLY HELPERS.

The old Hetton Coal Co. were most friendly, going to the extent of laying a line from the Colliery to the building site and supplying building material. Traditions like these have been worthily sustained up to the present, for on an appeal being made to the Lambton and Hetton Coal Co. in connection with the Jubilee Celebrations, the sum of £100 was given as a donation towards the extinction of the remaining debt. This was followed by a generous donation of £200 from Sir Lindsay Wood; being £100 towards Debt Extinction and £100 towards much-needed renovations.

THE PIONEERS.

Reverting to the year 1869, a number of names come before us to which we gratefully and gladly pay honour in these times. The "original" trustees were John Robson, who was treasurer of the trust for 50 years (father of Mr. Thos. Robson, still with us) Joseph Roscamp, Thomas Carr, Henry Tonks, who carried out the wood-work in the new chapel, and who was keenly interested in all the work of the church, John Dalkin, Thomas Robson, William Parker a class-leader and man of saintly character; John Howe, Robert Scott, Charles Cox, Michael Hall, George Robson and John Robson.

The descendants of several of these are still to the fore, and worthily sustain the traditions of the past.

In 1889, after 20 years unremitting toil, there was left a debt of £180 only upon the premises. A Japanese Bazaar was set on foot and by this means the small remainder was cleared off.

MORE ROOM NEEDED !

It was not long ere more accommodation was needed, especially in the school. Consequently in 1890, additional ground was purchased with a view to providing for the growing requirements. Early in 1892, plans were drawn and submitted to the trustees by Mr. T. E. Davison, architect, and finally accepted. The scheme was stopped owing to the unfortunate county strike, and again by the prospect of Elemore Colliery being closed for an indefinite period. To the deep regret of all, when this took place some of the most active and reliable families had to seek employment elsewhere.

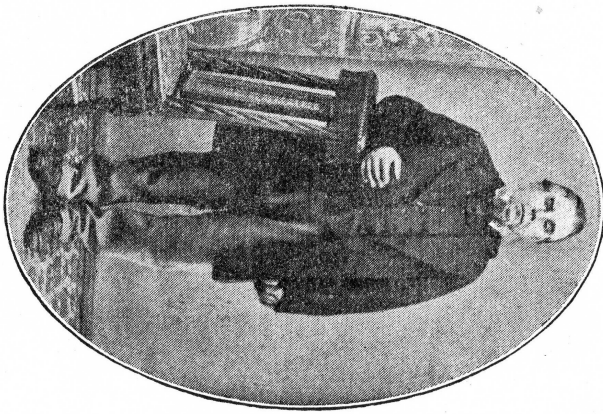
However, the work of extension was ultimately proceeded with, and the "foundation-stone" laid on June 23rd, 1894 by Sir Lindsay Wood. A gallery was placed in the School, and a new Infant School added, with a fine Lecture Hall and class-rooms. On Saturday, March 16th, 1895, the enlarged school-room was opened the cost being £1025.

Then followed alterations to the Chapel itself. These consisted in the removal of the north gable and the building of an orchestra; the pulling down of the old ceiling and the re-seating of the body of the Chapel; and the fixing of a new rostrum and Communion Rail. In this way something like £400 additional expenditure was incurred.

FINANCIAL PROGRESS.

The original and subsequent cost of the premises is scheduled as £3176. In 1899 the debt stood at £1035. Twenty years later, in 1919, we commenced the year with a debt of £322.

Contrasting these figures, we can readily see that considerable work has been done during the twenty years, and much money raised not only for debt reduction but also for the requisite working



MR. JOHN ROBSON, Senior,
An Original Trustee and many
years Treasurer.



MR. MICHAEL HALL,
An Original Trustee.



The late COUN. G. HESLOP, J.P.,
Local Preacher and Class Leader.

expenses. Towards the remaining £322 we have already received the two magnificent sums already mentioned, together with a promise of 5 per cent on all raised from Sir W. P. Hartley.

Along with these gifts we must remember the generosity of our own people. Since January they have worked hard, young and old have thrown their enthusiasm in the work of making the Jubilee Celebrations worthy of remembrance, and the list of donations and promises is one of which the Church may feel proud.

MINISTERS SENT OUT.

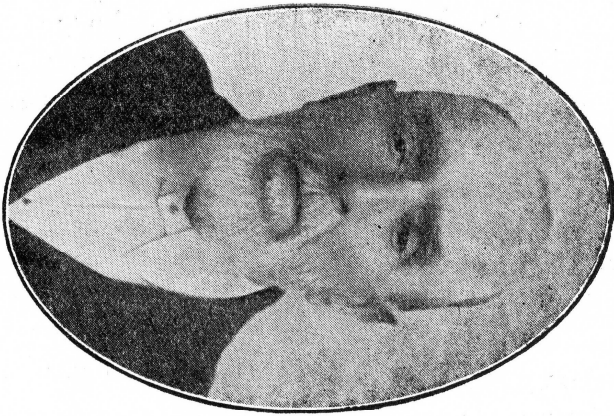
Easington Lane has sent some worthy men into the ranks of the itinerant ministry.

The REV. RALPH FENWICK, who became General Book Steward, and in 1885, President of the Conference, was the first of the list. In a letter to a friend, written when he was at the Book-room, he recalls how he was prevailed upon one night by Mr. John Robson of Easington Lane, to stay to the Prayer Meeting, and, he says "In that meeting I was converted." He was a man of great gifts, the pulpit was his realm, and therein he was a Prince. His message was ethical and evangelical, and those who knew him say that he was seen at his best in conducting a prayer meeting, pleading and prevailing with sinners and leading them to Jesus. He was a splendid product of Northern Primitive Methodism.

Following him were the REV. FRANCIS FRANCE, a man who has filled an honoured place and done splendid service, deeply interested in his day in the well-fare of his fellow-men, alive to their best interests and ever seeking to raise their conditions to a high level. He passed to his reward on Sunday, June 1st of the present year.

The REV. WILLIAM SHENTON, brother of Mr. Geo. Shenton the present Choirmaster, also was sent out from the Easington Lane Church, and after rendering good service to the connexion at home, emigrated to Australia, where he still continues in the good work.

The REV. TOM ROBSON, son of the late Mr. John Robson, and now stationed in Sunderland, is also one of 'our own' and we



MR. THOMAS ROBSON,
Trustee and ardent Sunday School
Worker for many years.



MR. JOSEPH DOVER,
For over 30 years a Trustee and
Sunday School Worker.



MR. C. H. BUNT,
For 26 years Secretary of Trust
and devoted Sunday School Worker.

hope to have the joy of hearing him on the 4th of October, one of the Jubilee Sundays.

The REV. J. J. COOK, of the Stanley Circuit, and now Chaplain to H. M. Forces, would doubtless have taken part in the celebrations but is now in a remote part of the world. Mr. Cook is a product of Easington Lane Primitive Methodism of which the church may feel proud, for he occupies both among his fellow ministers and the people in whose midst he has already laboured, a position of great esteem.

Last of the list is the REV. JAS. SUTCLIFFE, who, though not quite a 'product' of Easington Lane, in the same sense, yet spent a few years in our church, and went out from it to a ministry to which by his gifts and graces he has done credit.

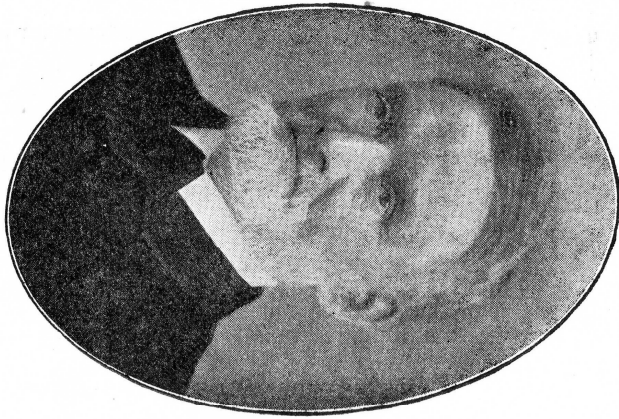
MUSIC AND SINGING.

Singing has always been a prominent feature at Easington Lane, a very high standard having been maintained. In this connection the name of our stalwart friend, the late Mr. Samuel Platts will readily spring to mind. For over 30 years his choir was a renowned one, and the oratorios given under his leadership are still spoken of with admiration. His brother Frank also filled the position for a while.

The tradition established so long ago has been well maintained by subsequent leaders, especially by our friends Mr. E. Kay and Mr. Geo. Shenton, who have kept the singing to a high degree of excellence.

FERVID EVANGELISM.

Evangelistic Work has not been neglected, but is really at the foundation of all the successes mentioned. Among the many seasons of revival, one which stands out conspicuously is that connected with the name of Mr. Albert Bage, about 30 years ago. Mr. Bage came from the Rev. J. Odell's Training Home, and such was the work done that about 200 people sought salvation. In recalling these outpourings of divine blessing, we cannot forget that men have



MR. THOMAS STOREY,
For many years a devoted and
successful Sunday School Worker



MR. JOHN G. CHARLTON,
For 60 years a member and
50 years a Local Preacher.



MR. SAMUEL PLATTS,
For 37 years Choirmaster,

laboured among us who have made this their first consideration, men like the late Mr. John Parker, who will long be remembered for his fervour.

The Church's contribution to social life has also been considerable. The co-operative movement, the trades union movement and other progressive organisations have derived their best elements from this source, and men still with us play an active and helpful part in the life of their fellow-men.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

Easington Lane has been noted also for splendid Sunday School work. For many years the School was second to none in the district, and in 1892, when the three months strike took place, it displayed its practical character by dealing efficiently with the problem of the starving children. For four mornings in the week free breakfasts were provided, and for two days per week free teas. No one can deny that this is practical christianity, and doubtless those days are gratefully remembered by many people who are no longer children.

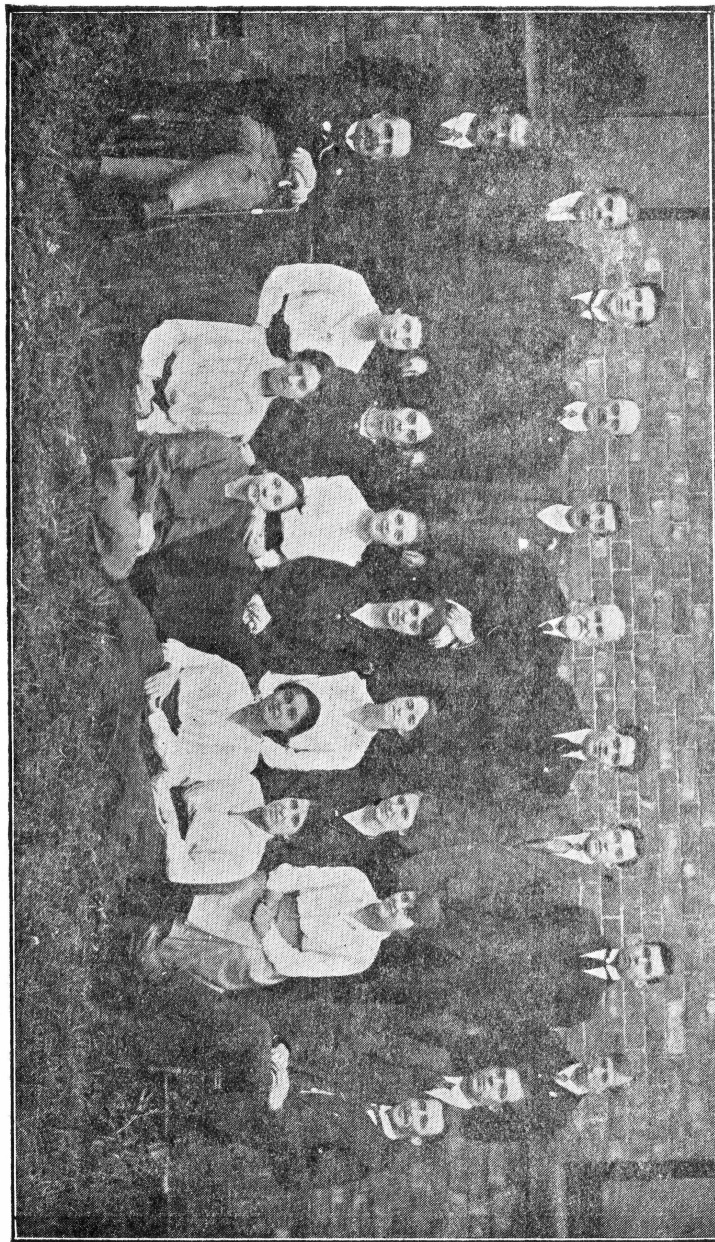
CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR.

Mention may be made here of the Christian Endeavour Society. A more recent institution, it has had a great influence in keeping the young people together and in providing for them a meeting from which the church's ranks may be continuously recruited.

We pray for all the various departments a new baptism of power, and trust that the Jubilee of 1919 may long be remembered as a time of great blessing.



GROUP OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS.





MISS ELSIE TURNBULL.

Elocutionist and Contralto Vocalist,

SATURDAY & MONDAY, SEPT. 27th & 29th,

TWO CONCERTS

Will be rendered by the

LADIES CHOIR . .

assisted by

MISS ELSIE TURNBULL,

(Of Wellingborough) **ELOCUTIONIST and CONTRALTO VOCALIST.**

Also Action Songs and Drills by Junior Choir.

Chair taken at 7 p.m. on Saturday by Mr. LARMER, and on

Monday by Mrs. J. WATSON.



On SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th,

MISS TURNBULL will conduct Services at 10'30 and 5'30.

And Ladies' Choir will give Special Selections.

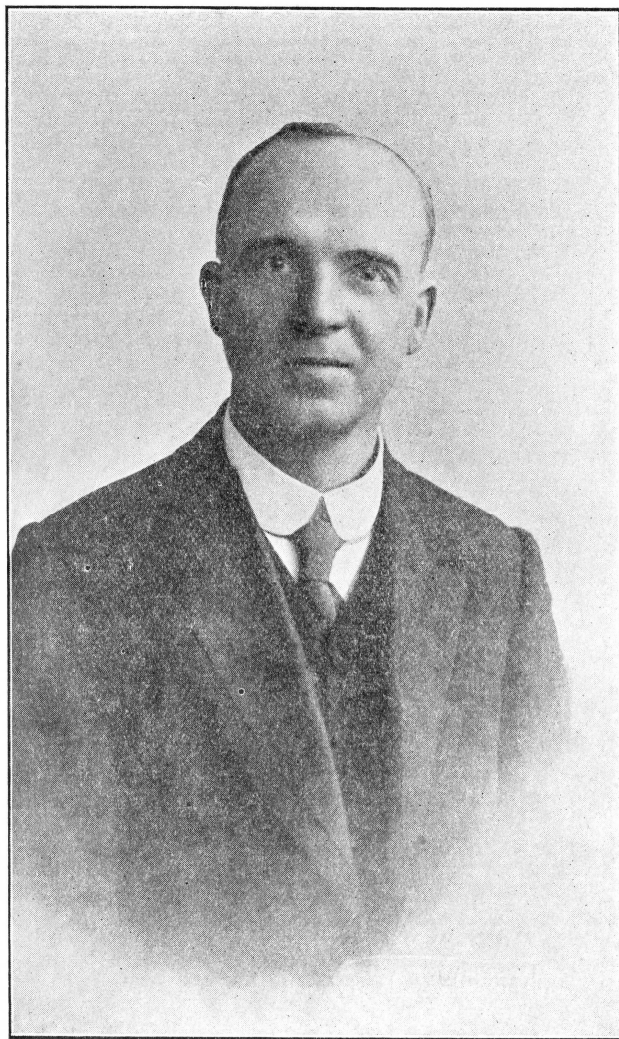
At 7'45 p.m.,

❁ **A GRAND CONCERT** ❁

will be given by

LADIES CHOIR—assisted by—MISS TURNBULL.

Chairman—COUN. N. C. HALL (of Lyons).



REV. TOM ROBSON (Sunderland).

SUNDAY, October 5th, 1919,

Preacher—**REV. TOM ROBSON** (of Sunderland)

Morning, 10'30 a.m.

Evening, 5'30 p.m.

Special Music.

Usual Collections.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6th, 1919.

JUBILEE TEA

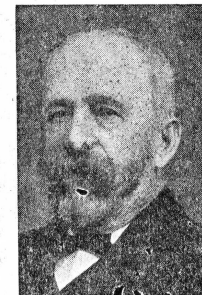
At 4 o'clock.

GREAT PUBLIC MEETING

At 7 o'clock.

Speakers :-

COUN. C. DICKINSON,
Rev. T. Robson and
Circuit Ministers.



Coun. C. Dickinson.

Chairman, J. F. BELL, Esq. (Eppleton Hall)

Special Music by Choir. ——— Financial Statement.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11th, 1919.

A LECTURE by

Rev. J. C. Sutcliffe.

Subject,

"FUTURE OF THE HOME"

Chairman—**COUN. T. HOPPER.**



REV. J. C. SUTCLIFFE (South Shields).

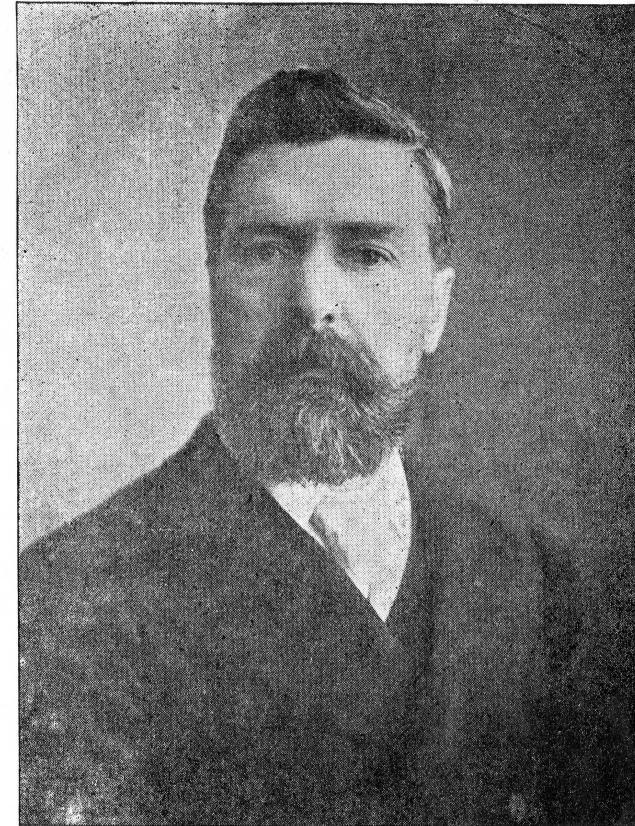
SUNDAY, Oct. 12th

Preacher,

REV. J. C. SUTCLIFFE.

MORNING, 10'30.

EVENING, 5'30.



REV. T. ELLIOTT (York).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th, 1919.

At 7 o'clock—SERMON by

REV. T. ELLIOTT,

To be followed by a COMMUNION SERVICE.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19th, 1919.

Preacher—REV. T. ELLIOTT.

At 7:45, Married People's Concert.

Chairman—MR. C. H. BUNT,

Silver Collection,



MR. THOS. HODGSON,
Local Preacher, Society Steward and
Trust Treasurer.



COUN. THOS. HOPIER,
Trustee, Local Preacher and Prominent
Sunday School Worker for many years.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 27th, 1919,

A GRAND RECITAL

— BY —

Miss Lily Johnson.



MUSICAL ITEMS

BY

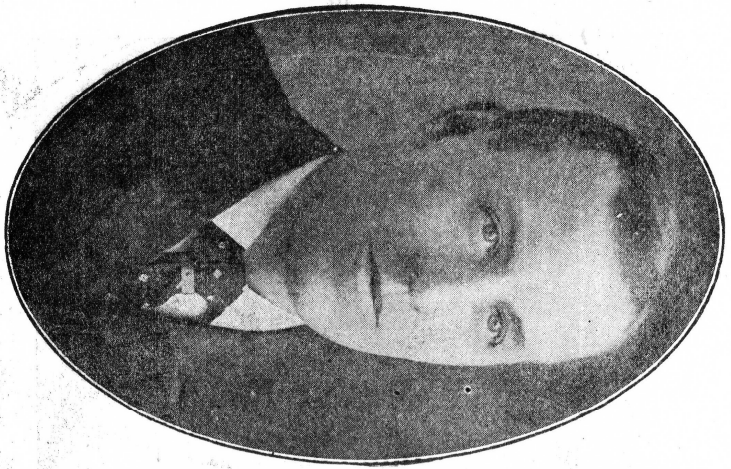
Young Ladies of the Church.



Chair taken at 7 p.m. by REV. G. FEATONBY.



SILVER COLLECTION.

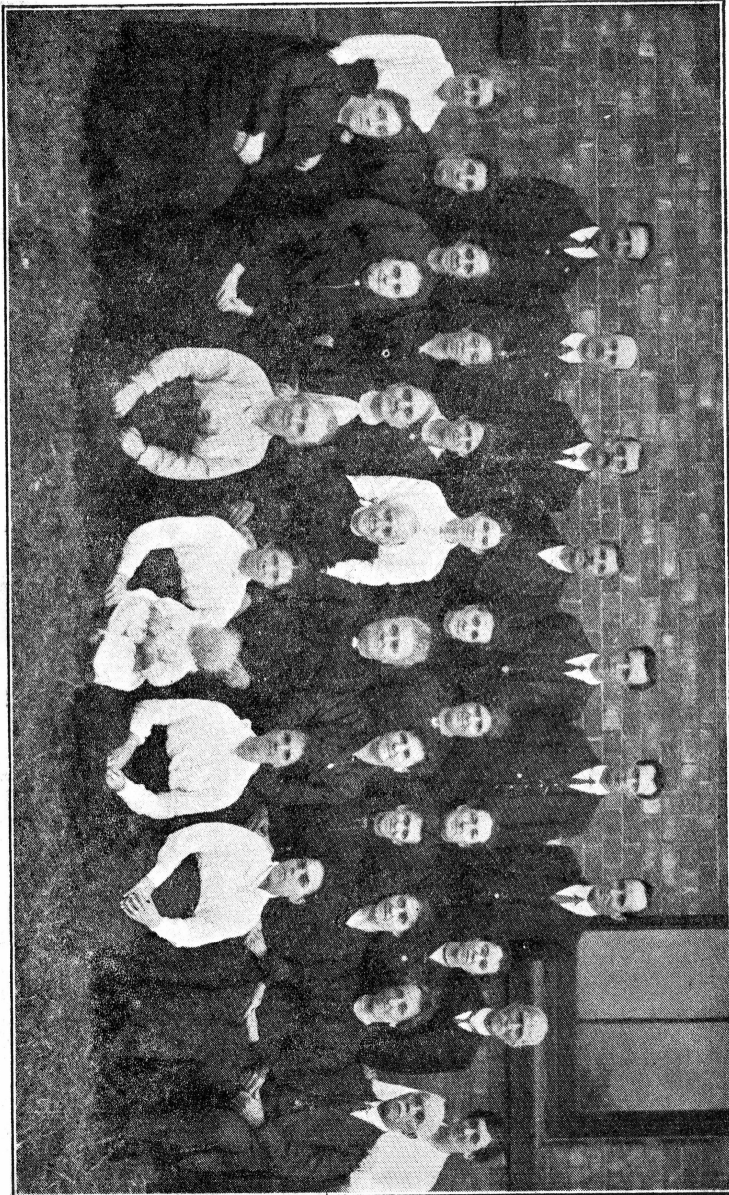


REV. F. FIRTH, B.A.



REV. G. FEATONBY.

Circuit Ministers.



GROUP OF MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 1919,

Preacher—



REV. M. JOHNSON,

OF HEXHAM.

At 7:45 p.m.—

Rev. M. Johnson.

A GRAND RECITAL

— BY —

Miss Lily Johnson.

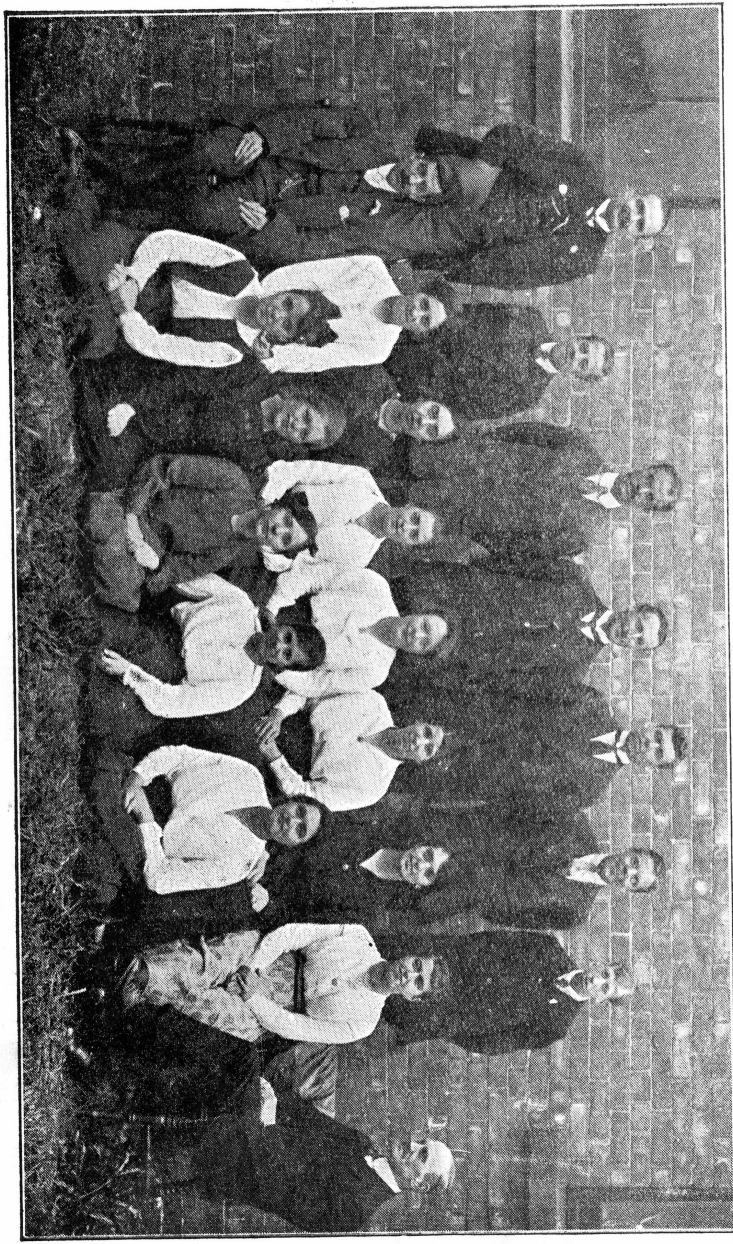
(HEXHAM.)

SPECIAL MUSIC.

Chair taken by MR. T. HODGSON.

SILVER COLLECTION.

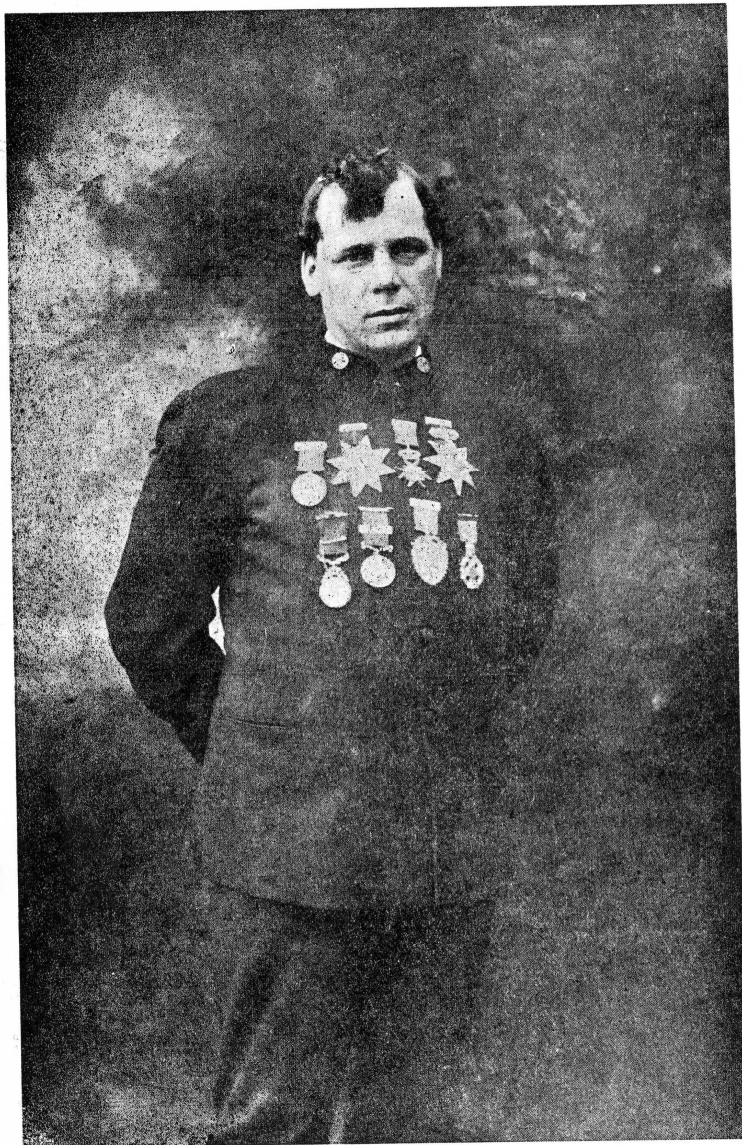
A GROUP OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOURERS.



MR. JOHN PARKER, Local Preacher and noted Evangelist.



MR. JOHN ROBSON,
Trust Secretary and Local Preacher.



MR. A. SHAKESBY (Filey).

GREAT TEN DAYS' MISSION.

Missioner—

MR. A. SHAKESBY (of Filey)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, at 7 p.m.,

Reception Meeting

Chairman—MR. T. HODGSON.

Sunday Services, 10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

Week Nights at 7 o'clock.

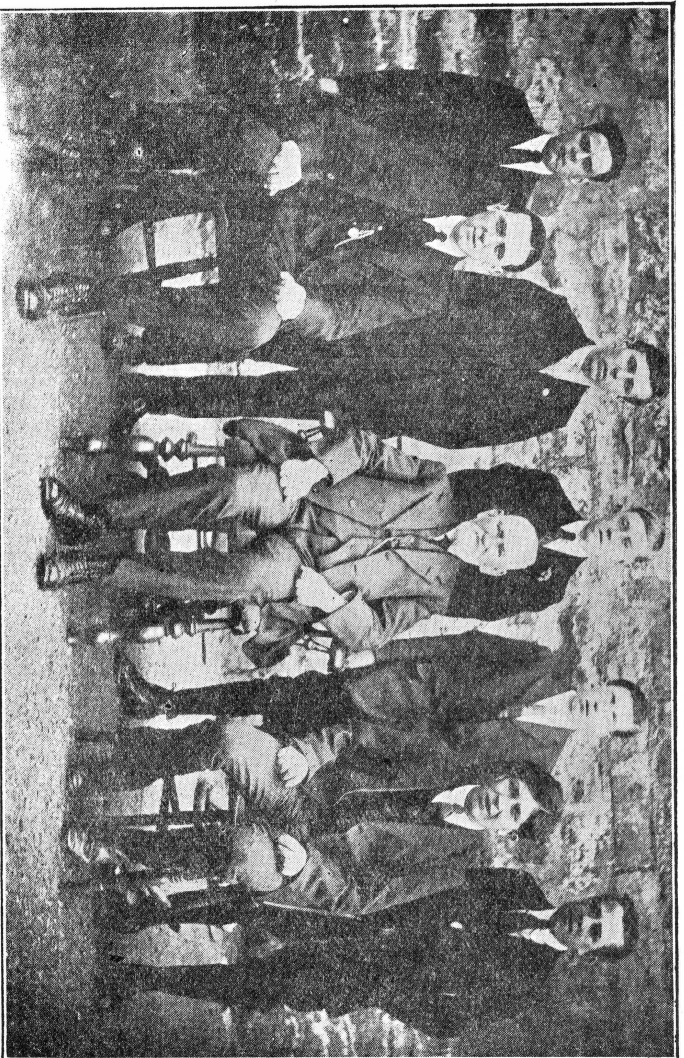
MONDAY EVENING, NOV. 10th,

LECTURE—

“The Story of My Conversion.”

Chairman—REV. F. FIRTH, B.A.

SILVER COLLECTION.



MIR HOPPER AND SOME MEMBERS OF H S I BLE CLASS.