

1823
1923

Primitive Methodist Church.

Souvenir _____
of the
Centenary Celebrations.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS CIRCUIT.

Co-workers with us in the service of our Lord, with the issue of this Souvenir we extend sincere greetings. We pray that with the Celebration of the Centenary of Primitive Methodism in our circuit your hearts will be stirred and your spirits quickened; that a holy zeal will possess you and that you with us will have the joy of witnessing as a result of the services held a great extension of the Kingdom of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

WM. BROWN.	} Ministers.
WM. ARMSTRONG.	
T. HODGSON,	} Stewards.
A. E. MENNEAR,	

L. J. PLACE

FRONT STREET,
HETTON-LE-HOLE,

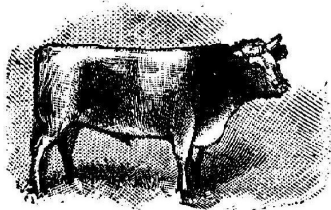
Baker and Confectioner.

NOTED FOR PASTRY.

Teas provided and Best quality Refreshments
Parties catered for. at moderate Charges.

WEDDING CAKES TO ORDER.

QUALITY FIRST CONSIDERATION.

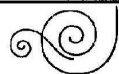


JOHN ARMSTRONG

Beef and Pork Butcher,

5, South Market Street,

- -Hetton-le-Hole.- -



Pork Pies, Potted Meat and Sausages a speciality,

NOTED FOR QUALITY.

GIVE US A TRIAL AND GET SATISFACTION.



The Oldest Established Butcher in town.



CLEM. HUMPHREY'S

:: *Photographer* ::

and

Miniature Painter,

REMBRANDT STUDIO,

SUNDERLAND.

FOR A

Good Suit or Draperies

OF ANY DESCRIPTION,

GO TO

A. & E. MENNEAR

15, STATION ROAD,

HETTON-LE-HOLE.



FOR PURE

Drugs and Chemicals,



The Durham County Chemists
(Hetton) Ltd.

HETTON-LE-HOLE.



HETTON DOWNS
Amicable Industrial Society, Ltd.



FOR QUALITY.
FOR PRICE.
FOR VALUES.
FOR CIVILITY.
FOR ATTENTION.

Cannot be Excelled.



FOR SAFETY.
FOR SOUNDNESS.

See last Half-year's
= Balance Sheet. =



BANK BALANCES, July 9th, 1923 :
£111,000.

MRS. MURRAY.

35, Market Street,
Hetton Downs,

FANCY DRAPER AND HOSIER.



DEALER IN ALL KINDS OF WOOLS.
BABY DRESSES, &c., A SPECIALITY



FOR VALUE and QUALITY

TRY

A. W. SHARP,

Boot and Shoe Dealer,



— 33, Market Street —

HETTON DOWNS.

Have you seen our Fine Display

OF

*Glass, China, Hardware,
Toys and Fancy Goods,*

of every description ?

OUR WALLPAPERS

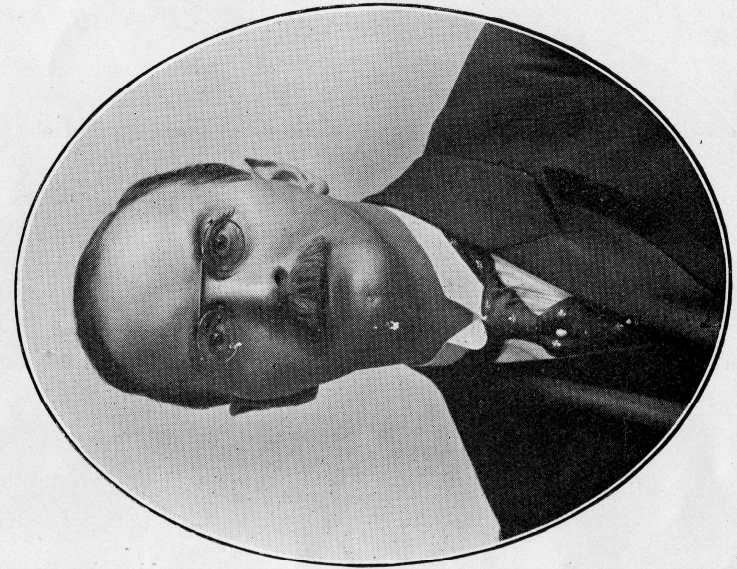
are a speciality of Pleasing and Artistic
Designs and so priced as to meet the
— requirements of all. —

Cheapness with satisfaction is our motto.

A VISIT WILL REPAY YOU.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:

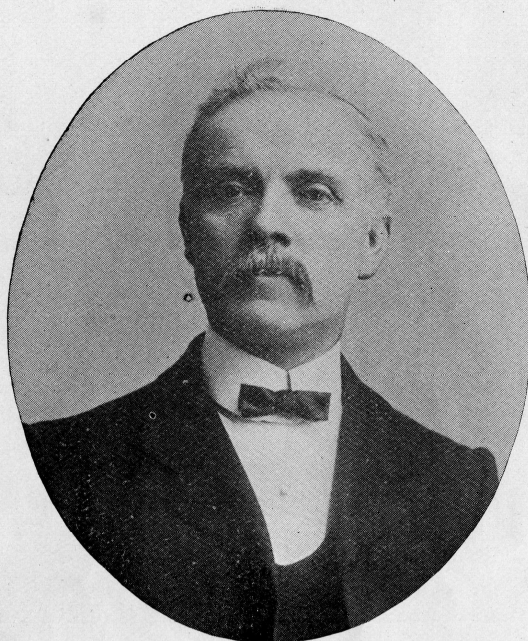
E. H. GORTON,
WOOD'S TERRACE,
MURTON.



REV. WM. ARMSTRONG.



REV. WM. BROWN.



MR. T. HODGSON.
Senior Circuit Steward.



MR. A. MENNEAR.
Junior Circuit Steward.

INTRODUCTION.

Writing to the Corinthian Church, St. Paul reminds his readers of the experiences through which God's chosen people passed, and how as a result of such experiences they came to know the will of God and learned to do it. 'Now all these things,' says he, 'happened unto them by way of example and were written for *our* admonition upon whom the end of the ages are come.' So for those of to-day—their admonition, instruction and encouragement are written these pages which briefly relate the things which happened to those who founded and established in this part of the county the Church to which we belong and which we love.

Out of the past has grown the present. That we ever had a past we are apt to forget. Our motto is 'Forward.' What lies ahead we do not know. What lies behind we may know if we take the trouble to ascertain. A peep into the past may fit us for the tasks and the experiences of the future. As the makers of history we must know something of the history of the men and the movements that have made us. Respecting the past there are two errors into which we are liable to fall. These we must avoid. We must neither disdain nor idealize the past.

To disdain the past were to prove ourselves ungrateful. To idealize it were to prove ourselves without Vision and unfitted for the tasks of the present and those of the future.

We thank God for the past; we would learn its lessons; from it receive inspiration and go forward to improve the present that the future may be even more glorious than the past. And so we take a peep into the past of our Church, believing that, as we do, our admiration of the men and women who prayed and worked, sacrificed and suffered, to make our Church a soul saving medium, will be increased, our gratitude deepened and our desire to be worthy of them made stronger.

One hundred years have elapsed since Primitive Methodism first struck its roots in the soil of Sunderland, which place ultimately became the head of a Circuit of great dimensions, wealth and power. Missioned by the South Shields Circuit, John Branfoot and John Nelson appear to have had the honour of first raising the standard in the area which the old Sunderland Circuit embraced. In 1823 was formed what was then known as 'The Sunderland and Stockton Union Circuit,' which, stretching from Hartlepool to the Wear along the coast, embraced Durham, Houghton-le-Spring, Hetton and Chester-le-Street. In that area there are to-day more than twenty flourishing circuits. During the period when what is now the Hetton Circuit belonged to the original Sunderland Circuit great revivals, resulting in vast numbers being won for the Lord, broke out, and the 'Cause' was firmly established in Hetton, Houghton-le-Spring, Easington, Philadelphia and Newbottle.

With the consolidating of the work in Hetton is associated a distressing tragedy. On Saturday afternoon, February 26th, 1831, John Branfoot and John Hewson, when travelling from Sunderland along the waggon way, were knocked down by a set of waggons. Hewson was killed outright, and Branfoot so frightfully injured that he succumbed in a few hours.

In 1849 there was an extensive revival in the Sunderland Circuit, when more than 500 were added to the societies, not a few in the Colliery Villages of Hetton, Easington Lane, Middle Rainton and Murton. From the squalor of sin and wretchedness many were raised to a nobler plane of life.

Up to December, 1863, what is now the Hetton Circuit remained a part of the Sunderland Circuit. At the Quarterly Meeting of that month the Hetton Circuit was formed, and at the time of its formation included Houghton-le-Spring and Chester-le-Street. There were then 19 places and 877 members in the new Circuit, the Ministers being Maurice A. Drummond, James Foggon and W. Taylor. In 1871 Chester-le-Street became a separate Circuit, and in 1891 Houghton-le-Spring was granted independence. Hetton had then six places and 576 members, and one

Minister, Rev. G. F. Johnson, the Circuit Steward being Mr. M. Yelder. To-day there are 577 approved members and 83 on trial, two Ministers, Rev. Wm. Brown and Rev. Wm. Armstrong, the Stewards being Mr. T. Hodgson and Mr. A. Mennear.

In the year 1902 the Circuit called out a 2nd Minister, the Rev. F. W. Ollis, who was located at Easington Lane, where his successors have since resided.

From its earliest days the Circuit has never lacked capable leaders and administrators—men of rugged strength and spiritual fervour, mention of whom will be made in the notes describing the rise and the work of the Societies constituting the Circuit.

To the social life of the community the Circuit has contributed, while upon the industrial and the civic phases of the area in which it exists the Circuit has exercised a healthy influence.

Primitive Methodism generally has been enriched by the labours of the local preachers which this Circuit has produced, most of whom have been of the best and have given of their best. While the ranks of the Ministry have been increased and enriched by the men whom the Circuit has given to it. Few Circuits have given more men to the regular Ministry than has this one. Since 1891 the following have gone from this Circuit into the Ministry :—Tom Robson, Jos. Roxby, John T. Bell, Jas. Gorton, J. W. Hutler, J. J. Cook, R. Cowie, J. W. Pegman, W. Chapman, E. B. Hartley, B.A., Jas. Sutcliffe, and J. R. Ridley.

Middle Rainton once the scene of great activity has no longer a Primitive Methodist Church. The Society, a number of years ago, became defunct, chiefly as a result of migrations and this year the Church was sold to the Salvation Army.

Since 1891 the following Ministers have 'travelled' on the Circuit :—

Superintendents.

Geo. F. Johnson	1891-1896
Wm. R. de Winton (whose successful ministry gratefully remembered was so tragically brought to a close)	1896-1903
Matthew Johnson	1903-1910
William Barton	1910-1914
Fred Firth, B.A.	1914-1921
William Brown.....	1921-

Junior Ministers.

Frederick W. Ollis	1902-1904
B. W. J. Redhead	1904-1906
J. Squire Wilkinson	1906-1909
John Pinchen	1909-1913
J. Fryer Loveday.....	1913-1918
George Featonby	1918-1921
William Armstrong.....	1921-

Mention, too, must be made of the place which the Circuit has held for years in the realm of music. Almost every Society in the Circuit is noted in the district for its performances and its gifted musicians, singers and conductors.

The past has truly been great ; the present is encouraging. Souls are being saved. Young men and women are consecrating themselves to God and to the Church of their Lord. There is unmistakable evidence in almost every Society of a strong desire to make the present truly worthy of the past. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us. If our old men are dreaming dreams, our young men and maidens too have seen visions. Inspired with the history of the past and with the vision of the future they go forth to do and to dare for Him Who is the Head of the Church, believing that the latter glory will be greater than the former.

Statistics.

Members, 577 and 83 on trial.
Chapels, 6 ; Sunday Schools, 3 ; Scholars, 1,511 ; Teachers, 210.
Christian Endeavour Societies, 6 ; Senior Members, 235 ; Junior, 203.
Manse, 2.
Value of Property, £9,970. Present Debt, £715.

W. BROWN.





HETTON P.M. CHURCH.

HETTON-LE-HOLE.

Exactly one hundred years have elapsed since Primitive Methodism entered Hetton. In the year 1823 the Hetton Society was formed by J. Cook, T. Dakers and others. Since that day the 'Cause' has flourished. To-day there is a strong and virile Society of 150 members. A Sunday School with 306 scholars and 37 teachers, a Christian Endeavour Society with 73 active members and 28 associate members, the value of the property being £2,400.

The first chapel, which to-day is a dwelling-house and which was the place of great activity and much blessing, was erected in 1824. What it cost we do not know. When it became too small for the congregation worshipping in it and gave place to the present commodious building it was sold for the sum of £65. Of the saintly men and women who guided the Society in the years prior to 1858 mention must be made of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Birtley, Wm. Gardiner, a model class leader; Geo. Lowdon, Wm. Errington, Matthew Raisbeck, Jas. and Alice Dakers, Mrs. Lowdon and Miss Ferry, C. Ferry and J. Kay.

The few living to-day who remember those early days speak lovingly of the men and women above mentioned. It was a great day when the foundation stones of the new chapel were laid; it was a greater day when, in 1858, the new chapel was opened. Over 1,100 people partook of tea on the opening day. When on the following day Rev. John Petty preached the building was packed and overflow meetings had to be held. The chapel, one of the largest in the district, was, however, one of the most difficult to speak in—the acoustics being far from perfect. Numerous devices were tried, but the defect was not remedied until 1865, when the present gallery was erected. To-day it is one of the easiest churches to speak in.

It was a great stride forward when in 1862 stringed instruments were supplemented by the installation of a harmonium. It was an even greater step towards the ideal when in 1878 the present pipe organ superseded the harmonium. To Mr. and Mrs. Lowdon and Mr. and Mrs. R. Strachan belongs the credit not only of securing the organ but of raising by special efforts, such as sales of work and concerts, the entire cost, viz., £335.

From its earliest years Hetton has been famed for musical performances. Every Good Friday for more than 50 years the choir and friends have rendered the works of the masters, drawing from far and near large assemblies.

Hetton has been fortunate in having choirmasters of outstanding ability. Here are the names of some of them:—J. Cook, T. Taylor, R. Taylor, R. Strachan, T. Lowdon, W. R. Heckles, R. Young, Jas. Strachan; the present being Mr. G. Rennie. The organist is Mr. John Robson.

To-day the traditions of the church are being worthily upheld by a band of willing workers.

The Society Stewards are Mr. L. J. Place and Mr. J. Shanklin. The Leaders: Bros. A. Mennear, J. T. Potts, R. Parker, J. Galley, T. Dixon and J. Steel. Trust Officials: Secretary, G. Barrass; Treasurer, W. Strachan. Trust Representative to Quarterly Meetings: Mr. R. Wardle, whose connection with the church dates back to its early years and who has done yeomen service. Sunday School Officers: Superintendents, Bros. J. Galley and J. Bestford; Secretary, Mr. Jabez Spence; Treasurer, Mr. R. Parker. Christian Endeavour Society: President, Rev. W. Brown; Secretary, Mr. Geo. Lawns; Treasurer, Mr. F. Pringle. Women's Homely Hour: President, Mrs. W. Brown; Vice-President, Mrs. J. Brown; Secretary, Mrs. Robson; Treasurer, Miss Watson.

To the regular ministry of our Church Hetton Society has given the Rev. J. Roxby. Great as has been the past, we believe the best is yet to be.

A GROUP OF HETTON-LE-HOLE OFFICIALS.



CELEBRATION SERVICES.

Nov. 25th.—Special Sermons will be preached by Rev. J. R. Quine (Lemington-on-Tyne).

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND C.E. WEEK-END.

Dec. 1st & 2nd.—Special Preacher : Rev. J. Roxby (Westgate).

TRUST WEEK-END.

Dec. 8th.—

Dec. 9th.—Sermons : 10.30, Rev. W. Brown. 5.30, Rev. J. R. Ely (Hetton).

7.45. Grand Concert by the Hetton Choral Union Society.

‘WOMEN’S HOMELY HOUR’ WEEK-END.

Dec. 15th.—4.30. Public Tea.

7.0. Concert and Sketch.

Between the Tea and Concert there will be a Miniature Sale of Work.

Dec. 16th.—Special Sermons will be preached by Miss Trotter, of Durham.

7.45. The Ladies will give selections from ‘Jubilee Songs.’



MURTON COLLIERY.

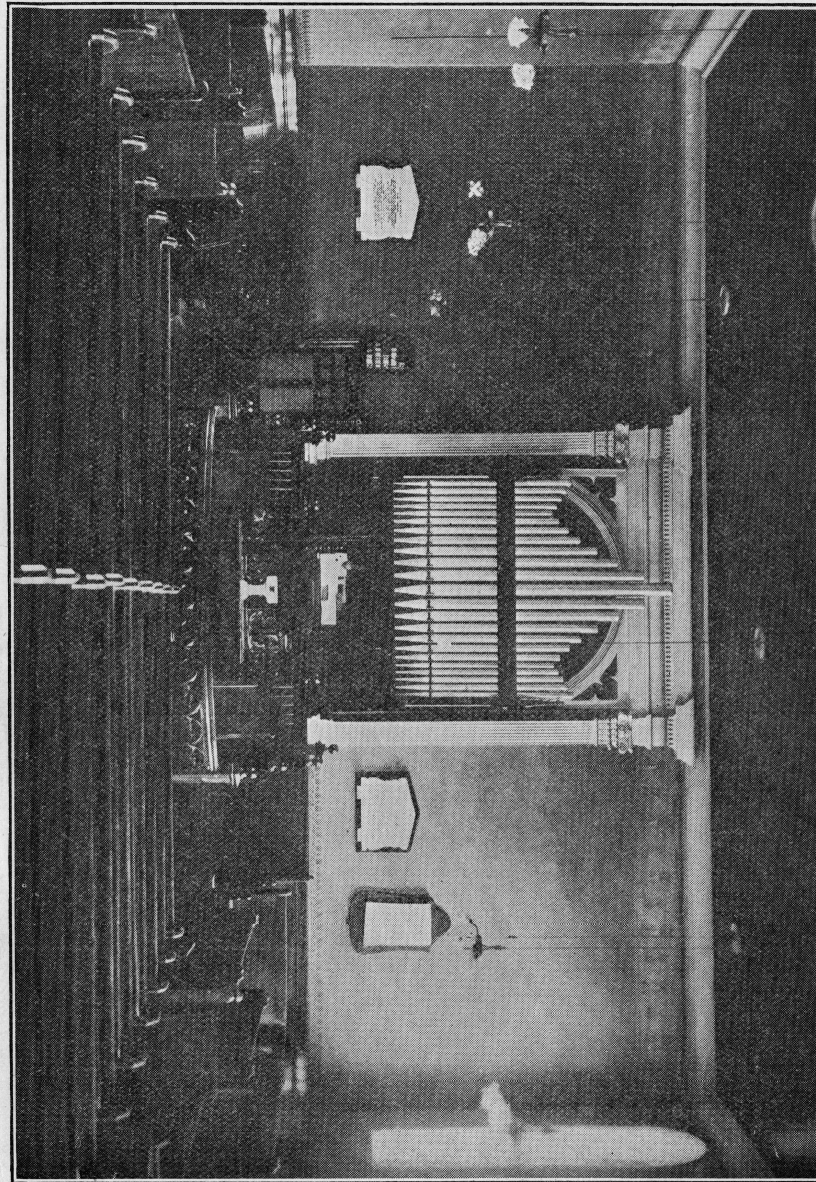
Though as early as 1824 Nathaniel West preached at Murton, it was not until 1839 that Primitive Methodism took root in that place. Evidently the people at that time were hard and indifferent, for West in his Journal says : " On Tuesday, February 10th, I preached at Murton (Whins), a new place. Here the people are as hard as whin stones against the Gospel. Lord have mercy on them."

In 1839 John Robson and Ralph Fenwick (both of Easington Lane) opened a preaching place in the house of Wm. Thompson. Thompson commenced the first Sunday School in the long room of a public-house still known by the name of ' Back of the Shaft.' Wm. Thompson it was who commenced a class and opened a Sunday School at Seaham Colliery. He died at the age of 84, having been a member 54 years. An outstanding figure in the early years of the Murton Society was Wm. Hall. He arrived there in 1843, and after a strenuous life passed to his reward in 1908. In 1850 a chapel was built by Lightfoot of Durham at a cost of £143 10s. 0d. Hall put into the undertaking a great amount of time and labour. He was also a foremost leader in the cause of temperance. One of the most remarkable revivals in the annals of the Society issued out of the fervour of the Easington Lane Church. A group of men fired with the spirit of God started to sing at the Easington Lane Chapel door one Sunday night, and marched as they sang declaring they would go wherever the Lord might lead them. They proceeded to a plantation, prayed for several hours among the trees, and very early on the Monday morning arrived at the door of Murton Chapel. Taylor Ramsey, the leader, explained to the alarmed people that the Lord had sent them. " We've been singin' an' prayin' aal neet," he continued. " The Lord is gannen tae de a greet wark for the Salvation iv Sowls in this big Colliery. Please open the Chappil door." News of the arrival of Ramsey and his men spread to the rows and to the pit, and many hastened to the Chapel where the invaders were praying. It was a high day ; the work spread, and during that winter nearly 200 persons were saved.

' The cause ' was firmly established and continued to prosper. The old Chapel was now too small, and was superseded by the present building in the year 1876. To the present building vestries were added later, the original and subsequent cost being £2,280.

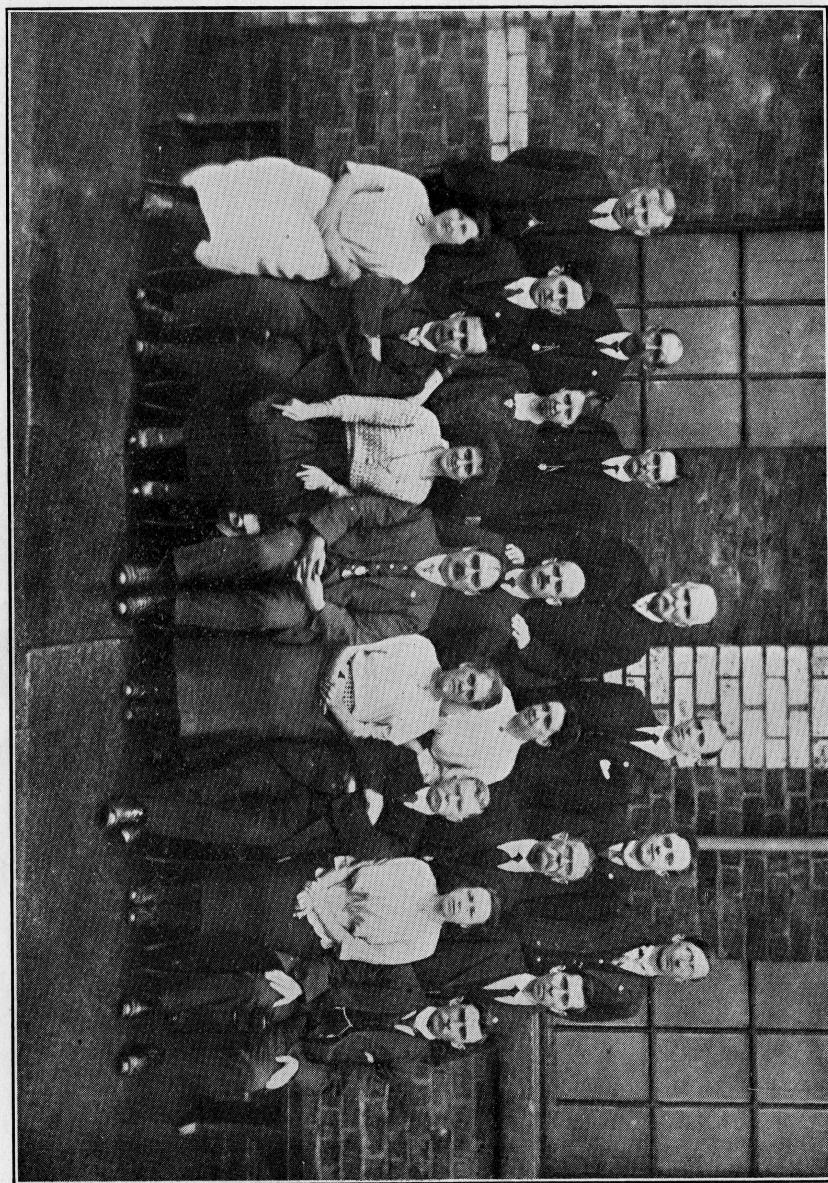
What the Society of to-day owes to such men as Wm. Thompson, Wm. Hall, Joseph Hall, John Bell (who was known and loved throughout the District), and Thomas Armstrong and others who laid the foundation and erected the superstructure cannot be fully expressed. Worthy sons of worthy sires have kept the flag flying and the work going, rejoicing and not being weary in well doing.

From this Society have gone into the wider ministry of our Church Jas. Gorton, John W. Hutler, John W. Pegman, and Ernest B. Hartley,



MURTON P.M. CHURCH.

A GROUP OF MURTON OFFICIALS.



B.A. The father of the last named, for many years a local preacher and trust treasurer, was called suddenly home last year.

Here we have one of the healthiest and heartiest of the Societies in the Circuit. Last winter witnessed a remarkable gathering of souls. A very encouraging feature of this Church is the number of young people who are consecrating their lives to the service of their Lord. With a school of 225 scholars and 34 teachers under the capable direction of Brothers Johnson Hall, David Gorton, Robt. Bell and David Wilson; with a strong C.E. Society at the head of which is Bro. Jos. Cresswell, with Miss Greenwell as Secretary; a large Women's Class, with Mrs. J. Pegman as President and Mrs. Greenwell as Secretary; and a 'Young Men's Own,' directed by Mr. J. T. Gorton, the future of this Church is very bright.

For strength and ability the choir stands high in the Circuit, the conductor being Mr. R. Watkin and the organist Mr. P. Platts.

The trust is free from debt. Additions to the premises are now contemplated. The energetic Secretary is Mr. Wm. Thompson and the Treasurer Mr. D. Gorton.

MURTON CELEBRATION SERVICES.

'WOMEN'S OWN' WEEK-END.

Nov. 17th.—Grand Entertainment by The Usworth Juvenile Concert Party.

Nov. 18th.—Special Services conducted by Miss M. Tulip, Annfield Plain.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND C.E. WEEK-END.

Nov. 24th.—Miscellaneous Entertainment.

Nov. 25th.—Preacher, Mr. D. M. Hall, Haswell.
Special Service in the afternoon by the Sunday School Scholars.

CHOIR WEEK-END.

Dec. 1st.—Lecture by Rev. J. T. Gallon, Newcastle, "A Night with Handel."

Dec. 2nd.—Preacher, Rev. S. W. Brown, Shiney Row.

TRUST WEEK-END.

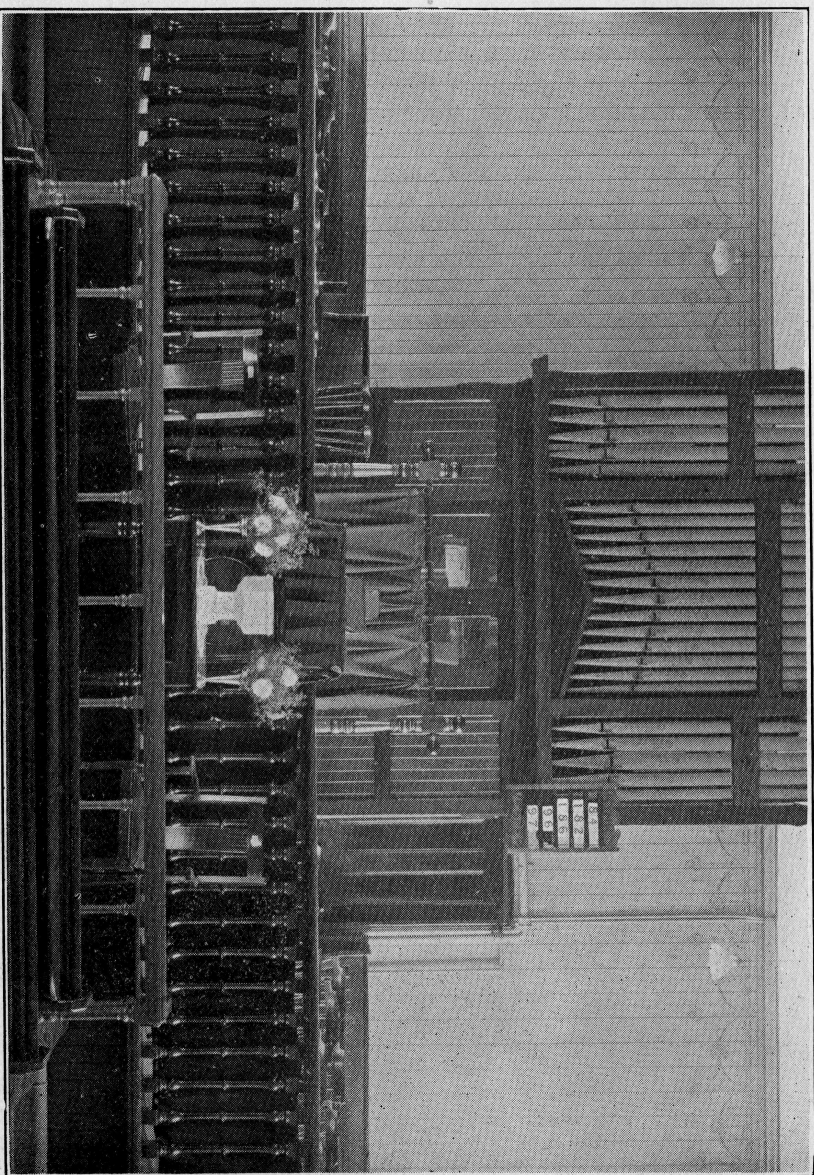
Dec. 8th.—Grand Miscellaneous Concert.

Dec. 9th.—Preacher, Mr. Humphreys, Jun., Sunderland.

After the Service Grand Organ Recital by Mr. Clem. Humphreys, interspersed with Vocal Solos and Recitations.



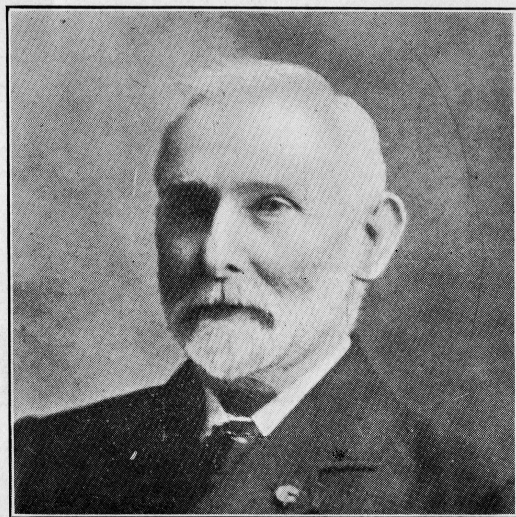
A GROUP OF SOUTH HETTON OFFICIALS.



SOUTH HETTON P.M. CHURCH.

SOUTH HETTON.

When and by whom Primitive Methodism was introduced to South Hetton we have no means of knowing. South Hetton first appears on the plan of the Sunderland Circuit in the year 1832, for in that year there was in the village a Society consisting of four members: Ralph Brown, who was a local preacher and Class Leader, Robert Cook, Anthony Stephenson and Jane Paddison, whose quarterage for the first quarter amounted to the sum of 2s. 4d. It was about that time that the pit was being sunk, and it is likely that the four members named came to the place from a neighbouring district, where Primitive Methodism had already been established. Probably the desire to have a church in the place of their adoption started, the cause, which, since that day, has grown and flourished. Evidently in the early years of its existence the Society was affected by the fluctuations of the mining industry, for the membership, according to the roll books, would go up by leaps and bounds, and then as quickly drop down; for example, one quarter the number reported was 75, and then a quarter or two later it stood at 35. In 1849 the highest number on record was 95, with a quarterage of £5 12s. 3d.



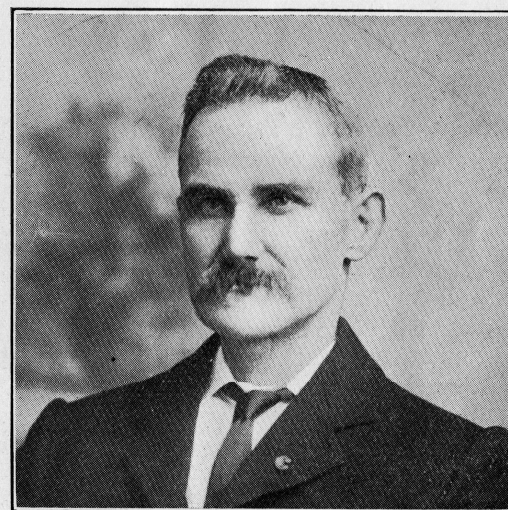
MR. J. TAYLOR.

For quite a number of years the Society worshipped in a Cottage Chapel which stood on the opposite side of the street in which the present Church is situated. In 1845 a Chapel was opened, the cost of which was £30 6s. 3d. Let not the reader smile at the fact of a *Chapel* being erected for so modest a sum, for only this year was a Chapel in this circuit sold for £50—a building large enough to seat over 200 persons.

Towards the cost the members raised £15 6s. 3d., the building was opened, having a debt on it of £15. The financial statement of the first Chapel Anniversary Services is interesting. The collections for the day amounted to 9s. 1d., income from other sources 3s. 9½d., total 12s. 10½d. As the interest on the £15 mortgage was 15s. there was an adverse balance of the year's working of 2s. 1½d.

It would seem as if the years 1849 and 1850 were years of great activity and faith, for negotiations were completed for the purchase of two cottages, together with the land on which they stood, for the sum of £55. In 1850 the Society moved into their new Church, which, including the cost of the cottages, alterations, &c., cost £194 5s. 7d.

Associated at this period with the Society were men and women, earnest, faithful and bold. To give the names of those still remembered by the oldest survivors would require more space than can be afforded.



MR. J. HODGSON.

That there were some 'characters' among them will be gathered from the mentioning of but two of that period: the first Sunday School teacher of Mr. John Taylor (still with us), was T. Robinson, who was known as 'Weeping Tommy.' James Hall, a local preacher of excitable temperament, once alarmed the congregation by falling out of the pulpit.

Passing rapidly from that period to more recent years we find that progress has been steady and the work done of a permanent character. There is to-day a building which for internal beauty and comfort is second

to none of the Churches in the village. Extensions and alterations, involving roughly an expenditure of £800, have brought the building up to its present excellent state. The debt at present is £305, which, with an enthusiastic band of workers, will soon be wiped out. The membership to-day stands at 70, with a good Sunday School and a strong Christian Society the prospect of an increase of members is bright.

There has always been an excellent staff of workers, those of to-day proving themselves worthy successors to those who have entered the higher Service. The affairs of the Society are well managed by the Stewards, Messrs. W. Jones and A. Moore.

The classes which meet regularly are conducted by Bros. J. W. Short, John Taylor and Wm. Cresswell. The classes in particular and the church generally have recently suffered a heavy loss in the lamented death of Bro. John Hodgson, a saintly man and beloved comrade.

In Mr. T. Wilson as Secretary and Mr. John Ridley as Treasurer, the Trust has capable officials. The 'Renovation Committee' and the ladies of the Church, whose worth is so highly appreciated, have in Mr. T. W. Moore a very energetic Secretary. A good organ with a good organist in the person of Mr. J. W. Short, an excellent Choir excellently led by Mr. J. Garmonsway, the services are greatly helped.

With a Sunday School of 149 scholars and 37 teachers, the Superintendent of which is Mr. J. W. Short and the Secretary Mr. W. Garmonsway, and Society of Christian Endeavour of 35 active members, 9 associate members, the officials of which are Bros. J. Taylor, W. Cresswell and Miss Lizzie Jones. There is such material as to make the prospect bright, and to encourage the members to work hopefully.

From this Church there has gone into the regular ministry of our Church Mr. John R. Ridley, who is at present a student at Hartley College.

SOUTH HETTON CELEBRATION SERVICES.

Nov. 3rd.—Re-union of old Scholars, teachers and local preachers. Sermon at 3 p.m. Preacher: R. McLauchlan, Esq. (Choppington).
Public Tea at 4 o'clock.
Great Public Meeting at 6-30. Speakers: Messrs. W. Todd (Penshaw), C. Dickenson (Easington Lane), Jas. Dixon (Swalwell), and others.

Nov. 4th.—Special Sermons. Preacher: Mr. Edward Jones, B.A., of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

LADIES' WEEK-END.

Nov. 10th.—At 2 p.m. Cake and Apron Sale.
Concert at 7 o'clock by the Ladies' Choir.

Nov. 11th.—Special Sermons will be preached by Miss Renwick (Sunderland).

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR WEEK-END.

Nov. 17th.—Sermon at 3 o'clock. Rev. J. G. Soulsby (Blaydon).
Tea at 4 p.m.

Great Rally at 6-30. Speakers: Rev. J. G. Soulsby and Mr. Geo. Clark (Hylton).

Roll Call at the close.

Nov. 18th.—Special Sermons by Mr. Wm. Hartley of Sunderland.

MEN'S WEEK-END.

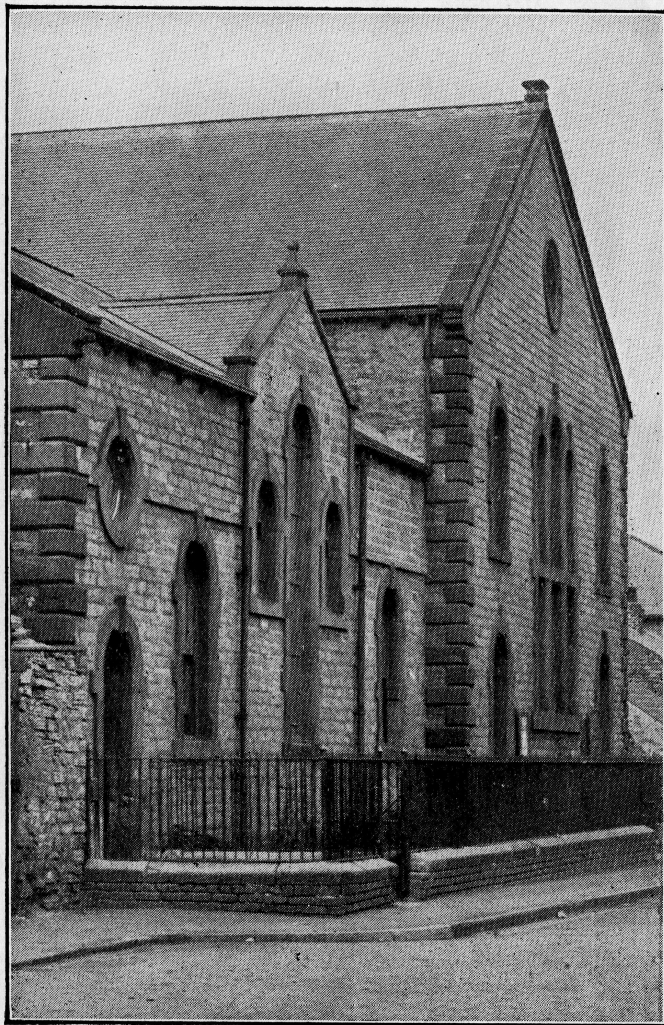
Nov. 24th.—At 7 o'clock Grand Concert, followed by Supper.

Nov. 25th.—Special Sermons. Preacher, Mr. Jas. Francis (Houghton-le-Spring).

Dec. 1st.—At 6-30 p.m., Grand 'American Evening.'

Dec. 2nd.—Special Sermons: Preachers: Messrs. J. W. Short and Jos. Cresswell.





EASINGTON LANE P.M. CHURCH.

EASINGTON LANE.

Since in the year 1919 the Jubilee of the Church was celebrated and an historical sketch appeared in the Souvenir Handbook, much of the matter appearing in this sketch will be as old news to many who read it. Though there has not always been at Easington Lane for one hundred years a Primitive Methodist place of worship there has been for that period a Primitive Methodist Church. For one hundred years without

a break Primitive Methodism has been worthily represented. Early in 1823 the first Society was formed. It would be interesting to know who first raised the standard in this large village; unfortunately we have no means of knowing. Evidently it was early recognised that the sheep must have a fold—sheep which it would appear were many and strong, for in a short time a schoolroom was built by Wm. Dent in which the young Society worshipped. That the Society grew in numbers as well as in grace may be seen in that after 16 years the schoolroom gave place to a small chapel purchased from the Methodist New Connexion which is now the Miners' Hall. Herein the Society worshipped till 1869. During those years with Society and Sunday School growing it was with difficulty that the work was carried on. Hearing the command 'Enlarge the place of thy tent,' the Society obeyed, secured the site on which the present Church stands and began to build. The chapel and school were erected in 1869 at a cost of £1,800. Greater enthusiasm in building this church can scarcely have been displayed by those who helped to build Solomon's Temple; for after a hard day's work at the pit the men gladly helped in the work of erecting it. That the influence of the church on the morals of the inhabitants of the place was great, and that 'the Cause' was worthy of support is seen in that the old Hetton Coal Company supplied much of the building material, facilitated the work by laying a line from the colliery to the building site, and later when the Jubilee was being celebrated gave a donation of £100. This was followed by a donation from Sir Lindsay Wood of £200.

Of those of early years who prayed and worked, suffered and sacrificed, to produce what we now possess, appreciate and enjoy, mention must be made of John Robson, who for very many years was trust treasurer and for 50 years a local preacher; Joseph Roscamp, Thomas Carr, Henry Tonks, John Dalkin, Thomas Robson, Wm. Parker, John Howe, Robert Scott, Charles Cox, Michael Hall, George Robson and John Robson.

In the year 1890 additional ground was secured with a view to providing for growing requirements, and a few years later the chapel was enlarged by the removing of the north gable and the building of an orchestra; while the interior was improved by the pulling down of the old ceiling and the reseating of the body of the building, the fixing of a new rostrum and communion rail.

The school also was enlarged and improved by the adding of an infants' school with Lecture Hall and Class-rooms, while in the school itself a gallery was placed, the combined cost being £1,425.

At the present time the property is debtless. Further additions and improvements are to take place which will involve an expenditure of another £1,400. To make the building draught proof a stone porch is to be attached to the chapel, while to make the gallery comfortable

and to improve it both from the hearer's and the preacher's standpoint, it is to be lowered some 20 inches and resealed on the horse shoe plan. When the improvements are carried out we will have one of the best churches in the Circuit—worthy of the Society and School meeting in it. With a Society of 127 members, a school of 310 scholars and 38 teachers, a Senior C.E. Society of 42 members, and a Junior Society of 50 members, it must be confessed that those of bygone days, many of whom have passed to the higher service, have not laboured in vain. With such material as is ours we dare not be pessimistic.

The work to-day is being successfully directed by Mr. R. P. Cook and Mr. T. Laidler, Society Stewards; in the Sunday School by Mr. E. S. Newton and Mr. B. P. Cook (Supers.), Miss Stephenson (Secretary), and Mr. T. Hopper (Treasurer); in the Christian Endeavour by Rev. W. Armstrong (President), J. Nichol and S. Parkinson (Vice-Presidents), A. Holliday (Secretary), and J. Stokoe (Treasurer); in the Society Classes by Bros. E. S. Newton, E. King, R. Holliday and R. H. Brown.

The Trust Officials are:—Mr. J. Robson (Secretary) and Mr. T. Hodgson (Treasurer).

An excellent Choir, with Mr. E. Kay as conductor and Mr. T. Kay as organist, render valuable service to the church.

The Women's Meeting, in the charge of Mrs. C. Dickinson (President), Mrs. Tweddle (Secretary), and Mrs. Daykin (Treasurer), is doing good work on lines devotional and practical.

This Society has produced some very acceptable local preachers. Some there are still with us who have rendered long and useful service, such as Chas. Dickinson, Thos. Hopper, and Thos. Hodgson; others in their prime and welcome wherever they go are John Robson, E. S. Newton, J. Petch, and R. Brown.

To the wider ministry this Society has given R. Fenwick, F. France, Wm. Shenton, Tom Robson, J. J. Cook, Jas. Sutcliffe, and W. Chapman.

CELEBRATION SERVICES.

TRUST WEEK-END.

Nov. 3rd.—At 3 p.m., Sermon by Rev. H. Fletcher, Houghton-le-Spring.

4.30. Centenary Tea, 1/- each.

7.0 o'clock. Great Public Meeting. Speakers: Revs. H. Fletcher and J. J. Cook (Greenock). Chairman: Mr. C. Dickinson.

Nov. 4th.—Preacher: Rev. J. J. Cook.

Nov. 5th.—7 p.m., Lecture, 'Mesopotamia,' Rev. J. J. Cook. Chairman: Mr. T. Hopper.



A GROUP OF EASINGTON LANE OFFICIALS.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR WEEK-END.

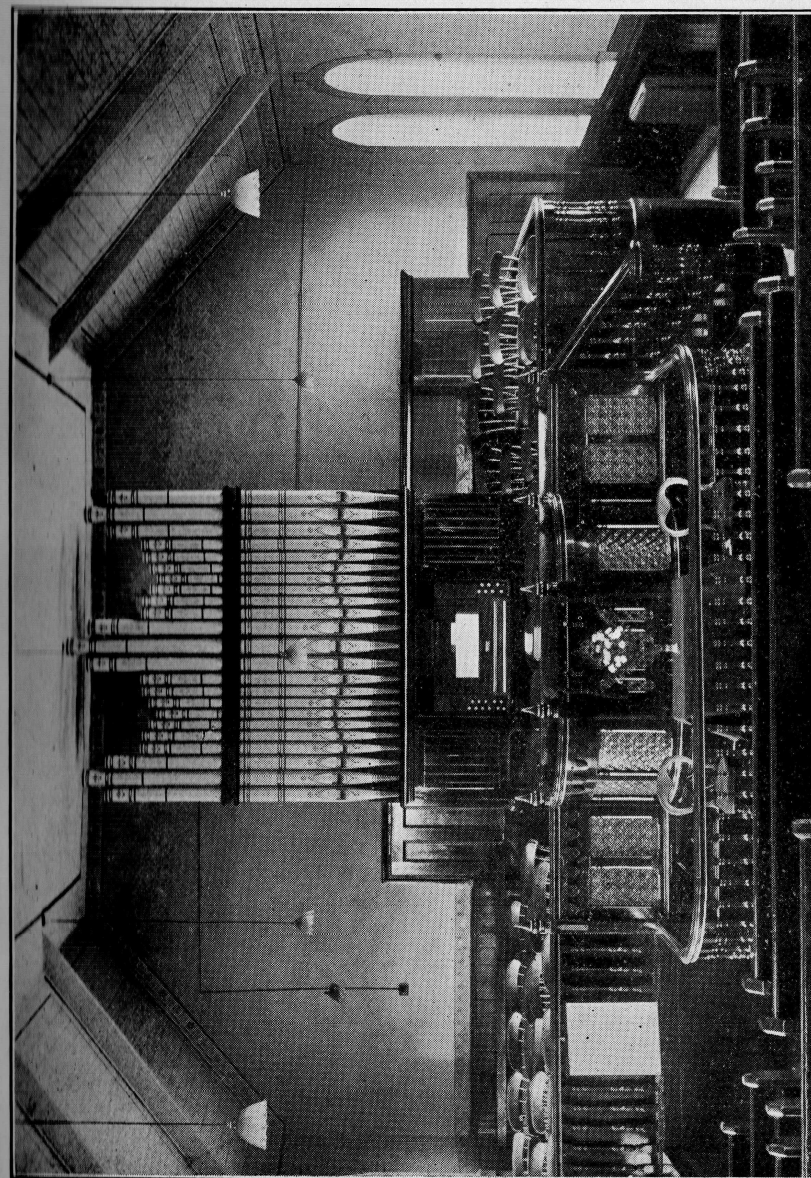
- Nov. 10th.—3 p.m. Sermon : Rev. T. Robson (Newcastle).
4.30. 'Endeavour' Tea.
6.30. Great C.E. Rally. Speakers : Mr. W. S. Swinburne (Sunderland) and Rev. T. Robson.
Chairman : Rev. W. Armstrong.
- Nov. 11th.—Preacher : Rev. Tom Robson.
- Nov. 12th.—7 p.m. 'Social Evening.' Address by Rev. T. Robson. Subject : 'An Evening with My Books.'
Chairman : Rev. W. Brown.
-

SUNDAY SCHOOL WEEK-END.

- Nov. 17th.—3 p.m. Sermon : Mr. Gleghorn (South Shields).
4.30. Tea, 9d. each.
6.30. Re-union Gathering. Speakers : Rev. W. Chapman (Leeds) and Mr. Gleghorn. Chairman : Mr. T. Hopper.
- Nov. 18th.—Sermons by Rev. W. Chapman.
2.0. Special School Session. Subject : 'Historical Survey of the S. School Work and Workers.' Chairman : Mr. E. S. Newton.
7.45. Organ Recital by Mr. T. Kay.
-

CHOIR WEEK-END.

- Nov. 24th.—7 p.m. Haydn's Oratorio, 'The Creation.' Choir and Orchestra of 100 performers. Artists : Miss Peel (Birtley), Mr. R. Farrage (Darlington), Mr. T. W. Leighton (Seaham Harbour). Orchestra Conductor : Mr. W. Owen. Choir Conductor : Mr. E. Kay. Organist : Mr. T. Kay. Chairman : J. F. Bell, Esq. Admission : 2/-, 1/6 and 1/-.
- Nov. 25th.—Preacher : Rev. J. Metcalf (Cockfield).
7.45 p.m. Grand Concert. Artists : Miss Peel, Mr. Farrage and Mr. Leighton, assisted by 'Elemora Choir.' Chairman : Mr. T. Hodgson. Silver Collection.

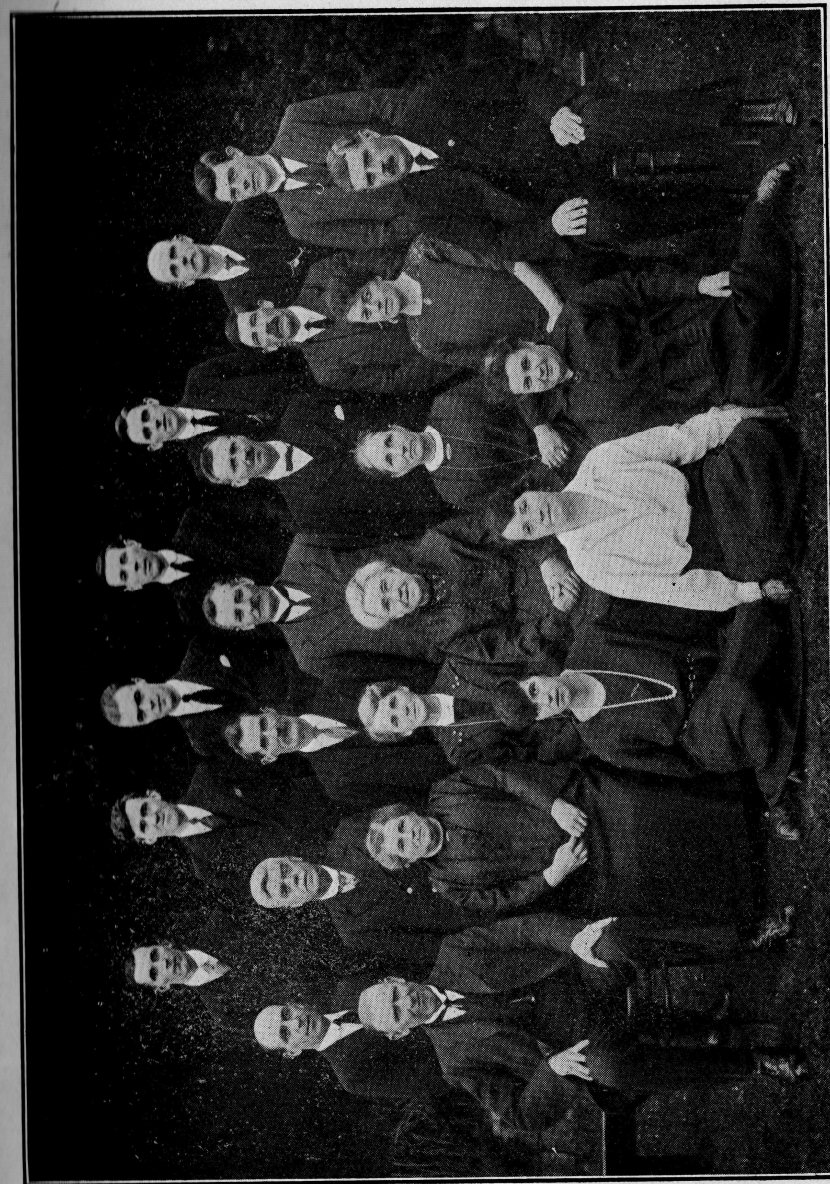


HETTON DOWNS P.M. CHURCH.

HETTON DOWNS.

As we sketch the origin and the progress of the Hetton Down Society we are reminded of Ireland's struggle for independence and England's unwillingness to grant it. Why 'Home Rule' should have so long been refused to 'The Downs' cannot now be known for certain. It surely cannot have been the unfitness of the members desiring it to govern themselves, as the subsequent history of the Society goes to prove. If the year 1858 is kept in view some light may be thrown on the situation. That year witnessed the erection of the Hetton Chapel and School which cost £2,500. Would not all the forces of the Hetton Society be required to carry the burden and meet the heavy demands involved in such an undertaking? Be that as it may, strong opposition was offered to the proposal to form a Society at High Downs. Such men as John Archer, Geo. Thompson, Wm. Soulsby and others were not to be defeated, for after the question had been before the Sunderland Quarterly Meeting four times the Society was formed in the year 1860. The first Chapel was built in 1865, which served the requirements of the Society till 1877. Both Society and Sunday School having greatly increased in numbers, more room was urgently needed; in the year named the building was enlarged and a schoolroom made under the Chapel. The work of excavating was done chiefly by the members, many of whom, after a hard shift at the pit, put in an extra and harder shift at the work of making their Church and School such as they are to-day. At the 'Downs' we have a comfortable place of worship (recently re-decorated), and a School which is inadequate to the work of teaching successfully, what is the largest Sunday School in the circuit, and one of the largest in the district. Though an offshoot from Hetton, and though only a short distance away from that Society, the Society at 'The Downs' has its own quite distinctive features. 'The Downs' has been the scene of many notable revivals, that of 1888, conducted by Miss Peart, stands out prominently. In 1903 Mr. and Mrs. Albert Harrison conducted a Mission which was mighty in power, and productive of much lasting good; the whole surrounding neighbourhood being greatly stirred. From this Society there went directly into the Ministry of our Church, the Rev. J. T. Bell, of Bedlington, while the Rev. R. Cowie, now of Leeds, was at one time a member of the Society.

Here we have a Church worthily sustaining the work of those who, well and truly, laid the foundations. All the organisations are well staffed and directed. In the willing hands of the Stewards, Mr. Thos. Adamson and Mr. Thos. Milburn, the affairs of the Society are looked after. The Sunday School is well organised and conducted, the Superintendents being Mr. T. Milburn and Mr. C. E. Burrows. The Secretaries are Messrs. R. Davison and W. Blanckley; Treasurer, Mr. W. Thompson. A strong and flourishing Christian Endeavour has as its President, Mrs. Ridley, with Miss Berriman as Secretary. Band of Hope: Superintendent, Mr. J. S. Marriott; Secretary, Mr. A. Anderson, and Treasurer, Mr. T. Adamson.



A GROUP OF HETTON DOWNS OFFICIALS.

Trust Secretary, Mr. W. W. Bell, also a local preacher ; Trust Treasurer, Mr. W. Armstrong.

We have a fine choir with a good organ. The organist and Choirmaster being Mr. A. Auffleck.

The Class Leaders are Messrs. W. Thompson, A. Tubby, T. Milburn, W. Berriman and C. E. Burrows. There we have also a strong ' Women's Own,' the officials of which, together with a willing band of workers, are Mrs. Bell, Mrs. W. Thompson, Mrs. W. Symmons and Mrs. Green. To mention all who are actively engaged in the good work would require more space than can be spared in a book of this character. The future of this Society is bright, and the interest displayed by the members encouraging.

HETTON DOWNS CELEBRATION SERVICES.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND C.E. WEEK-END.

Oct. 7th.—Morning, 10-30. Evening, 5-30. Preacher : Mr. Johnson, Houghton-le-Spring.

„ 8th.—Great Faith Tea.

CHOIR WEEK-END.

Oct. 13th.—Concert by the Choir.

„ 14th.—Sermons by Mr. B. Mansel, Wardley.

„ 14th.—After Service Cantata by Choir.

' MEN'S OWN ' WEEK-END.

Oct. 20th.—Sermon in afternoon. Rev. J. T. Gallon, Newcasttle

„ 20th.—Evening. Musical Lecture. Rev. J. T. Gallon.

„ 21st.—Preacher : Rev. J. T. Bell, Bedlington.

' WOMEN'S OWN ' WEEK-END.

Oct. 27th.—Concert and " Ever Green Arch."

„ 28th.—Preacher : Mrs. Absolem, Shields.

After Service, Service of Song by the ladies.



A GROUP OF MOORSLEY OFFICIALS.

MOORSLEY.

Moorsley Society may be said to be the adopted child of the Hetton Circuit, for in the year 1902 it was transferred from the Durham Circuit to this one. It is therefore exactly 21 years since the transfer took place. It would be easier to write of the 'majority' of the Society's adoption than to describe its origin and progress, since the data available are very meagre. From the Circuit Chapel Schedules we learn that it is just over 50 years since the chapel in which services to-day are held was erected at a cost of £540. The site was the gift of the Colliery Company. The church is built of stone and has sitting accommodation for 180; it is a comfortable building, and has one small vestry attached to it. Having no Sunday School a very important branch of the work is thereby seriously hampered. Though it is 50 years since the chapel was erected the Society has been in existence for a considerably longer period, and must have been then much larger and stronger than is the case to-day. It would seem as if the year 1868 was the year of outstanding activity and progress, for that year witnessed a great revival and the ingathering of many souls. Prominent in that movement was Richard Clish, the value of whose life and work can never be fully estimated. Other outstanding men of that period were James Bell, Wm. Wilkinson, Joseph Smailes, David Parkinson, T. Hill and Joseph Stack. That into this small Society there was gathered good material, material which was carefully fashioned and moulded, may be seen in the fact that from it there went into the wider ministry of the Denomination John Bainbridge, Wm. Curry, and John Pinchen.

How powerfully the industrial conditions of a place affect the life of a church—increasing the difficulty of 'carrying on,' Moorsley furnishes an example. Old pits closing down and new pits opening, Moorsley Society suffered greatly as a result of many of the best families removing. To-day there is a membership of only 32, many of whom are young people. As a natural consequence difficult has been the task devolving on the remaining seniors to keep the flag flying. To those now shouldering the burden every credit is due. That their sons and daughters, together with other young people who have joined the church, are coming into official life is gratifying and encouraging. Difficult as is the work a spirit of hopefulness prevails.

Manfully are the Stewards, Mr. Jas. Bowden and Mr. John Bottoms, doing their work. A well-conducted Sunday School is superintended by Messrs. Jas. Bowden and Geo. Teall, the Secretary being Mr. John Bottoms, and the Treasurer Mr. R. Wild. In the school there are 15 teachers and 84 scholars. There is a healthy Christian Endeavour Society of 16 active and 17 associate members, the President of which is Mr. Jos. Bowden, the Secretary Mr. T. Wilson, and the Treasurer Mr. D. Teall. Here we have a good choir, ably led by Mr. R. Wild, the Organist being Mr. R. Charlton.

The Trust affairs are looked after by Mr. Jas. Bowden, Secretary, and Mr. R. Wild, Treasurer. The debt upon the property, which has recently been repaired and renovated, is £15.

The Book Steward is Mr. Jas. Welsh, one of a promising band of young men.

MOORSLEY CELEBRATION SERVICES.

MARRIED PEOPLE'S WEEK-END.

Oct. 13th.—Grand Service of Song, 'Old Davy.'

Oct. 14th.—2.30 and 5.30 p.m. Special Sermons will be preached by Mrs. Young, of Bearpark.


SUNDAY SCHOOL AND C.E. WEEK-END.

Oct. 20th.—Great Rally. Speaker: Mr. A. Good (Trimdon Grange). Chairman: Mr. W. Oxley (Chilton).

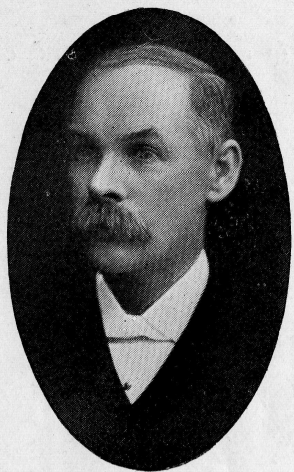
Oct. 21st.—10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Preacher: Mr. A. Good. In the Afternoon Young People's Service. Speakers: Mr. G. Hepple, of Chilton, and Mr. W. Bowden, of Pittington.

CHOIR WEEK-END.

Oct. 27th & 28th.—Special Preacher: Mr. J. Adair (Durham).



THE PRESIDENT OF THE
CONFERENCE :



Rev. George Armstrong

WILL

Visit the Churches of this Circuit

IN

January, 1924

Dates 19th to 24th



For Finest Quality

IN

**Fruit, Confectionery
and Provisions**

TRY

R. PEARY

*6, Smith's Terrace,
- Easington Lane. -*



*Noted for Irish Roll Bacon,
fresh Fruit and Vegetables
DAILY.*

TRY —

ROBSON'S

*163, High Street,
Easington Lane,*

FOR —

**Groceries and
Provisions,**



**Draperies and
General Goods.**

ESTABLISHED 1866.

BEST VALUE 

IN



**FLOUR,
GROCERIES AND
PROVISIONS.**

T. HOLMES & SONS,

 **EASINGTON LANE.** 

AGENTS FOR MAZAWATTEE TEA.



T. HOLMES & SONS,

— *Easington Lane,* —

*Drapers, Milliners,
and Boot Factors.*



ALL GOODS SOLD AT LOWEST PRICES.

FOR _____
High-class Confectionery

AT

Reasonable Prices

TRY



BELL

OF

Murton Colliery.

PARTIES CATERED FOR.



Note Address: Almost opposite Miners' Hall.



WHEN YOU REQUIRE

Pure Drugs,
Patent Medicines,
Soaps,
Toilet and Surgical Requisites

TRY

JIM KERNOHAN,

CASH DRUG STORES,

64, Houghton Road, Hetton-le-Hole.

DOG MEDICINES A SPECIALITY.

J. G. PRINGLE'S STORES

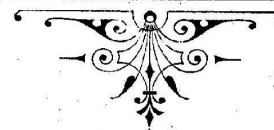
EASINGTON LANE
CO. DURHAM.



IF you shop at PRINGLE'S you are assured of every attention being given to your orders.

You are not asked to buy what you do not require—that is the only way to annoy and lose customers. At PRINGLE'S you are *assisted* in your shopping—the goods are all of excellent quality and every effort is made to see that you get the articles best suited to your individual requirements.

Groceries
and
Provisions.



Drapery
and
Boots.

PRINGLE'S FOR QUALITY

"The memory of good quality remains when the price has been forgotten."