

However, after some time God in his gracious providence sent the Primitive Methodists, then called Ranters to mission Hexam,⁴ and agreeable to their aggressive character they soon extended to Haltwhistle and were cordially received by this neglected society, which they at once took into church fellowship, as Primitive Methodists.

The cause prospered, the work of God extended and at present Haltwhistle⁵ is the head of a Primitive Methodist prosperous circuit, and with gratitude to my heavenly father, I can rejoice in the assurance that some of the fruits of my early humble labors in Haltwhistle are safely gathered into the Paradise of God.

You will perceive that I have forestalled the thread of my narrative in point of time, but I thought it well to briefly refer to the particulars connected with Haltwhistle as they tend to explode the plausible theory that the work of God would be more prosperous in a neighborhood where there was only one body of Methodists than if there were more. However, as I may have to moralise on this subject hereafter, I will return to the thread of my narrative. I continued to labor in conjunction with my brethern first, as a local preacher on trial, then after having preached my trial Sermon before the Superintendent (I have, to this day a vivid recollection of the fear I experienced on that occasion), I was received on the plan as an accredited local preacher, and filled my appointments on the plan, at all the places with acceptance. I was conscientiously punctual in attending to my appointments.

I will here recall a striking and to me an interesting circumstance. I had been for some time in rather a delicate state of health and my dear wife had become alarmed lest she should be left a widow and our children fatherless, and believing that my Sunday labors were injurious to my health was tempted to urge me to relinquish them, the particular occasion to which I

⁴An ancient town of 7000 inhabitants twenty-eight miles from Brampton. It has a fine abbey church dating from the 13th century.

⁵Haltwhistle—Fifteen miles west of Hexam. Contains many houses with battlements and other fortifications, recalling days of border forays. The great Roman Wall built by Hadrian and Severus passes within two miles.