

INTRODUCTION.

METHODISM has never fully realized her debt to her laity; indeed, she can never fully appreciate their work. We have heard very much about the ordained ministers who have given us our glorious heritage. Among them we have had some great and good men, and they have done a mighty work. But if we were to stop at this the history would be but poorly written and the story hardly half told. We are convinced that it was under divine guidance that Mr. Wesley first admitted a layman, Thos. Maxfield, into his pulpit, and the seal of the Master's blessing has rested upon the ministrations of consecrated lay workers from that time to the present.

The story of the laity in Methodism reads very much like the eleventh chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews:

By faith Silas Told accepted the Friend of Sinners and became the friend of the prisoners of the land, working with them in the dungeon and on the scaffold, until, with the weight of almost seventy years upon him, he saw the heavens opened with his Saviour standing to welcome him, and he exclaimed in ecstasy, "Lord, it is enough."