



Non-Conformist News

Berwick Bassett

Reverend James Pickett

The Rev James Pickett is one of several brothers who have won for themselves renown as eloquent and forcible preachers, and attained to influential positions in the Primitive Methodist ministry.

At the present time he sustains the responsible position of Missionary Secretary, to which he was designated at the Conference in 1902, entering upon his duties the following year.

Born at Berwick Bassett, a small village in the county of Wilts, Mr Pickett, at the age of 17, entered a wholesale business house in the city of London, and his unflinching industry, business aptitude, and high moral character speedily won for him the confidence of his employers, and opened to him a highway to success. But he soon put aside commercial pursuits, and acceded to the request of his friends that he should devote his life to the ministry of the Gospel. The well-known brothers Antliff had much to do with the early history of the Derby Temperance Society, and it is interesting to note that early in his ministry Mr Pickett was the colleague of the late Dr Samuel Antliff in the Trinity Circuit at London.

For twelve years Mr Pickett laboured in Leicester with marked success. He occupied the best pulpits, was selected to represent the Free Church on many important occasions, and was elected a member of the Leicester School Board. While in that town he took a leading part in fostering and leading a crusade against the gambling mania.

He was at one time President of the Leicestershire Temperance Union, and some of his temperance sermons and addresses were published and largely circulated. On his leaving Leicester, a representative meeting was held in the Town Hall, where men of all shades of opinion bore appreciative testimony to the splendid work he had wrought for the welfare of the people. Their admiration found expression in a finely-executed address and a cheque for 100 guineas. Before entering on the duties of his present office he sustained an equally successful pastorate at Hull.

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