

**THE REV. WILLIAM
MORLEY PUNSHON, LL.D.
A MEMORIAL SERMON**

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The rev. William Morley Punshon, LL.D. A Memorial Sermon by Thomas M'Cullagh

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THOMAS M'CULLAGH

**THE REV. WILLIAM
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A MEMORIAL SERMON**

THE REV.
WILLIAM MORLEY PUNSHON, LL.D.

A
Memorial Sermon

PREACHED AT
GEORGE STREET CHAPEL, GRIMSBY,
BEFORE THE HULL DISTRICT MEETING.

BY
THOMAS M'CULLAGH.

(PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE MEETING.)

WITH SOME
PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF DR. PUNSHON'S
EARLIER LIFE AND MINISTRY.

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1881.



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This Memorial Sermon, preached at Grimsby during the Session of the Hull District Meeting, was also preached in Waltham Street Chapel, Hull, with which place of worship Dr. Punshon was connected in his youth, when he received the Gospel salvation. As now printed, it differs from the spoken discourse only in some verbal alterations and a few slight additions.

The Personal Recollections were not given in the pulpit, and are now published for the first time. Until a complete biography appears, they may interest and, it is hoped, profit that large number of persons—now, doubtless, the majority

of his admirers—who love Dr. Punshon's memory, but who, from their own comparative youth, could not have known him during the years of his early ministry. The author hopes that his readers will not put down to egotism the many references to himself. He could not easily avoid them in recording PERSONAL recollections.

HULL, June, 1881.

A MEMORIAL SERMON.

"He was a burning and a shining light."—*JOHN v. 35.*

"An eloquent man, and mighty in the Scriptures."—*ACTS xviii. 24.*

"For all things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas."
—*1 CORINTHIANS iii. 21, 22.*

"And they glorified God in me."—*GALATIANS i. 24.*

IN preaching a memorial sermon on the life, character, ministry, and death of William Morley Punshon before the Hull District meeting, I need offer no apology. With this District he was connected by the strong tie of his personal conversion. If Doncaster was the place of his birth, Hull was the place of his second birth. When preaching in Waltham-street Chapel, at the Conference of 1858, becoming unwontedly excited, he exclaimed: "You may call me enthusiastic; but is it any wonder if I appear so, in the very place where my own chains fell off?" At

Hull, too, he was admitted to membership in the Society, and at Hull he began Church work.

The four passages which I have selected as a text are not, I hope, inappropriate. We may venture to say of the departed minister, I believe, without irreverence, what our Lord said of John the Baptist: "He was a burning and a shining light." In addition to the ardour of his love and the fervency of his zeal, and to the unobscured clearness with which he held forth the word of life, the most striking characteristic of his mind and ministry was brilliance,—an almost dazzling brilliance. Still more appropriate to this gifted minister is the description given of that man of apostolic usefulness and of almost apostolic rank, Apollos: "An eloquent man, and mighty in the Scriptures." Dr. Punshon's oratorical powers were simply marvellous. And while eloquent, as a preacher he was mighty in the Scriptures. Not that he dealt much in verbal and grammatical criticism; not that his pulpit discourses were largely exegetical or theological; but that they were full of Gospel truth, and teemed throughout with Bible

doctrine, allusion, phrase, and fact. While by certain qualities of his preaching he excited the imagination of his hearers, and by others he wrought upon their feelings, it was "by manifestation of the truth" that he commended himself "to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

The third passage of my fourfold text: "For all things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas," reminds us that the Christian ministry, with its variety of gifts, acquirements, and styles of preaching, is the blessed property of the Church, and has its reason to be in the good of redeemed man. And if the eminent minister, whose loss the whole Connexion is mourning now, were ours, are we not responsible as a Church for the use we may have made of his splendid ministry?

The last passage of the four: "And they glorified God in me," is the one upon which I wish more particularly to dwell, as it is the most practical for ourselves in relation to the deceased. It suggests our personal duty while thinking and speaking of him whom God gave and has now taken away. While