

**THE POWER OF FAITH AND PRAYER
EXEMPLIFIED IN THE LIFE AND LABOURS OF
MRS. MARY PORTEUS, LATE OF DURHAM,
WHO FOR FOURTEEN YEARS WAS A
TRAVELLING PREACHER, AND TWENTY-TWO
YEARS A LOCAL PREACHER IN THE PRIMITIVE
METHODIST CONNEXION**

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The Power of Faith and Prayer Exemplified in the Life and Labours of Mrs. Mary Porteus, Late of Durham, Who for Fourteen Years Was a Travelling Preacher, and Twenty-Two Years a Local Preacher in the Primitive Methodist Connexion by John Lightfoot

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JOHN LIGHTFOOT

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CONNEXION.

"A MOTHER IN ISRAEL."

BY THE

REV. JOHN LIGHTFOOT,

PRIMITIVE METHODIST MINISTER.

"I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not."
ISAIAH XLIII. 16.

"Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God
led thee . . . to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know
what was in thy heart."—DEUT. VIII. 2.

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DEDICATION.

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To the sincere lovers of the Lord Jesus Christ connected with every section of His Church; to the ardent spirited Primitive Methodists in particular, who are seeking assiduously to extend the dominions of the Redeemer—including the numerous friends and admirers of the subject of these Memoirs; and to all who may be enquiring the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, and may need assistance and encouragement in the way; this humble attempt to memorialize the Life and Labours of one of the most devoted of her sex, is most respectfully and prayerfully dedicated by

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

—ooo—

A close intimacy with the late Mrs. Mary Porteus for more than forty years, together with her often expressed desire, induced her family and friends to urge me to prepare for the press a condensed account of her Christian experience and ministerial labours, such as might best accomplish what was the ardent desire of her heart—the encouragement and edification of the children of God, especially those of them who, like herself, have, for the trial of their faith, to endure the privations of poverty, in connection, at times, with severe spiritual conflicts.

This, with much diffidence, is attempted in the following pages; the substance of which is collected from her own Diary and Letters, and my own personal recollections, but chiefly from a narrative of her experience which she commenced in the year 1828, but which, it is to be regretted, she did not continue to the close, at least, of her ministerial career.

In this work the reader will observe, that the

question ' Whether females ought, under any circumstances, to preach the Gospel, or to officiate otherwise in the Church of God, is not considered. The design of the work did not seem to admit of this. The writer is, however, fully satisfied that some females, like the late Mrs. Fletcher, of Madeley, for instance, have received an extraordinary call to exercise their talents in public teaching, and that much edification to God's people, and the conversion of many souls have been the happy result. Whether Mrs. Porteus received such a call, let the reader judge, after seriously considering the very striking indications of Providence she received, and which fully satisfied her own mind.

This little book, such as it is, must now be left to speak for itself.

In presenting it, however, to the public, the author gratefully acknowledges his obligations to the Revs. C. C. Mc. Kechie and the Rev. Thos. Greenfield for their valuable assistance in preparing the sheets for the press : also to the Revs. R. Fenwick and W. Saul, and to Mr. T. Gibson for their kind suggestions.

That God may abundantly bless it to the benefit of many souls, is the earnest prayer of the writer,

Chester Road, Sunderland,

J. L.

May 13, 1862.

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Life and Labours
OF
MRS. MARY PORTEUS.

CHAPTER I.

PARENTAGE AND YOUTH.

THE subject of this Memoir was the youngest child of John Thompson, joiner and cabinet maker; and was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne, in the year 1783. Her father seems to have been a staunch Presbyterian, and a pious man: who, with habits derived from the early Covenanters, strictly observed the Sabbath, and led his family to the house of God. When she was very young, her father, after a long and impoverishing illness, died, and left her mother entirely unprovided for, with five