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Rev. JAMES DRYBOROUGH LUMSDEN.

BY REV. PETER A. PETERSON, D. D.

In an autobiographical sketch furnished several years ago by himself for the Conference archives, Brother Lumsden says: "I was born in the city of Edinburgh, Scotland, November 3, 1811. My father was reared a Quaker and my mother a Baptist. They came to this country in 1817 and settled in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and in 1818 removed to the city of Richmond, Va. When about ten years of age I became deeply interested on the subject of religion, but my friends believed I was too young to be a Christian, and hence I did not make much progress. At twelve years of age [his father having died] I was apprenticed to a gunsmith. Two years after this my employer died, and I was then sent to a grammar school, where I remained two months, and then resumed my trade in Petersburg, Va. Here I became acquainted with "Mother Wolf's" family and with her son-in-law, George Williamson, of precious memory. From them I first learned what Methodism was, and through their instrumentality I was converted and brought into the Church under the ministry of Rev. William Hammett. Brother Williamson was my first class-leader. How much I owe to Sister Wolff's family I can never tell. They were my first and best Christian friends. Soon after my conversion I was impressed with the conviction that it was my duty to preach. I was licensed to exhort in 1831, and in 1832, having removed to Richmond, I was licensed to preach by the Quarterly Conference of Trinity Church."

In May, 1832, Brother Lumsden married Miss Susan P. Andrews, of Petersburg, a devotedly pious lady, who died in holy triumph April 30, 1836, and in her last moments earnestly urged her husband to follow out his early conviction by giving himself wholly to the work of the ministry in the Methodist itinerancy. This tender and touching appeal of his dying wife brought him to an immediate and final decision; and he commenced to travel under the Presiding Elder, Rev. Hezekiah G. Leigh, by whom he was employed until January, 1838, when he was admitted on trial into the traveling connection by the North Carolina Conference at the session held that year in Greensboro'. He remained in that Conference until 1852, when, desiring to be near his aged mother, who resided in Petersburg, he obtained a transfer to the Virginia Conference.

As clearly implied in his own statement already quoted, he had scarcely any early educational advantages, and this perhaps accounts for his seeming disregard for a time of what he recognized as a direct Divine call to the regular ministry. But he possessed an active and vigorous mind, and from childhood was steady and industrious, and that he turned his leisure time to good account,

and made the best of the few opportunities afforded for reading and study in his secular calling, may be gathered from the fact that when he had concluded to enter the itinerancy and proposed to spend a time at Randolph-Macon College the better to prepare himself therefor, that wise man and judicious counsellor, Rev. Hezekiah G. Leigh, considered him sufficiently equipped to go at once into the field, and advised him accordingly.

Brother Lumsden was an itinerant minister full fifty years, and throughout that long period, excepting the last eight months of his life, when prostrated by sickness, he was effective and efficient. Few men have wrought more successfully, none more faithfully, laboriously and cheerfully. We do not exaggerate in saying he was instrumental in the conversion of thousands. He was truly a man of one work. All his cares and studies he drew that way, and appeared to be one of those who heed the exhortation contained in the form for the ordination of elders in our Church, "to be a messenger, a watchman, a steward of the Lord; to preach, to premonish, to provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep dispersed abroad and for his children who are in the midst of the evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever."

His second wife, to whom he was married in 1840, was Mrs. Elmira H. Brandon, of Rowan county, N. C., a godly woman, who for thirty-five years passed with him under the lights and shadows of the itinerancy, and died in great peace in 1875. His last wife was Miss Sa lie Sykes, of Northampton county, N. C., a most excellent Christian and a dutiful wife. She, with his children by the second marriage—Mrs. Susan A. Jones, of Norfolk, Va.; Mrs. Hattie C. Rudd, of Hampton, Va.; Dr. William J. Lumsden, of Elizabeth City, N. C., and Charles H. Lumsden, of Lynchburg, Va.,—survive, sorrowing for the loss of a beloved husband and father.

In October, 1886, gradually growing worse, it was deemed advisable that he should be removed from the parsonage in West Bedford to the city of Petersburg. By God's mercy his illness, though protracted, was painless. The tedium of his confinement was relieved and himself refreshed by tidings from the field and by letters of condolence and sympathy and visits from his brethren and friends. The presence and tender ministries of a faithful wife, devoted sons and daughters, and of two orphan children he was caring for and educating, brightened his sick chamber and softened his bed of languishing. But more and better than all beside, he had the abiding presence of the Divine Friend and Comforter; the Lord of Hosts was with him. On the night of January 20, 1887, while family and friends, with tearful eyes, watched by his couch, he fell asleep in Jesus. In old Blandford Cemetery at Petersburg, whither he had been pre-

ceded but a few months by two honored and beloved Christian brothers, William and Charles Lumsden, his remains were laid to rest "till the last trumpet's joyful sound."

Rev. JOHN WESLEY HOWARD.

BY W. W. BERRY, ESQ.

To write a just and true sketch of the life of a man, to describe him as he thought and lived and moved among his fellows like all other men, but differing from each and all of them, would be a very difficult, if not an impossible, task.

I cannot in the brief compass of a memoir of the dear man of God, who was my friend for thirty years, attempt any ambitious task in this mere sketch of the man and minister as I knew him. It is easy to write words of eulogy, too often exaggerated, of those we love. It seems still easier to write a meagre sketch of mere events in the life of an itinerant preacher—to record his birth, his conversion, his call to the ministry, his appointments, his measure of success as seen by men, and his death, peaceful, as he leans in loving trust upon the bosom of his Saviour and breathes out sweetly there his tired life, or, as it is given to some to die, sublimely triumphant, as the soul, loosening from the fetters which hold it to earth, catches a breath of the atmosphere of Heaven, faith brightens into actual vision, and he sees Jesus, while yet the spirit lingers in the dying body.

Filled in with names and dates and such outline would be a memoir of almost every Methodist preacher, but it would show us little of the individual man.

I take the outline and attempt to fill in with such imperfect portraiture of the life and character of JOHN W. HOWARD as I saw and knew him and intimate friends have told me of him. I do not take the view of a Methodist preacher's life, as most men see it, from the outside. To them it is little more than a monotonous round of methodical duties. I would paint in fitting words, if I can, something of his real life—of faith and patience, love and hope, fierce conflicts and victories over temptations—lifted far above common-place events and worldly ambitions into the truest, highest life possible to man.

The Rev. John Wesley Howard was born in Gloucester county, Va., on the 16th day of January, 1816. He came of a family of Methodist preachers. His father and two of his brothers were local preachers; an uncle, the Rev. Thomas How-