

1814, by Mr. Joseph Thornton, the father of the Rev. W. L. Thornton, M.A., the President of the Methodist Conference in the year 1864. The original estimate was £700, but as the work proceeded, the opinion became prevalent that the chapel would be too small. An enlargement of the original plan was decided upon at an additional cost of £350. Long before the chapel was completed services were held in it. The first was a prayer meeting, held at six on Christmas morning, in the year 1815, when 300 persons were present. In the afternoon of the same day, the first sermon was preached by Mr. John Winterburn, father of the Rev. William Winterburn. The following Sabbath, the Rev. Abraham Stead, then a young man, preached morning and afternoon. A prayer meeting was announced for the evening; but the Rev. George Sargent, who had been preaching at Cowms, and having no evening appointment, came over and offered to preach if they would try and get him a congregation. The challenge was accepted, the village was divided into four districts, and in every house the announcement of the preaching was made, and an invitation given. The unfinished sanctuary was soon thronged in every part, and Divine power accompanied the word. Several were awakened during that service; and among others, Benjamin Dawson who has ever since been a faithful and devoted member, and for many years a leader, local preacher, and town missionary. The chapel, although occupied at Christmas, was formally

opened on Whit-Sunday in the following year (1816), when sermons were preached by the Revs. D. McNicoll, and W. McKitrick. The entire expenditure, including extras, amounted to £1,155. By subscriptions and opening collections the sum of £350 was raised, leaving a debt on the chapel of £805. The Society now rapidly increased; and within a year the numbers advanced from twenty-four to one hundred. For a few years the annual income of the chapel averaged £80; so that, notwithstanding the heavy debt, the trustees were enabled to meet all expenses.

THE FIRST SABBATH-SCHOOL

In Almondbury was commenced in 1808, in a room hired for the purpose adjoining the Rose and Crown Inn. Being unsectarian, both Churchmen and Methodists joined in its management. It is a remarkable incident in connection with the earlier history of this school, that it employed two paid agents, each receiving two shillings a day for his services. Many others rendered their services gratuitously. Success crowned their efforts. The number of scholars having reached three hundred, a larger room became necessary. This want was met by all denominations engaging in a united effort, which resulted in the erection of the old National-school. In the old room, Methodists were in the habit of opening and closing the school with singing and prayer, and of delivering addresses to the children. These duties were performed more frequently by Meth-

amount of ministerial labour bestowed upon the place. Irreligiousness is awfully prevalent; and we fear that below the surface of things there is a vast amount of secret infidelity. Some, also, have been drawn away from the faith by the juggleries and follies of spiritualism, so called. But we still believe in the old Gospel as the remedy, the only remedy, for these wide-spread and deeply-rooted evils. With the present number of circuit ministers, and the claims of other places in the circuit, more ministerial labour cannot fairly be allotted to Almondbury. What is wanted is a young active minister resident among them, with a passion for saving souls, who, released from ordinary circuit work, shall devote himself to visit the entire population, organise cottage prayer meetings, preach to them every Sabbath, and by kindness and entreaty induce them to attend the house of God. Such a minister would find himself upheld by a noble staff of prayer leaders, all willing and able to work. All they want is a head, a guiding mind, to organise an attack on the citadel of the devil.

THE JUBILEE.

The Conference of 1864 was held in Bradford; and as several of the Conference ministers were entertained in Huddersfield, it was thought a very favourable opportunity for celebrating the Jubilee of the chapel, it being fifty years precisely since the foundation stone was laid by Mr. Thornton. On Tuesday, 2nd August, a public meeting was held,

when the Rev. J. H. Lord, superintendent of the circuit, occupied the chair, and a report was read containing an epitomised history of Methodism in Almondbury for the past century. The chapel was thoroughly filled with an excited audience. Very effective addresses were delivered by the Revs. John Walton, Joshua Mason, and Ishmael Jones. Messrs. Benjamin Dawson and Robert Siddell, two of the oldest trustees, greatly delighted the people in rehearsing a few interesting pages of their own experience in connection with Almondbury Methodism. It was a memorable meeting. The excitement was great, but it was of the right kind. A deep and hallowed feeling pervaded the congregation; and many lovers of Zion went home that night hoping and believing that it was the earnest of good yet to come, the dawn of a brighter day, the precursor of days of power and grace, such as Almondbury had often been blessed with. The aged, of which there were not a few, whose memories carried them back into a far past, felt much of thankfulness, while the young were touched and stirred by the rehearsal of their forefathers' sufferings and noble daring in the establishment of Methodism in their native village. Happy memories rushed upon many, blended doubtless with some that were sorrowful. But joy was in the ascendancy that night. It behoved us to be jubilant on our Jubilee. And so we were. Many there were who looked upon that sanctuary as their spiritual birth-place. Well they remembered their hour