The preacher they still flock to hear

(ii) The Early Ministry

Upon completing his medical studies Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones began to work with Lord Horder whose clear mind he much admired, and also with Bernard Ellis, E. Jones and Sir Thomas Dunhill. By this time he had made a clear commitment of his life to the Lord Jesus Christ but he refused to reveal the facts surrounding his conversion. When he was assured of a call to the ministry and informed Sir Thomas Dunhill, the chief royal doctor of his decision he replied, “I always felt that you were more interested in people than in diseases, and that medicine would never hold me.”

On 8th January, 1927, he married Bethan Phillips, a fellow doctor, and already his interest in Puritan and Calvinistic theology was showing itself for he told various of his friends who inquired what he wanted for wedding gifts “A set of works of John Calvin” or “A set of the Works of John Owen” (a masterly Puritan Writer).

It was in fact interest caused by the reading an account of the life of the American Puritan Jonathan Edwards and then his obtaining a copy of his Works, coupled with the ‘Tenderly. Trials’ in the life of John Owen, that led him to seek out his own evangelical convictions.

The year he married he took his young bride to the Forward Movement Church of Sandfields in Aberavon where he became a notable minister of almost 12 years duration. The church was revived and everywhere he went in Wales he preached to over-crowded congregations. It was in 1928 that he preached for the first time in Aberystwyth.

Then in 1932 a strange event took place in his life. He said, “I shall never forget reading in a newspaper at breakfast one morning at the end of 1931 a little paragraph that Dr. Campbell Morgan was coming back from America to join Dr. Hubert Simpson in the pastorale of Westminster Chapel and that he was going to start at the beginning. I read that quite casually, but as I read it I had a strange and curious intuition that this had got something of vital importance to do with me.”

It so happened that on the night of the old Crystal Palace burned down in December 1935, Dr. Lloyd-Jones was preaching in the Albert Hall and Dr. Campbell Morgan went to the meeting. Campbell Morgan went to the preacher’s room and said, “No-one and nothing would have made me come out on a night like this but you.” Two days later he had a letter from Campbell Morgan inviting him to preach in Westminster Chapel on the last Sunday of 1935 which was the first occasion he preached in that famous building. Then in 1937 preaching in Philadelphia he again discovered Dr. Campbell Morgan in his congregation. He was in the States visiting his son, Howard. Dr. Lloyd-Jones said, “When I had finished preaching he was the last man to come and to speak to me.”

A Retrospect of the 19th Century relating to crime and prevention, administration of justice and the creation of the police force. This can be consulted in the public library at Aberystwyth.

He used it to illustrate the lawlessness in Cardiganshire before the Cardiganshire Constabulary was established in 1844 (Aberystwyth had its own police force from 1837). Parish constables had been appointed previously, but were very inefficient.

Four persons in Cardiganshire were executed for the crimes of highway robbery between 1800 and 1822, and there were numerous cases of highway robbery where the robbers got away.

Chief Constable Evans held office from 1891 until 1904. He was a former detective-instructor in the former Carmarthen and Constabulary.

MERMAID

You don’t really believe in mermaids, do you? It is recorded that in 1826 a farmer from Llanhearn and his family saw a mermaid on the rocks and in the sea.

She looked like a girl of about 18, with short dark hair, a beautiful face and white, white skin. When she bent to raise water in her hand to wash her face, the farmer and his family saw a black object resembling a tail come into view behind her.

NEW QUAY

Harbour—The state of the harbour in New Quay is still causing concern to the local fishermen. While the building that has been done alongside the jetty is greatly appreciated the fishermen are alarmed at the cutting up of their moorings. On Saturday the larger fishing boats were unable to leave their moorings at high water and were eventually forced to lesser water by the fishing boat ‘Carlo’.

Obituary—News reached New Quay during the week of the death of Coastguard District Officer Ken Curtis. Mr. Curtis spent many years in New Quay as Station Officer in charge of the Coastguard Station. He and his family during their stay made a host of friends in the town. Deep sympathy is extended to his widow and daughter Janet.

Success—Successful at recent examinations held by the Trinity College of Music were: Miss Muriel Jones, Grade V, Merit; Miss Angela Lloyd, Grade 3, Merit; Miss Angela Lloyd, Grade 2, Recorder; Miss Helen Riddell, grade 2, Recorder; Miss Joan Evans, Grade 1, Piano.

Appointments: Mrs. Harry Waters, Post Office; Miss L. Haynes, Whitecross School; Miss E. Jones, Whitecross School.