

JOHN MEREDITH

JOHN MEREDITH, Esq., was one of the earliest workers in the Temperance cause, and to a large number of the friends both in London and the country his name was a household word and. knowing the good that had been done, and still hoping for better things in the future, he was most assiduous in making known as widely as possible the advantages of total abstinence. He was born at Brampton Brian, Hertfordshire [sic], in 1785. He was married to Miss Butt [sic], a most pious and excellent lady, with whom he lived most happily, and their dear children have grown up to honour the cause which was so well beloved by their kind and liberal parents.

Mr. Meredith was much attached to all good and earnest advocates; his house was frequently, yea, almost always open to those who were engaged in the work, and there are many who at the present time can gladly testify of him, that they found in him both a father and a friend. He was for several years a member of the Executive Committee of the New British and Foreign Temperance Society, and he possessed all the excellencies of a devoted and practical worker in our good cause. There was a time when a Temperance meeting in London scarcely seemed complete without the well-known presence of Mr. Meredith. He was all ears and eyes to the Temperance cause, and he worked like one who seemed to feel that he could never do enough for the institution which he knew God had so greatly blessed. He signed the pledge on the 28th of July, 1836, and to the great regret of a large number of worthy and sympathising friends he exchanged worlds on the 22nd of January, 1859, and he was buried about a week after, in the Cemetery at Norwood.

At a Temperance meeting at the Memorial Hall last year, at which Sir Charles Reed presided, he made a very interesting allusion to the valuable and disinterested efforts of Mr. Meredith, as one of the pioneers in this great reform. Mr. Meredith and his most amiable wife were eminently pious, and earnest and devoted workers in the cause of Temperance and of Christ, and were the means of privately doing much good, and their efforts were greatly blessed in many conversions to Christ and the Gospel of His grace, and to total abstinence from all intoxicants. They laboured lovingly and well, and their earnest efforts were greatly and abundantly blessed. Mr. Meredith had great faith in good organizations ; he was punctual to a minute, and very orderly and precise.

A loving husband, kind-hearted father, a sincere Christian, all honourable citizen; he lived in Peace and. hope, and so he died.

Transcribed by Keith Winters from:

Memorials of Temperance Workers: Containing Brief Sketches of Nearly One Hundred Deceased and Worthy Labourers, by Jabez Inwards (Partridge & Co., London: 1879) pp. 181-183