

Reverend Enoch Mellor

1823 - 1881

Born in 1823, Rev. Enoch Mellor, D.D., M.A., was the most famous 19th Century Halifax Congregationalist minister. Son of a Huddersfield woolen manufacturer from Salendine Nook, Enoch was educated at Huddersfield College (where he was a prize medalist) and at Edinburgh University. In 1847 he was appointed Minister of Square Chapel, Halifax where he was famous for his lengthy but inspiring sermons. Several of his letters and sermons were printed. Enoch also "did much in moulding the characters of the three Crossley brothers John, Joseph and Francis." The financial support the brothers gave to Enoch and to Square Chapel, resulted in the building of the gothic Square Congregational Church, designed by Joseph James, and opened in 1857, the spire of which still dominates Halifax today.

A strict man of principle, Enoch preached a sermon against the introduction of Sunday band concerts on Skircoat Moor (1856), and one against the new Halifax Race Course, which opened in 1878. In 1861 Enoch accepted promotion to a chapel in Liverpool, but he was sorely missed in Halifax, and eventually agreed to return. He arrived back as Minister at Square in 1867.

In the late 1870s, he protested against the Vicar's Rate, encouraging his congregation not to pay towards the Anglican Church's tithe demand. When he refused to pay the rate himself, he was penalised by the confiscation from his home of a joint of ham by the vicar's agent! Enoch Mellor died in October 1881, and was buried at Lister Lane. In August 1882, the Square Chapel congregation erected a monument over his grave. This was 15 feet high, and comprised a draped urn standing on a square pedestal. It may still be seen today.