

REV. S. Baring-Gould Dead

Married Mill-Girl and Wrote 100 Books, Author of 'Now the Day Is Over'

The Rev. S. Baring Gould died yesterday at Lew Trenchard, North Devon, at the age of 90. He was famous as the author of over a hundred books - many of them novels - and a few of the best known hymns in the English language.

On his father's death he inherited the family estates of Lew Trenchard, and presented himself to the rectory of Lew Trenchard on his uncle's death in 1881.

In addition to writing the hymns: "Onward Christian Soldiers", "Now the Day is Over", "Through the Night of Doubt & Sorrow", he was the author of books dealing with:

Religion	Brittany
Travel	Rhine
Natural history	Pyrenees
Mythology	West Country
Saints & Martyrs	Family names
Education	Churches
Iceland	Ghosts
Germany	Biography
France	Many novels
Wales	

His first book was published in 1854, and after that date there was an increasing flow of works. He was an acknowledged authority on Church and theological questions in the West of England, and he knew every old church in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. He did much to familiarise the public with the West Country.

Mr. Baring-Gould was a great traveller, and he wrote voluminously on the places he visited.

AN EARLY ROMANCE

Romance entered early into his life. When a curate in Horbury, Yorkshire, he fell in love with Miss Grace Taylor, a mill girl. He sent her to be educated at York, bearing all the expense himself. They were afterwards married, and their long life was one of great happiness.

Mrs. Gould died in 1916, and on her tombstone in Latin are the words: "Half my soul". There are 12 children living.

The story of how he came to write the hymns is little known. In 1864, when he was a curate in the West Riding of Yorkshire, he started a night school for the miners and workers at Horbury Bridge. Afterwards he built a mission chapel, where the evening song "Now the Day is Over" was first sung. The scholars found it a weary climb up the hill. Mr. Baring-Gould sat down and wrote a hymn to enhearten them, never imagining that it would win such world-wide

popularity. He set the words to a tune of Haydn's, and with the same object he wrote "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow."

"ZAVED BY A ZOW"

He was once asked by a woman whom he took into dinner whether he was "the author of those delightful lives of the Saints or of those atrocious novels." He had to confess he wrote both.

Mr. Baring-Gould had a keen sense of humour. When an old woman implored him to say a few words over her "zow" which had been taken ill he spoke in a sepulchral voice: "O pig, if thou livest, thou livest; but if thou diest, thou diest." The sow got better.

Later on Mr. Baring-Gould himself lay sick, and the old woman came to him and repeating the formula substituted "parson" for "pig." He was seized with a fit of laughter, which broke the quinsy he was suffering from, and he used to say he was "zaved by a zow."

WRONGLY REPORTED DEAD

In 1906 he was wrongly reported dead, and like a few other distinguished men, he read in the newspapers what people had to say about him.

The Rev. Baring-Gould's illness had extended over some weeks, and his condition gradually became weaker until he was practically in extremis on Tuesday, and died peacefully early yesterday morning.

This is the second article from The Daily News - dated 2 Jan. 1924 - see Newsletter No. 12, Editorial.