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EXTRACTS

FROM THE MEMORANDUMS

OF

JANE BETTLE,

WITH A SHORT MEMOIR RESPECTING HER.

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Reprinted from the American Edition.

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LONDON:

C. GILPIN, 5, BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHOUT.

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1845.

LONDON:  
RICHARD BARRETT, PRINTER,  
MARK LANE.

## MEMOIR.

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THE writer of the subjoined memorandums was well known to many persons in the religious Society of Friends, as a useful and consistent member, and an elder whose example was instructive and edifying. It is not intended by the present publication to eulogise her character, but to magnify the power of Divine grace, which made her what she was, and to hold up to view the blessed effects of humble, unreserved submission to its heavenly visitations, as an encouragement to others, to pursue the same path, which led her safely through all the dangers and temptations of this chequered life, to a peaceful and happy close.

Her parents, Thomas and Jane Temple, lived in Pennsbury, Chester County, Pennsylvania, which was the place of her nativity, and where she resided until her removal to Philadelphia.

She possessed by nature a gentle and amiable disposition; and under the regulating and sanctifying power of Truth, she became in after life, remarkable for great equanimity and steady perseverance in the path of manifested duty. In her youthful days,

she was subject to the temptations incident to that interesting period, but through the watchful care of her parents, and the restraints and checks of the Divine Witness, was in great measure preserved from yielding to them, and enabled to set an example of sobriety and simplicity to her associates.

The importance of the duty of obedience to parents, was early and deeply impressed on her mind ; and though at times it subjected her to some crosses, yet the comfort and satisfaction she derived from yielding her own views to theirs, greatly out-balanced them, and afforded her a subject of pleasing retrospection to the latest period of life. She thought it right to defer to the judgment of her parents, both in the choice of her associates and in the style of her dress, and felt herself restrained from adopting, in relation to either, a course which they did not fully approve.

Distrustful of her own attainments, she chose to hear the sentiments of those of greater religious experience than herself, before forming her opinion on any important subject, and was thus preserved from falling into errors, to which the hasty and immature minds of the young are prone.

She recurred, with gratitude and reverent thankfulness, to the early visitations of the love of God to her soul ; some of which were, in great mercy, extended during the morning of childhood, contritiing and subduing her spirit, even before she was

capable of appreciating the source whence they originated. Her heart being thus softened and tendered, and the love of retirement and quiet meditation on serious things induced, her ear was opened to the discipline of the cross of Christ, and the way prepared for further manifestations of heavenly regard. As she was obedient to little requisitions of duty which were opened to her view, the sweet reward of peace graciously dispensed, animated and strengthened her to make greater sacrifices, when called for, and trained her to that subjection of the will, and mortification of self, which are essential to usefulness in the Lord's house.

On one occasion, when an article of dress which she had ordered, was sent home, with some needless ornament attached to it, she felt uneasy at the thought of wearing it, and after some reflection decided not to do it. Although the proposed departure from the usual simplicity of her attire was small, yet the faithful monitor within, failed not to warn her of the danger of the *first* deviation; and the little act of obedience which she was thus strengthened to perform, was followed by a feeling of peaceful enjoyment which transcends any earthly gratification. She was thus settled in the conviction, that however the wise of this world may lightly esteem the Christian testimony to plainness and simplicity, it had its origin in the blessed Truth; and that the due observance of it, tends to preserve

from many snares of the deceiver, and to prepare the mind for the discharge of other religious obligations.

Another duty, of which she deeply felt both the importance and the advantages, was that of diligently assembling for the performance of Divine worship, and making a public acknowledgment of dependence upon Almighty God for all that we enjoy. It was her concern on such occasions, to seek for a qualification to perform that worship which is "in spirit and in truth;" endeavouring to have all obtruding thoughts hushed into silence, and her heart fixed, trusting in the Lord. The advantage of early establishing this practice of frequent waiting on, and seeking after Him, was conspicuous, when she was afterwards deprived by sickness of the opportunity of attending meetings with her friends; her chamber being then made to her a place of Divine communion, where ability was vouchsafed to worship before God in the beauty of holiness, and to praise and magnify his ever-adorable name.

Believing herself called to manifest fully on whose side she was, she became very guarded and circumspect in her deportment and conversation, and was soon brought into little services in religious society. This awakened fresh concern, that while acting in the affairs of Truth, she might do nothing which would be inconsistent with the profession she was making, or give occasion to any to speak



against that cause, which had become more precious to her than any earthly consideration. Her tender and sympathising feelings led her to visit the sick and the destitute, where her kind and assiduous attentions were often very serviceable, and much endeared her to those who were the objects of them.

In the year 1802, she was married, and removed to Philadelphia. She entered into the various duties of her family with cheerfulness and diligence ; manifesting an interest in the welfare of all around her, and endeavouring, so far as was proper, to consult their wishes and promote their comfort. She was religiously watchful over her children, careful to embue their minds with sentiments of love and fear for their great Creator, and to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, it being her chief desire, that they should serve and honour him. Attached from sincere and heartfelt conviction to the testimonies of Truth, as borne by the Society of Friends, she endeavoured to maintain and recommend them by a consistent example ; and was concerned that not only her own apparel and that of her children, but also the furniture of the house and manner of living, should be such as became the simplicity and self-denial which the gospel enjoins.

In the treatment of those employed in her service, she evinced a kind consideration, which won their affection ; while the decision and firmness with which she met any departure from correct deport-

ment, gave her a ready control over them, and secured their respect and esteem.

In her social relations, she was kind, affectionate and affable; evincing an innocent cheerfulness in conversation, which she would generally try to turn to some instructive topic. She was careful to avoid talking of the errors or failings of others, being sensible of the deleterious and withering influence of a disposition which delights to dwell upon such things; and when it became necessary to speak of them, she scrupulously avoided exaggeration or colouring, and the use of strong language, choosing rather to speak with moderation, and to do full justice to the good qualities of the absent. But when a sense of duty, or the requirements of her station in society, rendered it necessary for her to visit those who had erred, she was plain and honest in telling them of their faults, and tender and persuasive in her efforts to convince and reclaim them; and there is ground to believe, that her Christian labour in this line, was often productive of beneficial results, and gained for her the regard of the party.

In the year 1810, she was appointed an overseer of the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia; and in 1814, was chosen to fill the weighty and responsible office of an elder. The duties thus devolved upon her by the church, brought her under much concern and exercise, that she might, through

Divine assistance, be enabled to discharge them in a suitable manner, and her example be such as becomes those who are actively engaged in managing the affairs of Truth. Her love to the cause of Christ, led her cheerfully to devote her time and strength to its promotion; the prosperity of the Society of which she was a member, and its advancement in true religion, being objects of the highest interest in her view.

Apprehending it required of her to accompany our friend Elizabeth Robson, in her religious visit to some parts of the United States; in the Tenth Month, 1824, she obtained a minute, expressive of the unity of her Friends with the engagement, and was absent from home in the service about a year. Although many privations and difficulties were incurred in the prosecution of this concern, she cheerfully submitted to them, and the retrospect of the engagement afforded her solid peace and satisfaction.

She had generally enjoyed good health, until the early part of the year 1832, when, during a visit to the meetings of Friends in New Jersey, under appointment of the Yearly Meeting, she perceived symptoms of disease, which often subjected her to much suffering. She, however, persevered in getting through the journey, and soon after its completion, was wholly confined to the house, which she never left during the remnant of her days.

The same peaceful, quiet submission with which she had met former afflictive dispensations, marked her daily course, under the wasting and painful effects of this distressing malady. It was instructive and animating to behold with what easy cheerfulness she would receive and converse with her friends, when the obvious inroads which the disorder had made upon her frame, and her apparent suffering, would awaken the commiseration and call forth the sympathies of her visitors. But though she might truly say with the afflicted patriarch, that, as regarded corporeal feelings, “tedious days and wearisome nights were appointed her,” yet the sense of her own sufferings seemed lost in the contemplation of Divine mercy and goodness, and her heart overflowed with gratitude for the many favours she enjoyed.

The dropsical swelling of her body rendered it difficult for her to lie down, and indeed to be comfortable in any position; yet the *habit* of *making the best* of her situation, and dwelling rather on the mercies and benefits enjoyed, than on the sufferings she underwent, so reconciled her mind to her allotment, that she was generally prepared to enter into cheerful converse with her friends, and to consult the comfort of others rather than be anxious respecting her own.

The following memorandums were penned during this protracted illness, chiefly upon detached scraps

of paper, often with no other support than her knee, and traced with a faintness which showed the weak and tremulous state of her system. They were not seen by any of her family until after her decease, and appear to have been designed to record the feelings and exercises of her mind, and to commemorate the mercy and goodness of Him who was pleased so remarkably to support her, amid the pain and languor of disease, in a calm and resigned state of mind, and to furnish from time to time, that bread which cometh down out of heaven, and that living water, which was indeed in her “ a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

In perusing these brief records, since the writer of them has passed from her earthly trials to the enjoyment of the heavenly crown, many who knew and loved her, have derived instruction and comfort; and believing that their tendency would be salutary, have expressed the desire that a wider circulation should be given them. This desire is now complied with, in the hope that they may tend to animate and encourage others in treading the narrow pathway which leads to everlasting blessedness and glory.

The reader will not fail to perceive that they breathe throughout, a deep and abiding sense of her own weakness and unworthiness, of the continual need of Divine support and assistance, and the necessity of constant watchfulness and prayer, in

order to experience it ; a grateful feeling of the mercy and goodness of the Lord to her as an individual, and to the whole family of mankind, in that wondrous display of love Divine, which provided for the salvation of a lost world, through the coming, sufferings and death of the dear Son of God. To those whom it may please an all-wise and merciful Creator to try with the loss of health, and who may in consequence have to languish long upon the bed of sickness and suffering, these short memorandums may prove a source of consolation ; showing in the clearest manner, that the everlasting arms are underneath to sustain the sincere and humble soul, during those wearisome and proving seasons ; enabling it to rise superior to the frailties and sufferings of the earthly tenement, and to rejoice with holy joy, when every gratification which this world can give is removed far from us, in the undoubted evidence that these light afflictions, which are but for a moment, will work out for those who are rightly exercised thereby, a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, in that celestial city, whose walls are salvation and her gates praise ; not one of whose inhabitants can say, “ I am sick ; for the people that dwell therein are forgiven their iniquities.”

MEMORANDUMS.

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1832. *Eighth Month 28th.*—I have fervently desired this day to commemorate the loving kindness and tender mercies of the Lord my God to me, from the days of my early youth to this time. Even then did he allure me into the wilderness, and gave me a vineyard from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope; often speaking comfortably to my soul, and sustaining me with heavenly bread. Faithful and true are all the promises of our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He hath declared, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.” This hunger and thirst belong not to the natural man, but are produced by the operation of the Holy Spirit in the heart, who as He is submitted to, will clearly discover to man that he is a poor dependent creature, blind and naked, and in need of all things.

O! who can sufficiently appreciate the condescending mercy and goodness of the Lord our Creator, who made man in his own image and likeness, and designed he should be for ever happy. Even after man, through transgression of his righteous command, had fallen from the blessed state in which he

was originally placed. He graciously provided the means of his restoration, in and through that eternal Word who was with God in the beginning, before the worlds were made, and who, in due time, took upon Him a body of flesh, and dwelt among men, and at length offered himself a propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him who sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and for ever."

*Twelfth Month 13th.*—Consolation sprang up in my mind this evening in the remembrance of the promise, "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembleth at my word." When on the mount, our dear Redeemer taught His disciples, saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven." "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." Yea, rich in blessing is the Lord's storehouse, can my soul say.

The present is a season of much bodily infirmity and pain; yet, blessed be the name of our merciful High Priest, He is, as He ever was, touched with a feeling of our infirmities. Whilst clothed with His humanity, He was a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and His compassionate regard is still continued to the poor and afflicted, who put their trust and confidence in Him. Surely, we are bound



to bless, to praise, and magnify the name of the Lord, in every dispensation of His unerring Providence: as well in the day of adversity as in prosperity, and to return thanks for the support granted, which enables us to endure affliction and pain, with quiet resignation. He is perfect in wisdom, and ordereth all things well, according to His own counsel. He leadeth us in paths that we have not known, and instructeth us in the things that belong to our present and everlasting peace. It is declared in Holy Writ, "Thou shalt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is staid on thee, because he trusteth in thee:" but how impossible is it for poor man thus to stay his mind on the Lord, except he is divinely strengthened to watch and pray.

1833. *Third Month 27th.*—I desire to thank thee, O! thou unslumbering Shepherd of Israel, for the refreshment granted me in sleep, by which the weary tabernacle feels a little revived and strengthened. Thy mercies, O Lord! are new every morning. What shall I render unto Thee for all thy benefits!

*Fourth Month 1st.*—Under a feeling of much poverty and want, I beg for a crumb of that soul-sustaining bread, which can only be obtained from the one true and living Source, Christ Jesus, our Lord. John vi. 47—57. "Verily, verily, I

say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever; and the bread that I will give, is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." How confirming is the testimony of the sacred volume, that the blessed Saviour must needs have taken upon Him a body of flesh, and dwelt among men, thus fulfilling the prophecies concerning His coming; showing forth many mighty works; be worshipped by men and angels, and His Divine attributes acknowledged,—and that all must bow to the humble appearance of the babe of Bethlehem. And when the glorious mission assigned Him by the Father, whilst on earth, was accomplished, He offered up that prepared body, suffering it to be nailed to the cross, and thereby made atonement for the sins of the whole world; being the one great propitiatory sacrifice for the redemption of poor fallen man, who has it not in his power to give a ransom for his soul.

12th.—Weak in body, yet a little strength is afforded to approach Him who is the invisible and omnipresent One; who graciously condescends to hear the cry of the needy soul; and in His own

time will answer even our feeble petitions, if we ask not amiss, and wait in patience.

*23rd.*—A day of proving mentally, as well as in body. Feeble aspirations frequently arise for more energy of mind, more fervency of spirit, in seeking to have in possession the weapons of defence against the assaults of my soul's enemy. If his power was not limited, he would come in like a flood, in low seasons, and prevail against us. But thanks be unto the Captain of salvation, who was never foiled in battle, He furnishes all who ask of Him in faith, with spiritual weapons, whereby we are able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

*25th.*—When blessed with Thy presence, O Lord! all that we have is sweet and desirable, but in thy absence it becomes loathsome. Thou calmest the troubled spirit, and givest true peace and holy joy. Thou makest us think well of all Thy dispensations, and enablest us to praise Thee in them all. Without Thee, the highest advantages cannot please long, for to make them truly grateful, thy grace must be present, and they must be seasoned with the seasonings of thy own wisdom. On reading, this day, the above paragraph in the works of a Christian author, I thought I could adopt the language.

*28th.*—I have desired this evening that my be-

loved relatives may be enabled to resign me, and be prepared for our final parting here. I believe the day is fast approaching when the tenderest ties must be dissolved; when "the dust shall return to the earth as it was, and the spirit return unto God who gave it." I desire not to think or speak presumptuously, but I believe in the assurance I have often felt, that poor and unprofitable a servant as I have been, an admittance will be granted me into the mansions of everlasting rest.

*Fifth Month 13th.*—For the last few weeks, unexpected relief from pain and oppression has been afforded me. I feel bound to ascribe this favour to the great Physician of value, as being imparted immediately from Him, not through the medium of medical aid; although I have much to be thankful for in having a kind, sympathizing and skilful physician. May gratitude and praise be offered up to the great Preserver of men, on the altar of the heart, for all his merciful dealings with me, through my protracted illness.

*25th.*—(First-day.) O, Lord God of infinite purity! permit, I pray thee, dust and ashes to approach thy sacred footstool. Thou art gracious and kind, even unto the rebellious, and condescendest to visit and re-visit them by Thy all-powerful, inspeaking Word; bringing under condemnation for trans-

gression and sin, and bowing the creature low before Thee, thou Dread of nations. What shall we render unto Thee for all thy mercies? At one comprehensive glance Thou beholdest the different conditions of all men, and knowest that we all stand continually in need of the aid of Him who ever liveth to make intercession for fallen man. Enable me, O Father! and Fountain of all good, to lie low before thee in self-abasement, seeking my daily supplies from thee. Feed me, I pray thee, with food convenient for me, from day to day, as thou, in thy wisdom, seest meet.

*Sixth Month 10th.*—Be pleased, O Lord! to bow down thine ear, and hear my cry. My soul longeth to appear acceptably before Thee, thou all-seeing Judge, who knowest the sincerity of all hearts. Grant, O Father! true abasement of spirit; create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Wash me, O Lord! in the laver of regeneration, and by the influences of Thy saving grace, keep my heart a fit receptacle for Thy Holy Spirit to dwell in.

*15th.*—Continued cause for grateful acknowledgment to the Author of my being, for daily favours, not merited, but from the loving kindness of Him who careth for the sparrows. He provideth a safe

hiding place, where those who put their trust in Him, may rest in the day of trouble which cometh upon all flesh, and draw water from the well of Divine consolation, to the refreshment of the thirsty soul.

22*nd*.—For the greater part of the past year, my health has been gradually improving. This is all together unlooked for ; but now, as of old, the ways of an all-wise Providence are unsearchable, and to our finite comprehension past finding out. My expectation for a long season has been, that the clogs of mortality were about to be put off, and the day of my probation to come to an end. Herein did my soul magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoiced in the hope, may I not say in the blessed assurance, of an entrance within the heavenly city, whose walls are salvation and her gates praise. O ! may I be enabled steadily to keep a single eye to the Captain of my salvation, who teacheth the hands to war, and the fingers to fight the good fight of faith. And through the few succeeding steps of my life, may the enemy of my soul's peace never gain the ascendancy, or by any of his stratagems, draw my mind from the narrow and self-denying path, which leads to the mansions of everlasting rest. “ Enter ye in at the strait gate ; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat. Because strait

is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." May none of us deceive ourselves while walking in the broad way, but seriously consider that unless we earnestly seek, in the Lord's time, to enter in at the strait gate, we shall not be able, when once the master of the house riseth up and shutteth the door.

*Seventh Month 4th.*—I have had many visits from my dear friends this day; it is pleasant to believe that the good Remembrancer stirreth up in the hearts of his children, a tender, sympathetic feeling for those in affliction, whether of body or mind. What a precious cement and true union of soul is felt, when friends sit together under the canopy of His love. Love remains to be the badge of discipleship, and by it the followers of the dear Saviour are known; they have fellowship one with another, and their fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

*19th.*—Increased bodily infirmity; and I have great necessity for fresh supplies of patience, to bear with Christian fortitude the trials attendant on the decay of this earthly tabernacle, the tenure of which we hold on very uncertain grounds. But how unimportant it is, at what period the immortal spirit may be dispossessed, if we are earnestly and rightly engaged in seeking the house not made with hands,

eternal in the heavens. May the great Master strengthen every drooping soul to pursue the work diligently, "while it is called to-day, for the night cometh wherein no man can work."

24th.—My indisposition continues, with oppression, particularly in lying down. I feel bound to acknowledge that, through mercy, during my protracted illness, I have experienced peace and contentment amidst all my afflictions; and I am enabled to say, "Not my will, but thine, O Lord! be done," whether my time be prolonged a little, or in mercy cut short. I desire with gratitude to acknowledge, that through many tedious days and wearisome nights, my mind has been sustained in peaceful quiet, while the poor body suffered; and the language of my heart is, "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

29th.—Be pleased, O Lord! so to redeem, reduce and purify me, that I may become a true babe in Christ. Carry on this humiliating work from day to day, until it be fully accomplished, that so the account which we must all give, in the last day, to Thee, the just and righteous Judge, may be rendered with joy and not with grief.

Blessed were those virgins, who, when the midnight cry was heard, had oil in their vessels: but alas! for the foolish, who, had they used the same



care and diligence as the wise, might doubtless have received the same happy welcome, before the door was shut. In the parable of the talents, how awful is the denunciation to the unfaithful servant, who said in his heart, "Thou art an hard master, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strewn."

*Eighth Month 5th.*—Bowed under a sense of my manifold infirmities of body and mind, and the want of daily support under them. My desire is to cleave closer to the great Physician, the everlasting High Priest of our profession. He knoweth all our devious wanderings, in thought, as well as in word and action, and until brought under His holy guidance, we are as sheep straying from the fold of rest. There is no true rest short of that which is promised to the people of God, and this can only be obtained by taking up the daily cross, denying self, and holding it of no reputation. This is hard work to the creature; to renounce self, and feel that we owe all to Him who hath suffered for us, and that it is of His mere mercy we are not consumed.

*19th.*—One year has now elapsed since my confinement to my own habitation, and principally to my chamber. During this period, it has pleased the Lord, in His inscrutable wisdom, to dispense to

us a very close and proving affliction, in the removal by death of a most dutiful and affectionate son. But under the consoling belief that, at the close of his short but useful life, he was permitted to enter into everlasting rest, I was strengthened to take the cup and drink it, with this feeling renewed upon my mind ; “ Not my will, but thine, O Lord ! be done.”

26th.—Some tender, and I hope humble feelings produced, in reflecting that my day on earth is lengthened out beyond my expectation ; and I may say in great sincerity, that on my pillow this morning, my heart’s desire above every other was, that I might so live during each succeeding day afforded me, as not to grieve the Holy Spirit, either in thought, word or action. The Lord graciously condescended to call me at so early a period in life, that like Samuel of old, I scarcely knew who it was that called me. But in His adorable mercy, He continued His calls until He made me to understand his voice ; bade me beware of the voice of strangers, and strengthened me, from season to season, to follow him, by which I was prevented from falling into many youthful temptations. I was also preserved in a good degree of obedience to my dear parents, whose care it was to instil into my mind the precepts of the gospel of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I esteem it a great favour

that I had parents who were sound in the Christian faith and doctrines, lovers of the Holy Scriptures, and careful to read them to their family collected. In like manner they read the writings of our early Friends, and endeavoured to make profitable impressions on the minds of those who heard them. This pious care I believe was a blessing to me in early life, and imbued my mind with a love for the Holy Scriptures, which remains to the present day.

*Ninth Month 1st.*—Gratitude flows in my heart this evening for past and present favours. Relief from bodily suffering has been afforded through the kindness of the Physician of value, whose tender compassion faileth not. His all-pervading eye beholds the afflictions of the whole human family. He apports to each one his proper share, and when His blessed design is accomplished, the balm of Gilead is graciously administered. In adorable mercy, His good will to the children of men continues the same as it was when He walked among them in person, doing good to their bodies and souls; healing the sick; cleansing the leper, and raising the dead. O! what will not faith in His name, which is His power, do for us, by a co-operation, on our part, with the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit; for “except a man be born again, he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

*Ninth Month 7th.*—There is hidden treasure in secret places for those who love and serve the blessed Master. They have bread to eat that the world knows not of, and joy and peace which the world cannot give or take away. And although, at seasons, it may be best for our spiritual health, to be furnished sparingly with this bread, or perhaps it may be withheld for a little while, (as it is sometimes found necessary for the health of the body, that food be given in very small portions, and this not always of the kind we most desire,) yet it becometh us to receive gratefully and cheerfully our allotted portion; and even though our weakness may be great, we shall not be permitted to faint; but be enabled in our measure to adopt the language of the Apostle, “I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound; every where, and in all things, I am instructed; both to be full and to be hungry; both to abound and to suffer want.”

*22nd.*—(First-day.) Great difficulty this morning in bringing my mind to its true centre: weakness of body and mind prevails; yet I may, with a degree of thankfulness, acknowledge, that while the family are gone to the place appointed for public worship, I have in my private chamber, witnessed sweet communion of spirit with Him who is omni-

present; who condescends to our weakness, and strengthens us to look toward his holy hill. Through this merciful Helper of his poor frail creatures, we are permitted to behold with the spiritual eye, Jerusalem, a quiet habitation, and a place of safety, amid much disquietude which prevails in the world. The more the mind is turned to look upon Zion, the city of the saints' solemnities, the more the humble, seeking soul becomes enamoured with its beauty, and the world with all its pomp and splendour sinks into insignificance.

*23rd.*—I desire to render unto thee, thou omnipotent Lord God, the tribute of thanksgiving and praise for all thy countless mercies: they are new every morning, and thy compassions fail not! In wisdom and in kindness thou withdrawest the sensible evidence of thy holy presence for a short season, and closely proves us. But again, O, blessed Jesus! thy sweet voice is heard; our strength is renewed, and we live and rejoice in thy presence.

*Tenth Month 9th.*—My feelings this morning are pensive, from a sense of my own poverty. The soil seems barren, I fear from a want of proper cultivation. Occasionally something springs up which is not profitable but troublesome; yea, burdensome, preventing the growth of the seed immortal, and hindering it from taking deep root, and spreading

its fruitful branches. O! what unceasing labour doth it require to keep the garden of the heart clear of noxious weeds, that nothing hurtful may be permitted to grow there.

The place where prayer is wont to be made, is the only place of safety for us. We must come daily to the feet of our blessed Saviour, who, when He was asked by one of his disciples, "Lord, teach us how to pray, as John also taught his disciples," answered them, when ye pray say, "Our Father which art in heaven," &c., and so I believe, He ever will teach His humble, depending children how to ask, and what to ask for. Let us then not faint, but pray always with all prayer and supplication, in the Spirit, watching thereunto with all perseverance, that our warfare may be accomplished, and that the Lord's hand may not spare, nor his eye pity, until judgment is brought forth unto victory,—victory over the transgressing nature.

10th.—A day of solemn reflection. On the morning of this day, a year ago, our dear son, Edward Bettle, closed his earthly course, when I trust the prepared spirit, received the welcome invitation of, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." This, I firmly believe, was the happy experience of the dear deceased, from the impressive revival of the text at the moment of his

dissolution ; “ Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ;” attended with a solemn and holy quiet which surpassed expression. In this season of close proving, my spirit was bowed before the Majesty on high, and in the language of Job, I could say, “ The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.”

At that time my own health was very feeble, with no expectation of surviving many weeks. The prospect was not grievous but joyous ; having a humble hope, that through the unspeakable mercy and merits of Him who laid down His precious life for poor man, my sins, both of omission and commission, would be forgiven me, and my name not be blotted out of the Lamb’s book of life. But without faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, and in his atoning sacrifice, we have no ground to hope for a resurrection from dead works, nor for a blessed immortality when done with time. O, unspeakable gift of redeeming love ! Who can fathom it !

Thus strengthened of the Lord, I was supported through a season of much bodily suffering and exercise of mind ; and my days have been prolonged far beyond my expectation, though attended with great weakness, and sometimes considerable pain and oppression from the nature of my disorder. But through every afflictive dispensation, I feel bound to commemorate the kindness of Him, who dealth with us as a compassionate father dealth with his

children. “ Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth ;” and this acknowledgment is often raised in the hearts of his humble, dependent children, “ Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” Their experience accords with the declaration, “ that although no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous, nevertheless afterwards, it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness to them who are exercised thereby.”

*25th.*—My strength is decreasing, and the prospect of the world to come, is more and more desirable. O! for a permanent resting place, in the Lord’s time, which is the best time. Nevertheless, I desire to adopt the language of one of His servants formerly ; “ All the days of my appointed time will I wait until my change come.” How much to be desired is this waiting state.

*Eleventh Month 8th.*—Something of the fresh feeling of the love of God, shed abroad in the heart, has been experienced this afternoon, in the remembrance of the olive leaf plucked off by the dove, and the bow given as the sign of an everlasting covenant, that a general deluge should not again overspread the earth. Well would it be for man, if he was more watchful in the day of temptation and trial ; and kept his covenants, and performed his



vows : then he would find that it is only the way of the transgressor that is hard, and that the Lord's ways are pleasantness, and all his paths are peace ; and the gracious promise would be verified, " Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is staid on thee."

13th.—My soul rejoices in being strengthened again to approach thee, thou King of saints, in thanksgiving and praises, for mercies past, and for the renewed favours of the present day. O Lord ! be thou pleased to preserve through every succeeding day of my life, in watchfulness unto prayer, that so I may be enabled to draw nigh unto thee.

14th.—A day of poverty, but not unaccompanied with desires after spiritual food. May the hunger and thirst after righteousness be increased. In order to obtain spiritual food, we must labour for it day by day ; and I believe it will be found that what we gather to-day, will not do for the morrow, any more than the manna which fell plentifully about the Israelitish camp.

15th.—Received a visit from two precious spirited friends to-day, during which a holy quiet was felt to prevail, until the silence was broken by one of them, to the refreshment of " the inner man." I have long believed, that if we were preserved from placing

an improper dependence upon instrumental means, it would not be withheld from us ; but that the beneficent design of our heavenly Father is, that man should be the helper of his fellow-man. I think the Scriptures of Truth, furnish ample evidence of this in a variety of instances. But let us beware of a reliance upon the arm of flesh for support, and attend to the scriptural injunction, “ Cease from man, whose breath is in his nostrils, for wherein is he to be accounted of ;” then shall we experience that arm which is strong, mighty to save and able to deliver, to be round about us ; a present help in every needful time.

16th.—Notwithstanding I have long been deprived of assembling with my friends, for social worship, I may say of a truth, I am often brought into feeling with them ; particularly with the Lord’s anointed ministers, who are made as mouth to the people, and baptized into a feeling of the states to which they minister.

When the ministers of the gospel of Christ wait in their gifts for the immediate influences of His Spirit, the word will not return void, whether it be in few expressions, or greater enlargement, so that all is kept in the pure gift. Under this influence, the holy unction will be felt by the living members, and be made instrumental in awakening those who are dead in trespasses and sins ; and without it,

whatever is spoken, whether less or more, will be superficial, burdensome to the living members, and a hurt to the assembly. How precious are words fitly spoken; truly they are as apples of gold in pictures of silver.

I have fellowship also, with the Lord's anointed elders, who, as they keep in their gifts, are made to feel deeply together, and to drink together as of the same cup. That the precious cement which accompanies right exercise, may increase in all our religious assemblies, is the fervent breathing of my spirit.

*Twelfth Month 2nd.*—Quietude of mind has prevailed through the day, under pain of body. I have said in my heart, may such seasons never prove a false rest: may I never suppose myself so near the haven, that there is no more need of watching unto prayer. O! may we seek, diligently seek, this happy port, whilst we are on our passage over the boisterous sea of the present life; remembering that high winds and tossing waves, are directed and controlled by that Almighty Being who bade the waves be still, and there was a great calm. “Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them into their desired haven.”

*8th.*—A desire has prevailed this day, to renew my covenant with the God of my life, and to per-

form my vows. He hath dealt mercifully with me, all my life long, and I feel whilst I write, that I love Him, and love to think on His holy name. He has brought me through heights and depths, and covered my head in the day of battle, in some heavy conflicts with my soul's potent enemy. When by any of his stratagems, the enemy prevails over us, our strength diminishes, and his pursuit is closer; but thanks to the unconquered Captain of salvation, we shall not be left defenceless, if in humble reliance we come unto Him. He equips with the whole armour of light; with the shield of faith, the breastplate of righteousness; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. What advantage has the follower of the Lord Jesus, although he be led in the way of the cross!

18th.—I have many favours to recount day by day; and it is not the least, to be made sensible that temptation assails us in every condition of life. If this conviction is permitted to have due place in the mind, a blessing may be found in it, even by those whose hearts are humbled under the influence of Divine power, and so reduced as to say in sincerity, "Not my will, but thine, O Lord! be done." For notwithstanding we may have advanced thus far in the Christian path, we are not therefore released from renewed assaults of the cunning, subtle serpent, who is never weary in his attempts to dis-

cover an avenue, whereby he may enter and disturb our peace of mind. But the power of Satan is limited ; he can only *tempt*, he cannot *force* man to yield to his devices ; therefore let us give thanks and take courage, putting our whole confidence in that omnipotent Arm which is ever extended for the support of all those who trust therein.

24th.—O ! thou inexhaustible Source and Fountain of all good ; keep me, I pray thee, in a state of daily watchfulness, so that I may be enabled to follow thee in the regeneration ; for without this, dearest Lord, I am made sensible that all pretensions to discipleship, will do nothing for me in the day of awful decision, when the sentence will be heard, depart, ye cursed into everlasting fire ; or the invitation, come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you. Blessed be thy name, thou King of glory, who descended from thy Father's throne, and unto whom all judgment is committed, as well as the remission of sins ; thou eternal Word ; one with the Father, who art from the beginning, and by whom the worlds were made. Be pleased to fulfil thy own gracious promises, when about to return to heaven, “ I will not leave you comfortless ; I will come again unto you. Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”

1834 *First Month 1st* —Strengthen me to draw

near to thee, thou Rock of Ages, from whom the pure waters of life issue, refreshing the weary traveller in his wilderness journey. Thou alone art the well-spring of eternal life: thou who condescended to instruct the woman of Samaria, teach me also to obtain from thee the living water that springeth up into everlasting life.

Though sensible of poverty, and the want of more gratitude for manifold blessings, spiritual and temporal, I desire to offer, on the altar of the heart, thanksgiving and praises for unmerited favours, unto Him who giveth liberally and upbraideth not. My mind is often led to consider how bountifully we are cared for, and sustained through every conflict of body and mind. Invaluable indeed is the instruction given us to dig deep, and to lay the foundation of our spiritual building on the Rock, so that when wind, rain and storms beat against the house, it may not fall, because it is founded on a Rock, even Christ Jesus, the Rock of Ages.

*No date.*—Weak in body and mind; yet I desire with gratitude to acknowledge the unspeakable loving-kindness of our God, in that, whilst we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, that through him we might have life, and have it more abundantly.

*Eleventh Month 19th.*—I have felt a renewed desire that the remnant of my days may be spent in

obedience to the inspeaking voice of the Shepherd of Israel. He alone must be relied upon for guidance through this vale of tears; thanks be unto Him for his merciful preservation thus far.

1835. *First Month 1st.*—Sickness still confines me to my chamber, in which, through weakness of body and poverty of spirit, I have passed some tedious days and wearisome nights; yet with gratitude of heart, I desire to acknowledge Divine favour, having found the holy Arm underneath for support.

*Fifth Month 3rd.*—The past week has afforded time for quiet reflection. I esteem it a favour to have had so good an account of our late Yearly Meeting; it is said to have been a large and solemn assembly. Good indeed is the Lord to his church and people. May we in truth be of the number of his travailing, exercised children, notwithstanding the grievous revolt of many who were once considered to be of Israel. May the militant church continue to travel onward, until she cometh out of the wilderness, “fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.”

31st.—Blessed be the Shepherd of Israel, who watches over his flock by day and by night, and keepeth in safety those who put their trust in him.

Temptation may assail us, and fears arise, lest one day or other we shall fall as by the hand of Saul, yet as we strive to have on the shield of faith, the breastplate of righteousness, and the helmet of salvation, we shall be kept in safety. O! may I cleave close to the heavenly Shepherd, the source of preservation, seeing there is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved, but by the name of Jesus.

*Ninth Month 1st.*—I have said in my heart, the Lord is good, for his mercy endureth for ever; He still condescends to visit those who can say, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof. O! what shall we render unto thee for all thy benefits.

*Ninth Month 6th.*—(First-day.)—O! thou merciful and compassionate High Priest, be pleased to look down upon me from heaven, thy dwelling-place, and, if consistent with thy holy will, cause me daily to feel thy life-giving presence.

*Tenth Month 5th.*—Sensible in some degree of the continuance of the Lord's love and mercy to me; His heavenly regard is still felt, and His omnipotent Arm is round about me, which ever proves a support to those who confide in it. The arm of flesh availeth little, proving but a broken reed to



those that lean upon it. Many look to the world for what they call pleasure or comfort, when in truth there is no substantial comfort in mutable things. It is in thee alone, O Lord! and in the strength that thou affordest, that we are enabled to stand in moments of weakness, and in the hour of temptation.

*Tenth Month 20th.*—I have been led to admire the great favour conferred on one so undeserving as I am, in the remembrance that during more than three years which have elapsed since my confinement to the chamber by ill health, faith and hope have been afforded so as to keep down the spirit of murmuring. Of ourselves, we can do nothing. O! for strength to continue wrestling for the blessing of preservation. I have often derived instruction and encouragement from reading the account of good old Jacob wrestling with the angel through a whole night season; and it is said in that best of books, “I said not unto the seed of Jacob, seek ye me in vain.”

*Eleventh Month 21st.*—Humbled under a sense of my entire inability even to think a good thought, unaided by thee, thou Fountain of all good! Be pleased in thy matchless love and mercy to keep me watchful, that I enter not into temptation.

1836. *First Month 1st.*—In the course of the past year, many of my fellow-travellers from time to eternity, have been summoned to appear before the judgment seat of Christ, there to give an account of the deeds done in the body, whilst I am permitted to remain a little longer. May I labour with all diligence to make my calling and election sure, before I go hence and am seen of men no more. Time is very uncertain to every age; the young as well as the old, are liable to the stroke of death. Life hangs on a very slender thread, and even those who are counting on many days of prosperity, may, as in the twinkling of an eye, be called away.

*Third Month 20th.*—Thou, O Lord! art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever; thy faithfulness faileth not. I have great cause to speak of the Lord's goodness in sustaining me, through a protracted indisposition. I have seen his wonders in the deeps, and have said, What am I, that I should be thus cared for, who am so unworthy of his notice. Yet I am at seasons, in His mercy, permitted to partake of His sustaining bread. May I continue to receive this heavenly favour, whilst here, and at last be found worthy of the lowest place in His glorious habitation, when time shall be no longer.

*Eighth Month 10th.*—The Lord is good to the workmanship of His hand, my soul can say. He continues to manifest His life-giving presence to me, a poor, unworthy creature. O Lord! feed me with food convenient for me. If thou givest me the bread of adversity to eat, and the water of affliction to drink, may I be content therewith; and when thou hidest thy face for a season, suffer not the deceiver, I pray thee, to destroy the hope of thy return.

*11th.*—Favoured this evening with solemn quiet, in which the spirit of supplication was, I think, livingly felt, with thanksgiving for past and present favours; earnestly craving that every succeeding day of my life may be spent in watchfulness, and fear of offending my blessed Saviour and Intercessor, in thought, word or deed.

*Ninth Month 1st.*—A song in the night, through Divine mercy, is felt to arise to Him, who of old had power to make the dumb sing, the deaf to hear, the blind to see, and the lame to walk. Miraculous power! which extends to both body and mind; revives the spirit of the weak and faint, enabling them to press forward, through every crowd of opposition.

*29th.*—No material change in my health for a

year past ; and although not free from pain, I have each day so many favours to recount, that I feel myself undeserving of the one-half of them, and am ready to say, Alas ! for me, a poor backsliding creature. O ! may I become more frequent in prayer, and more fruitful in the field of offering. O ! for more ardency of spirit in steadily pursuing the journey heavenward ; seeing time here is very uncertain, and there is no work or device in the grave whereunto we are hastening.

*Eleventh Month 7th.*—In my wakeful hours in the night season, prayer for preservation was offered up to the Lord on high, who condescends to hear the cry of the poor and needy ; with thanksgiving and praises for past and present favours. May my heart be purged from all the dross, the tin, and the reprobate silver, and be made a fit receptacle for the Lord of glory to dwell in. It is by the powerful operation of his Word, which is as a fire and a hammer, that the heart of man is made pure ; and well may we exclaim, “ Who shall abide the day of his coming.”

21st.—I have now entered my 64th year ; an age I little expected to attain, when first confined to my chamber : but the Lord alone knows what is best for us, poor finite beings, and how to dispose of us. I desire daily to keep in view my entire

inability, of myself, to think a good thought, to do a good act, or to obtain one crumb of heavenly bread: yet how good, how merciful is our great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. He administers to all our wants, when we ask as poor dependent suppliants; and thus it becomes us to ask, remembering that every good we receive is from his bountiful hand.

1837. *First Month 22nd.*—How beneficent and kind is the heavenly Shepherd. He supplies the wants of all those who come unto Him asking for bread; yes, even of those who are undeserving of the least of all His favours. May I ever be a grateful receiver of the Lord's unmerited favours. His matchless mercy has been extended to me, preserving me from utterly falling, and arming me against the assaults of Satan, the accuser of the brethren, who is ever ready to cast down or to exalt. But blessed for ever be the name of the Lord, in Him there is everlasting saving help. He makes a path through the sea, enabling those who put their trust in Him, to sing praises on the banks of deliverance. Let us remember this world is not the place of our rest; we must press forward with undiminished ardour, if we would reach the promised land, the heavenly Canaan.

*Second Month 28th.*—The watch must be strictly

kept, to exclude obtruding thoughts, which are calculated to prevent our waiting upon God in the silence of all flesh, wherein the soul is enabled, in humble prostration, to offer up adoration and praises to Him who liveth for ever and ever. Something of this precious feeling has been vouchsafed this evening, for which I desire to be thankful. May the Lord be pleased to humble me from day to day, that a sense of His goodness may be felt, and the work of the soul's salvation go forward.

*Third Month 11th.*—The fervent breathing of my spirit is, that I may be preserved day by day, in patience and quietude of mind, trusting in the Lord alone, who has helped me hitherto, giving songs of praise to his ever excellent name. Be it mine to keep up the watch unto prayer.

*25th.*—Although weakness and poverty are my clothing, a desire after more purity of heart is felt. Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation, said our blessed Saviour; and with the command, He gives the strength to fulfil it. What a weight of obligation rests upon me, a poor unworthy worm of the dust, for all thy benefits, O Lord! Be thou pleased to continue thy unmerited mercies to me as in days past, yea, even from the days of my youth.

*Fourth Month 16th.*—Many of our beloved

Friends are now with us, from the different quarters of our Yearly Meeting. Not a few of those who were members of the militant church, have, since the occurrence of the last annual solemnity become members, I humbly hope, of the church triumphant. Ah, blessed state! to have their names written in the Lamb's book of life, and to be for ever singing praises to Him.

*Fifth Month 11th.*—My heart's desire and prayer is, that all the workmanship of the Divine Hand may become obedient to his will; and that our wills may be brought, not in part only, but *entirely*, into subjection to the Lord's blessed will, whose design is, that man should be happy in time and in eternity.

*28th.*—Thy goodness, O Lord! has passed before me, this day, in the fresh remembrance of unmerited favours conferred upon me, from childhood to the present time. In low seasons, when faith and hope seemed almost ready to fail, the secret language has been, "Fear not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

*Sixth Month 18th.*—"When I consider the

heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained ; what is man that Thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou visitest him ? Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honour." This quotation sweetly revived in my mind, and I said, What am I, O Lord ! that thou art mindful of me ; that thou continuest to supply me with a crumb from thy all-bountiful hand ? May I return unto thee thanksgiving and praise, which are thy due, now, henceforth, and for ever.

*Seventh Month 16th.*—On First-day evening, with the assistance of my dear husband, I walked down into the parlour, and from thence into the garden ; this I have not been able to accomplish before for five years. How unlooked for, that my time should be thus prolonged, whilst many, in the prime of life and usefulness, have been taken from the field of labour, to their perpetually abiding habitation. The ways of the Almighty are a great deep, past finding out by human wisdom. "The world by wisdom knows not God." How needful is it for poor frail man, day by day, to pray fervently for heavenly bread to sustain him in the journey through the wilderness of this world to the New Jerusalem, that holy city, not one of whose inhabitants can say, "I am sick." Notwithstanding my strength is a



little increased, I do not count upon a long continuance here ; and can truly say, the desire of my heart is to be resigned to the Divine will, and to be found daily begging for heavenly food ; for this, and this only, can nourish the soul, and bear it up in the day of trial.

*Ninth Month 9th.*—Weak and depressed : the desire of my heart is poured forth unto thee, O Lord ! that thou wouldest be pleased to bow down thy gracious ear, and hear my feeble petition. Enable me, I pray thee, to bow at thy footstool, and in remembrance of thy long continued and tender mercies, to render unto thee the tribute of thanksgiving and praise, now and for evermore.

*Tenth Month 17th.*—We may very possibly persuade ourselves that we are secure, supposing the haven is nearly attained ; but alas ! for that individual who relaxes in labour until safely landed on the shores of everlasting rest. O ! may I never cease to labour, short of an entrance therein ; praying daily to the Lord, who alone can furnish ability to perform His blessed will. Yes ; He strengthens the weak, who feel that they have no might of their own.

*25th.*—How desirable is quietude ! I speak not of that which results from sitting alone, but of that

which is produced by His power, who condescends to speak peace to the tried mind ; then, all is stillness, all is quiet ; and that hope is sometimes experienced, which is an anchor to the soul, both sure and stedfast.

*Eleventh Month 29th.*—Great is the work of the day : no work so great, so important, as that of working out the soul's salvation. This must be performed with fear and trembling, lest we fall short in the day of final retribution. No man can redeem his brother, or by any means give a ransom for him ; but we know the blessed Redeemer laid down his precious life, a ransom for all ; he suffered for us, the just for the unjust, and unspeakable is the obligation we are under for so great salvation.

*Twelfth Month 18th.*—May I be favoured this morning to partake of a crumb of heavenly bread, which alone can sustain the spiritual life, and give strength to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, who is the author and finisher of our faith, and who only can make us victorious over all our soul's enemies. O blessed Lord ! if consistent with thy holy will, enable me to move forward, leaving the things which are behind.

*24th.*—In reflecting on the life of the righteous

and the blessedness of their latter end, my heart's desire for myself and for all my fellow-creatures is that we may learn in the school of Christ ; take up our-daily cross and follow him, wherever He may be pleased to lead. His true followers must be willing to suffer as well as to abound : our every day's request ought to be, Lord, feed me with food convenient for me.

1838. *First Month 1st.*—Just entering a new year : how many days, or how few may be allotted, is not for me to know ; even the moments are uncertain. How wise, how necessary, to pursue diligently the path of self-denial, avoiding every thing that would retard my progress heavenward.

4th.—Thou art a covenant-keeping God, righteous and good ; forgiving our trespasses and sins, when we come as humble, penitent suppliants, to thy sacred footstool. This language arose in my heart this morning, in remembrance of my short-comings and broken covenants, in not keeping nearer to the footsteps of the flock of Christ's companions. The Lord has been good and kind, sustaining me through various trials of mind and body, speaking in the inmost soul on this wise, " Trust in me, I will strengthen thee to hold out to the end of thy journey, and rest and peace shalt thou find hereafter."

19th.—We are like pilgrims whose faith and patience are often at a low ebb, and were it not for the gracious condescension of Him who regardeth even the sparrows, and whose everlasting arm is underneath in seasons of drooping and dismay, we should be ready to faint: but He is strength in weakness to those who put their trust in Him, and a present sufficiency when we are not able to provide for ourselves.

I can subscribe to the above, knowing from a degree of experience, that great is the mercy of the Lord to his dependent children, who can say in sincerity, “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God!”

*First Month 27th.*—I have often felt thankful for the instruction received from my dear parents in early life. I had much to endear them to me, and believe I may say without boasting, that by the help of my heavenly Father, their counsel was in a good degree kept to. I did not feel myself at liberty to put on apparel or to make choice of associates, without their entire approbation; and I had sometimes to say to my young friends, that in so doing, they also would find safety and peace.

As I advanced in years, the obligation to consult them in all my pursuits seemed as imperative as ever, being careful not to make up my own mind, until I had heard theirs; which, I believe, was a

means of preserving me from many follies, and affords me consolation to the present day.

I have been induced to make this short note, hoping it may serve as a watch-word to others, seeing our grand enemy is continually spreading his snares to bring into captivity, and would, if possible, deceive the very elect. But thanks to him who opened the blind eyes and unstopped the deaf ears, He furnishes with sight, whereby we are enabled to discover and escape them.

*Second Month 15th.*—Be pleased, O Lord! to extend thy Almighty arm, which can support, when all within is ready to faint through weakness of mind and body. This has been the breathing of my spirit this morning. It is on the Invisible arm only that we can safely lean in times of trial. He hath promised to be with those who put their trust in Him, even unto the end of the world.

*23rd.*—Our heavenly Father has compassion on all the workmanship of his holy hand, helping us out of our distresses, when in faith and patience his time is waited for, which is always the best time. We must expect to have tribulation and sorrow in this world, but we ought not to neglect numbering our blessings; for what are these light afflictions which are to be endured for a short season, com-

pared with the joy of an endless life, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary, wayworn traveller, is for ever at rest. Blessed rest ; never to be broken.

*Third Month 8th.*—“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul : He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.” David, through confidence in the grace of God, could use this language. May I live continually in the fear of the Lord, and not grieve the Holy Spirit ; then will the same gracious God, who is no respecter of persons, enable me also to say, “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil ; for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

*Fourth Month 14th.*—This morning the Yearly Meeting of ministers and elders assembled, and although my bodily infirmities still confine me to my chamber, my heart’s desire is to be gathered in spirit with my beloved friends, who are labouring in the Lord’s vineyard. The harvest truly is plenteous, and the faithful labourers few. May the Lord of the harvest raise up, even from among the younger class, those who may be willing at His command to put their hands to the work assigned them, and

become useful members of our meetings for discipline, aiding their elder brethren and sisters, who have long been burden-bearers as in the heat of the day.

*20th.*—This day our annual solemnity was favoured to get through its important business, I am informed, to the honour of Truth and the comfort of many minds. May the Lord bless the labours of his faithful servants, and qualify others to fill their places when they may cease from their labours, and their works follow them. I have had the company of many beloved Friends since the commencement of the Yearly Meeting; and it is truly pleasant to find so large a number of the aged, and some quite infirm, whose zeal for the promotion of the cause of truth and righteousness in the earth has not abated, although their bodily powers are declining.

*29th.*—Good is the Lord; He is kind and merciful; adoration and worship are due to Him now and for evermore. I have abundant cause to speak well of His excellent name. He hath covered my head in the day of battle, giving me the victory over my soul's enemy.

*Fifth Month 9th.*—“Bless the Lord, O my soul! and forget not all his benefits.” This has been the language of my heart this morning, under a sense of

our proneness to number our trials, and our forgetfulness to number our manifold blessings.

*20th.*—For the past few days I have experienced some increase of bodily pain ; but the Physician of value, the Lord from heaven, the quickening Spirit, if rightly applied to, will heal all our maladies of body and mind.

*27th.*—Alone this morning ; the family are gone to meeting. I may with gratitude acknowledge that my heart was enlarged in love to my fellow-creatures, and in prayer to God, that they, with myself, may come as humble suppliants to the footstool of our dear Redeemer, and be redeemed from all iniquity. He can pardon ; yes, in Him is power to forgive sin, and to blot out our transgressions. O ! may a sense of the goodness and tender mercy of the spotless Lamb of God, who laid down His precious life for our sakes, make a more enduring impression on my mind.

*Sixth Month 3rd.*—“ He that hath no rule over his own spirit, is like a city that is broken down and without walls.” Some of the sayings of King Solomon are fraught with instruction ; but we have need to seek wisdom of Him who giveth liberally, and upbraideth not ; we should thus be instructed to watch continually upon the walls, that they be



not broken down ; for while man deserts, or sleeps at, his post, his enemies prevail against him.

*10th.*—Our blessed Saviour, in his memorable Sermon on the Mount, said to the people, “ Take no thought, saying, what shall we eat, or what shall we drink, or wherewithal shall we be clothed, (for after all these things do the Gentiles seek,) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” I have entire confidence in the promise that if we seek first the kingdom of God, all things necessary will be given us.

*Seventh Month 2nd.*—I have desired this day to bow myself before the Lord, knowing that He heareth prayer, and answereth in His own time, for which let me patiently wait. The present life is subject to many changes and trials, but when we are strengthened to look over all, with an eye of faith, to that glorious habitation whose walls are salvation and its gates praise, we are made willing to endure all things to obtain an entrance thereinto. O ! may I, with more fervency of spirit, pursue the strait and narrow path that leadeth to this heavenly city, not one of whose inhabitants can say, “ I am sick.”

19th.—Some gratitude, I trust, is felt for the strength afforded, both bodily and mental. May I possess a grateful heart for my many unmerited comforts. When I reflect on the situation of the poor who are obliged to labour for their daily support, and that too, perhaps, under considerable bodily weakness, my heart is made to feel for them, and to utter the language,

“ Not more than others I deserve,  
But God has given me more ;”

and the query now instructively arises, “ What hast thou that thou hast not received ?”

29th.—Whilst the natural eye is delighting itself with surrounding objects, and the heart is set upon them, we may forget how soon it will be closed for ever. “ Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to God who gave it.” This short quotation may suffice to show us the vanity of setting our affections on earthly things, things that perish with the using, instead of seeking heavenly treasure.

*Ninth Month 6th.*—“ Blessed is the man whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered : Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.” I have said in my heart this morning, “ Lord, help me to attain this blessed state, to which no man can come but through Thy aid. Thou canst

strengthen the weakest of the flock, to follow thee whithersoever thou mayst be pleased to lead.”

*26th.*—O! thou long-suffering and merciful Lord God, be pleased to hear my supplication for daily and hourly preservation from every thing hurtful in word or thought. I desire to thank thee for the present feeling that of myself I can do nothing. Strengthen me, O Lord! I pray thee, to press through every crowd of opposition which the enemy of our peace is placing in my way Zionward.

*Tenth Month 7th.*—The Lord is good and greatly to be praised. He heareth our feeble petitions, and regardeth our low estate. Our manifold transgressions are not hid from Him, for His penetrating eye pervades all space, beholding the evil and the good. Through His matchless mercy, His unworthy creatures are made partakers of his benefits; at seasons they experience His judgments to be mixed with mercy, and the hand of affliction is laid upon them as a blessing in disguise, which when rightly submitted to, raises in the heart the acknowledgment, “ Lord, we desire to thank thee for the bitter cup as well as the sweet; thy rod as well as thy staff comforts us.”

*Eleventh Month 5th.*—This day is our Quarterly Meeting, and as usual, through infirmity, I am con-

fined to my chamber. The prayer of my heart is, may the Lord be with those assembled to transact the important business of the day ; for without the aid of His Spirit, nothing can be performed to the honour of Truth ; but when the will of man is laid prostrate, as in the dust, then the weak are made strong, and the cause of Truth prospers.

*Twelfth Month 9th.*—Encouragement is afforded in the remembrance of the declaration, “ My grace is sufficient for thee.” It is indeed by grace we are saved, through faith ; not by acts of righteousness or merits of our own, but by the merits and mercies of the Lord our Saviour.

*23rd.*—Good is the Lord, and ever worthy ; worthy to be magnified, worshipped and adored, saith my soul. When weakness both of body and mind has been my portion, He has not forsaken me.

1839. *First Month 6th.*—I desire reverently to bow before thee, thou everlasting Father and Prince of Peace, and acknowledge my unworthiness of the manifold kindnesses bestowed upon me. Enable me to double diligence, in watchfulness and prayer, that I may fight the good fight and keep the faith ; without which it is impossible to please thee.

*13th.*—My bodily strength has gradually in-

creased during the past year, so as to enable me to get up and down stairs with less fatigue than at any period since my confinement, now more than six years. For this, and very many other unmerited favours, I desire to give thanks.

*Second Month 28th.*—Thankful, I trust, for the crumb of heavenly bread received. I feel as though I know not how to number as I ought, all my blessings, spiritual and temporal. Dearest Lord! be pleased to strengthen me day by day, to draw nearer unto thee.

*Fourth Month 8th.*—In passing through this probationary state of existence, we are subject to many infirmities of body and mind, and except the Lord help us, vain is the help of man. We have a merciful High Priest, touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and the prevailing language of my heart at the present moment is, “Strive to draw near unto Him.” “I will sing of mercy and judgment; unto thee, O Lord! will I sing.”

*16th.*—Alone in my chamber this evening. Some sweet and quiet moments were experienced, which is indeed an unmerited favour. May proportionate gratitude be felt. “Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is, that I may know how frail I am. Behold thou hast

made my days as an hand-breadth, and mine age is as nothing before thee. Surely every man at his best estate is altogether vanity. We ought daily to keep in view the brevity of human life, and be engaged in preparing for that which is everlasting. May this be my every day work.

*Fifth Month 2nd.*—O Lord ! upon thy goodness and mercy we depend for bread to sustain both soul and body : be thou pleased to strengthen me to pray availingly unto Thee, who art a God hearing and answering prayer ; thou knowest my poverty, and want of all things, before I ask of thee. I know not how to pray aright except thou teach me.

*7th.*—The desire of my heart is after good, although feeble and sensible that of myself I can do nothing. Whilst dwelling on my helpless condition, the promise of the dear Redeemer was brought into view, “ Ask, and it shall be given you ; seek, and ye shall find ; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” I was comforted in the remembrance of the promises, and believe that if we ask aright, our petitions will be granted ; but it must be in faith nothing wavering.

*Sixth Month.*—Humbled under a sense of my short-comings, and of covenants frequently broken, making work for repentance. O ! for more watch-

fulness in the time to come, fighting the good fight of faith.

16th.—In the midst of poverty and weakness the acknowledgment is raised, “The Lord hath dealt bountifully with me.” He is a present help in time of need, even if every earthly prop should be removed; the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever; a teacher that cannot be removed into a corner. May I daily strive to become a better scholar in the school of Christ, learning my lessons perfectly.

23rd.—I desire to be thankful for a little improvement in my health. My time has been unexpectedly lengthened out, whilst we almost daily hear of some friend or acquaintance called from their labours in the militant church. May I double diligence in labouring to make my calling and election sure.

*Seventh Month 7th.*—Lord, thou art good, thy mercy endureth for ever. Well is it for us, poor erring mortals, that the eye of the Lord continually beholds us, reprovng for evil, and affording peace for well-doing. May gratitude and praise be rendered unto Him for ever and ever, saith my soul.

17th.—Good is the Lord and merciful: his loving-kindness is great to the children of men. I believe

we have all repeatedly and intelligibly heard the voice of the Son of God, saying, "This is the way, walk in it;" but the desire to choose for ourselves a way that does not require so much self-denial, produces unspeakable loss. That peace which the world cannot give is not ours, because we refuse to walk in the strait and narrow way which only leadeth unto life and peace.

*29th.*—In a short note dated 23rd of last month, some improvement in my health is mentioned, but not with any expectation of life being long continued. The feeling accompanying my mind this morning is, that my stay here will be short, and the inmost desire of my heart is, that it may be purified, and that the watch may be strictly kept, living each day as though it were my last. I know that of myself I can do nothing, yet the Lord Jesus, our merciful Redeemer, will not turn a deaf ear, nor refuse to hear the cries of the sincere in heart who put their whole trust in Him.

*Eighth Month 18th.*—Through the bubbling up of the water of life, as in a dry and barren land, I was favoured to feel the spirit of supplication. Lord, unto thee I cry for that bread and for that water which can alone sustain the immortal part, and enable me under the pressure of bodily and mental affliction, to offer the tribute of thanks-



giving and praise unto Thee, in whom are the issues of life.

*Ninth Month 22nd.*—The loving-kindness, long-suffering, and tender mercy of the Lord our God, are very great. He continues to follow his rebellious creature man, through all the paths of error into which he wanders. I have said in my heart, what shall I render unto Thee for all Thy benefits? Thou hast been a present helper through every conflict of mind and body, enabling me to adopt the language, “My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit doth rejoice in God my Saviour.” O! may the few remaining days of my sojourn here be passed in watchfulness and prayer.

*Tenth Month 10th.*—“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” May I labour more earnestly to become one of the happy number included in this blessing. May a proper guard be placed at every avenue that the enemy enter not. It is by Him only who pronounced the blessing, that man can enter the fold of rest.

*Eleventh Month 4th.*—This day our Quarterly Meeting is held. May the great Head of the church be in the midst of those assembled, and may they be careful to ask counsel of Him, not leaning to their own understandings. Great danger attends,

when man, in his own wisdom, attempts to meddle in church government. It makes sad work for the true burden-bearers, who are labouring for the prosperity of Zion, and the enlargement of her borders.

*26th.*—Poor and needy, with nothing to depend on but thy mercy, O Lord! I am emboldened to look toward thy holy hill. Be thou pleased to grant my sincere, though feeble petition, to retain a record in thy book of life. I feel myself unworthy of such mercy, yet remembering Thy goodness in healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, unstopping the deaf ears, and causing the lame to walk, I am encouraged still to hope in Thee, thou great Physician of value, to help me through this vale of tears.

*Twelfth Month 12th.*—The Lord is my refuge in the day of trouble, a sure hiding place from the storm and the tempest: thanks to his ever excellent name, He careth even for the sparrows.

1840. *First Month 1st.*—The close of the past and opening of the New Year, have produced many serious reflections. During the past how many have been taken from time, to give an account of the deeds done in the body. We that remain have great need, oftener than the morning and evening, to examine our accounts and see how they stand.

We have no lease of life; the present moment only is ours; the next we may hear the solemn sound, "Steward, give an account of thy stewardship, for thou shalt be no longer steward." Lord, help me to pray aright. I know thou art a God hearing prayer, and answering in thine own time: just and true are all thy ways, thou King of saints.

*12th.*—The family at meeting, and I alone in my chamber. Here I have often experienced a renewal of strength, and I hope it will not be presumptuous to say, the Lord hath mercifully helped me to offer the tribute of worship and praise to His excellent name. Of ourselves, unaided by the Spirit of our God, we can do nothing to profit.

*26th.*—A feeling of great poverty, but that I am not forsaken, has this day been my experience; thanks be to the unslumbering Shepherd of Israel therefor.

*Second Month 2nd.*—May I be strengthened diligently to labour, pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord; that at the end of the race I may be permitted to enter His kingdom, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. May I strive to keep up the warfare until the victory is accomplished.

19<sup>th</sup>.—" Bless the Lord, O my soul ! and all that is within me, bless His holy name." This portion of the sacred volume has brought to my remembrance the countless mercies and unmerited favours bestowed upon me, from early youth to the present day. Surely I am deeply involved, and have nothing of my own to cancel the debt ; nevertheless a little hope presents that strength will be afforded to dig and to beg, through the aid of our great High Priest, who knoweth what we have need of before we ask Him.

The last memorandum she made, which was a few weeks before her decease, is as follows, viz :

*Third Month 5th.*—O ! that I was worthy to tread thy courts, Lord God of Hosts. Feed me, I pray thee, with food convenient for me. One crumb of heavenly bread is worth more than all earthly dainties. My life has been lengthened far beyond my expectation, and my desire is, to be found daily watching and praying for strength, that I may be kept from sliding from the Rock of my salvation, and become more firmly fixed thereupon.

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Nearly eight years had now elapsed since this patient and uncomplaining sufferer had been confined, mostly to her chamber, and at times to her bed. During this protracted period she had not only endured much pain from the peculiar and unusual character of her disease, but from the train of distressing symptoms which it induced. One of these was the dropsy, by which her limbs and body were greatly distended, and her breathing oppressed. Twice she underwent the operation of tapping, with a view of mitigating her sufferings; when the quantity of fluid abstracted was surprisingly great. Her uniformly calm and cheerful temperament of mind did not forsake her on these occasions; and although it was feared the operation, which necessarily occupied considerable time, might be more than her feeble frame could support, yet she evinced neither uneasiness nor alarm. Indeed, it may truly be said, that the Christian virtues shone with mild and steady brightness throughout her long seclusion; nothing like a disposition to murmur or repine at her lot, being ever visible; but with cheerful resignation, and grateful acknowledgment of the mercies and favours she enjoyed, she yielded herself to the disposal of an all-wise Providence. The sense of her own sufferings, great as they appeared to those around her, seemed very much absorbed in her affectionate concern for others; often remarking how much they had to do in kindly caring for her, and ministering to her wants.

Notwithstanding there were intervals of comparative amendment in the state of her health, yet the disease never left her; but gradually undermined her constitution and weakened her energies, so that it was obvious for some months before the close, that the period of her release was approaching. On one occasion, when enduring much suffering, it was proposed to try some means for her relief, to which she calmly replied, "It seems hardly worth while; considering the short time I shall want these accommodations," and after a pause she added, "When I consider the blameless Lamb of God, who bore our sins in his own body on the tree, my own light afflictions seem not worthy to be spoken of."

Although wholly deprived of the opportunity of going out to mingle with her friends in social or religious intercourse, her interest in the concerns of society and the welfare of individuals was not lost, indeed it may be said, not abated; and she had often a word of affectionate admonition, encouragement, or caution, to address to those who visited her.

The prosperity of the blessed cause of Truth and the welfare of her own religious Society, continued as dear to her as ever, and she entered with lively feelings into whatever affected either. "I have sometimes almost wondered," said she, on one occasion, "at my long continuance in my present feeble condition, very much shut out, as it seems to me, from opportunities of usefulness, but I think I

may say that my prayers are very often offered up on behalf of my own family, and of the church."

In a memorandum made the 29th of Seventh Month, 1839, the reader will observe, she remarks that "the feeling of her mind is, that her stay here will be short." For some weeks previous to her decease, this feeling appeared to become more clear and strong, and on the 28th of Third Month, 1840, being asked how she was, she replied, "I am as well as I expect to be. I think I shall not be long with you; but it is not best for us to be too anxious about the time of our being called home." After a quiet interval, she proceeded, "I do not think it best to be too gloomy, but as our day's work goes on, to wear the aspect of cheerfulness. I have very many outward blessings; a kind husband and children, and family, and much to love and enjoy; but my concern is so to live and watch, that when summoned to leave them, I may render in my account with joy and not with grief. But in order to attain this state, we must experience many deep baptisms; and much of the searching and purifying operation must be submitted to. I think I may say that even in my lowest moments, when the billows have seemed to arise and the storm to beat, I have never entirely lost my hold upon the anchor, the hope in Jesus, finding it, even in such seasons, both sure and stedfast."

Humbled under a sense of her own unworthiness,

and of the greatness and majesty of Him who dwelleth on high, whose name is holy, she was deeply bowed under a sense of his adorable condescension, in so marvellously caring for, and sustaining her, during her long season of bodily infirmity; and on one occasion she thus gave utterance to her feelings; "When we consider the greatness of Him, without whom not a sparrow falls, what cause for thankfulness have we for his care over us."

As the last conflict of nature approached, He who had long graciously sustained and consoled her, was mercifully near, calming and upholding her departing spirit, and enabling her to evince, even amid the decay of expiring nature, that there is a blessed and holy reality in the Christian faith, and that it is safe and sufficient for the soul to rest upon, even in the hour of death.

On the 4th of the Fourth Month, in the course of a serious conversation with her husband, she said, "I have for some time felt as if the period of my continuing here was drawing to a close, and this feeling increases. I have been endeavouring to give up all, and to lay everything at the feet of my merciful and blessed Saviour; and poor as I am, and at times low in faith and patience, I have never had my trust and confidence in Him removed." Pausing a few minutes, as if in the fresh feeling of that precious faith and confidence which the Lord Jesus gives to his believing disciples, she added with



much fervour, "He will be with me, I feel assured, through the valley and shadow of death."

On the 12th, her mind being very tranquil, and her faculties unclouded, it was remarked to her as a great mercy; she replied, "I esteem it a very great favour indeed. I have loved the Lord Jesus from an early period of my life, until the present day, and He has not forsaken me; and notwithstanding my short comings, I have hope in Him. But it is not by any acts of righteousness that we have done, but of His mere mercy, that He saveth us."

She had for some time apprehended that her dissolution would take place when her family were not looking for it, and the event proved so. Her pain appearing to be more severe than usual, she sweetly remarked, with a pleasant countenance, "these light afflictions are but for a moment," and about four o'clock on the morning of the 13th of Fourth Month, 1840, she slept quietly for half an hour, and on waking, gently passed away, without any struggle, we believe, to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, laid up in heaven for the righteous.

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One of the prominent traits in the character of Jane Bettle, was the tender attachment and interest she manifested for those in the early walks of life.

Her heart and her house were alike open to receive them ; she entered feelingly into their trials and temptations, and often found opportunities of expressing to them her affectionate solicitude for their best welfare, either in the language of encouragement, of admonition, or reproof ; and the kind and Christian manner in which this was imparted generally made its way to the heart, and secured for her a place in their regard and esteem.

During her long confinement, her concern for this interesting class of society continued unabated ; and on one occasion, she penned the following address, which it has been thought, might with propriety be introduced here.

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“ AN AFFECTIONATE ADDRESS TO THE YOUTH OF THE  
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

“ Earnest are my desires that our beloved young people would be willing to listen to the voice of the dear Redeemer. His gracious invitation still continues to be, ‘ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls : for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’ Many there are in the present day, who seem not

disposed to close in with this invitation, preferring the delusive pleasures of this transitory and perishing world to the eternal and unfading joys of heaven. I feel for such as are in captivity; such are under the influence of the prince of the power of the air, who is seeking to rob the precious young people of that heavenly treasure which is laid up in store for all those who love the appearing of the Lord Jesus, and who like Mary of old, sit at his feet to hear the gracious words which proceed out of His mouth.

“ His inspeaking voice is still uttering the gracious invitation, ‘ Come unto me, and I will give you rest.’ I believe there are seasons, when some of those who seem to be pursuing sin-pleasing gratifications, are made to pause a little, and feel, at least for the moment, a weight of condemnation consequent upon following the paths of dissipation and vanity, and are made secretly to exclaim, ‘ My vain pursuits rob me of true and solid enjoyment in the life that now is, and if persisted in, will finally separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus, and from an inheritance among those, who through submission to His holy cross are sanctified, and made partakers of an endless life, in the realms of everlasting blessedness.’ O! saith my spirit, that the children of believing parents, who have had much religious instruction, and have often witnessed the tears of anxious solicitude to flow on their be-

half, would be persuaded to forsake youthful vanities, and come taste of the sweet fruits of obedience, which some have been partakers of, even to the latest period of life.

“ One of the commandments of Holy Writ is, ‘ Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.’ This is the first commandment, with promise. And again, ‘ Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.’ Many sons and daughters would no doubt disclaim the charge of not loving their parents, and be ready to say, ‘ This does not apply to me, although I do indulge in some things that my parents disapprove; and I must enjoy them a little longer.’ But let such remember, that if children truly love and honour their parents, the fruits of it would appear in acts of obedience; in the endeavour to soothe and comfort their declining years, and in making them their most intimate and confidential friends, to be consulted first on all occasions. Where this freedom does not exist, and parental counsel is rejected and set at nought, it is evident that true love, honour, and obedience, are not cherished in the hearts of children. What apathy and coldness must have taken possession of the mind of a child, when days almost without number are passed over, regardless of the most tender entreaties, and the reasonable requisitions, of parents!

“ It is of great importance that children, even at an early period of life, should consult their pious parents in the choice of companions, with whom they may safely and profitably enter into habits of social intercourse ; as well as in the selection of books which are suitable for them to read. Time is too precious to be wasted in reading the pernicious publications which abound in our day. That which is so spent, may not only be accounted lost, but the mind is left so barren and destitute of all that is good, that little or no relish remains for perusing the Holy Scriptures, or the writings of our primitive Friends ; the loss thus sustained is indeed incalculable.

“ There are rich treasures to be obtained in religious retirement, and in the serious reading of the sacred volume, with a heart humbled before Him who seeth in secret, and will reward openly. Heavenly treasure is offered to the acceptance of all who hear and attend to the voice of wisdom ; who saith, ‘ I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honour are with me ; yea, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment, that I may cause those that love me to inherit substance. I will fill their treasures.’

“ In the Lord, Most High, there is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning. Truth is the same, yesterday, to-day, and for ever. Our worthy predecessors, in the early days of our religious Society, embraced the truth in the love of it; and the Christian doctrines and precepts which they held forth to the world, are in strict accordance with those of the Apostles and other faithful followers of our dear Redeemer. There is no easier way for the Christian traveller than the way of the cross; and may their successors in religious profession, be willing to accept the terms of discipleship, as they did. They purchased, through much suffering, the pearl of great price. They sought not the praise of men, nor the honour or profits of this world, but were willing to suffer persecution for the Truth’s sake, and for the testimony of a good conscience. They cheerfully parted, not only with their outward liberty and substance, but from the nearest connexions in life, suffering imprisonment and reproach in various ways, because they had conscientiously separated themselves from the forms of worship used by those around them, and held their meetings for Divine worship apart. Sometimes they were gathered in reverential silence before God, while at other times a stream of pure gospel ministry flowed among them, not in the enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power of Him, from whom they received their gifts.

“ I have felt deeply concerned lest some who profess to be of the same people, and who are called by the same name, for want of keeping close to the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit in our religious meetings, find it hard work to endure silence. The practice of holding our meetings frequently in silence, has, from the beginning, distinguished our religious Society from all others. I have no doubt, if true, inward, reverential silence were sufficiently sought after, when we assemble professedly for Divine worship, the Lord would proclaim such a silence, and graciously condescend to teach His people Himself. This would have a powerful effect on the minds of those who come and sit with us, and be the means, under the Divine blessing, of opening their understandings to discover the true ground of our objection to set forms of worship, and to sermons and prayers delivered in the will and wisdom of man. Thus would their hearts be prepared to understand the declaration that ‘ God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth ;’ and to see that this worship can be performed without the medium of words.

“ Human wisdom and learning are not necessary in preparing and qualifying any for the work of the gospel ministry ; the call and qualification for this responsible and dignified office, must be derived from Him by whom the gospel dispensation was ushered in.

“ I have long been persuaded that if our dear youth, and some who are further advanced in life, would endeavour to become thoroughly acquainted with the nature of that holy profession which we, as a religious Society, make to the world, and were rightly concerned to walk agreeably thereto, they would not violate our testimony against a hireling and man-made ministry, or attend at meetings where it is allowed.

“ The coming of others to sit with us in our religious assemblies, differs widely from our going to them. They hold no testimony which is violated by such a course, nor any principle which is thereby compromised. The positive injunction given by our blessed Saviour to his Apostles, on sending them forth to preach, was, ‘ Freely ye have received, freely give.’ This command, we believe to be of sacred obligation to the present day, as regards spiritual gifts ; and those who are entrusted with a gift in the ministry of the gospel of life and salvation, ought to minister only ‘ in the ability which God giveth,’ seeking no other reward than that of a peaceful mind, in having done the will of Him, from whom every good and perfect gift cometh. With such as these, there will be no preaching for hire, no looking to man for gain, no dependence upon education or learning to fit them for the ministry of the gospel of Christ Jesus our Lord, who, ‘ when he



ascended up on high, led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.' 'Freely ye have received, freely give.' May the day be hastened, when this injunction will be felt and acknowledged as obligatory by all who profess themselves to be ministers of the gospel.

“Strong is the desire of my heart that those in the younger walks of life may embrace the Truth in the love of it, and in its own sweetness and simplicity. We profess to be a self-denying people, but what will profession do for any of us, without possession. Let the question be individually asked, what is it that truly adorns and gives lustre to the Christian character? Surely it is not an outward adorning, but ‘the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is, in the sight of God, of great price.’ Alas! how does practice differ from profession in the conduct of many of the members of our religious Society, who are not to be distinguished either by their dress or address, from those who do not profess the necessity of taking up the cross to the changeable fashions, vain customs and maxims of this perishing world. Yet my consoling belief is, that some among our dear young Friends are bowing their hearts to the yoke of Christ, and are desirous to be instructed in His school, where they will be made wise unto salvation, and fitted for His blessed work and service. These awakened ones are no longer

willing to live only to themselves, but seek to know their Heavenly Master's will, and do it.

“ In the ordering of human affairs, it is beautiful to see every man standing contentedly in his lot, and moving in the Divine fear and counsel, in performing the duties assigned him. While the mind is thus occupied, selfishness and self-consequence will disappear, and humility, true benevolence, and enlargement of understanding, will be found in the place thereof. An early surrender of the *whole* heart unto the Lord is obligatory on all ; but many withhold the sacrifice, doing violence to their better feelings, and forgetting the injunction of Holy Scripture, ‘ Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.’ Be assured, my dear young Friends, that seasons may come, even in youth, which will be as evil days, wherein the disconsolate soul will be ready to exclaim, ‘ I have no pleasure in them ;’ when things comparable to the grasshopper will be a burden ; when the silken cord is about to be loosed, on which the present uncertain life is suspended, and the dust to return to the earth as it was, and the spirit ascend unto God who gave it.

“ To conclude ; for our beloved young people I have long felt a deep and affectionate solicitude ; to

them my heart and my house have ever been open ; and may they accept the word of tender admonition, to remember that the judgments of the Lord are against all who walk in the counsel of their own hearts, and in the gratification of their own desires."

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## M E M O R I A L:

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*Memorial of the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia, held Third Month 25th, 1841, concerning our deceased Friend JANE BETTLE.*

AMIDST the various conflicts which attend the Christian life, those who are humbly endeavouring to walk in the path cast up for the redeemed of the Lord, are, at times encouraged to press toward the mark for the prize of their high calling, by contemplating the example of those faithful servants who, through the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, have been strengthened to hold out to the end, and having finished their course with joy, have entered into the rest prepared for the people of God. In the belief that it may thus prove edifying and instructive to survivors, we are engaged to preserve a memorial concerning our late beloved friend Jane Bettle, a member and elder of this meeting.

She was the daughter of Thomas and Jane Temple, of Kennet, in Chester county, Pennsylv-

vanity ; of whose watchful and pious care in instructing her in the Christian doctrines and testimonies professed by our religious Society, she often spoke in after life, with lively recollection and grateful acknowledgment. In her very young years, she was favoured with the tendering visitations of the love of God to her soul, and being strengthened, in good degree, to yield obedience thereto, she was induced to turn away from the vanities and follies incident to the period of youth, and experienced the truth of the Scripture testimony, “ The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, preserving from the snares of death.” In commemorating the goodness and mercy of Israel’s Shepherd, who thus watched over her, she remarks : “ The Lord graciously condescended to call me at so early a period in life, that like Samuel of old, I scarcely knew who it was that called me. But in his adorable mercy, he continued his calls, until he made me to understand his voice ; bade me beware of the voice of strangers, and strengthened me, from season to season, to follow him ; by which I was prevented from falling into many youthful temptations.”

One of the early fruits of this surrender of her will to the guidance of the Spirit of Truth, was a scrupulous regard to the wishes of her piously concerned parents, and a ready compliance with their commands ; the recollection of which, during her

last illness, appears to have afforded her solid satisfaction. To this subject she thus alludes ; “ I have often felt thankful for the instructions received from my dear parents in early life. I believe I may say without boasting, that by the help of my heavenly Father, their counsel was, in a good degree, kept to. I did not feel myself at liberty to put on apparel, or to make choice of associates, without their entire approbation ; and I had sometimes to say to my young friends, that in so doing, they also would find safety and peace. As I advanced in years, the obligation to consult them in all my pursuits, seemed as imperative as ever, being careful not to make up my own mind until I had heard theirs ; which I believe, was a means of preserving me from many follies, and affords me consolation to the present day.”

Her natural disposition was mild, affectionate, and equable, and being sanctified by Divine grace, it greatly endeared her to her friends and neighbours, amongst whom, under the influence of Christian love, she was much devoted in administering to the wants, and alleviating the sufferings, of the sick and the afflicted. Continuing in a humble, watchful frame of mind, under the preparing hand of the Lord, as she advanced in years, she grew in religious experience, and became increasingly concerned for the support of the cause of Truth ; and being

exemplary and consistent in her appearance and demeanour, she was early brought into usefulness in her Monthly and Quarterly Meetings.

In the year 1802, she was married to our friend Samuel Bettle, and settled within the limits of this Monthly Meeting. In her family she was an example of meekness and circumspection; diligent in the attendance of our religious meetings; careful to maintain our testimony to Christian simplicity, and to endeavour to train up her children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Being thus religiously engaged to fulfil her various social and relative duties, and patiently enduring those baptisms which are necessary to qualify for service in the church, she was united with the living members in labouring for the promotion of the cause of truth and righteousness, and gradually prepared and strengthened to stand as a burden-bearer in the Lord's house.

Being appointed to the station of an overseer, her mind was deeply impressed with a sense of the responsibility of the service, and she was engaged to wait for Divine ability, in her endeavours to discharge this important trust. She was often engaged to admonish or caution such as she thought in danger of being drawn aside; which being done in an affectionate manner, found its way to the heart, and made an impression that was not soon effaced. As an elder, to which station she was subsequently appointed, it was her concern to be preserved in a

lively sense of the nature of the calling, and by a steadfast reliance upon Him from whom the gift comes, to receive a qualification to occupy it to his honour, and the edification of the body.

To the humble diffident traveller, she was frequently engaged to extend a word of encouragement, whilst those who evinced a forward and unsanctified spirit, were tenderly, yet plainly, admonished by her. Much of her time and strength were devoted to the services of our Society, being cheerfully given up thereto. On one occasion, she was absent from home a year, accompanying a minister from abroad in a religious visit to some parts of this continent, and although, during this arduous service she underwent many baptisms and trials, yet the retrospect of it afforded her the reward of sweet peace.

During the close trials which overtook our religious Society in the departure of many of the members from its Christian doctrines, and their consequent secession, she stood firm to the ancient principles of Truth, and patiently bore her part in the burden and reproaches of the day. Being grounded, by heart-felt conviction, in a belief of the authenticity and Divine authority of the Holy Scriptures, the divinity of the Lord Jesus, and the efficacy of his propitiatory offering for the sins of the world, she was unwavering in her acknowledgment of these fundamental truths, and in her attachment to our Christian discipline and testimonies; and



without shrinking from the painful duty, she laboured in meekness and firmness, with those who endeavoured to invalidate these sacred truths, and to lay waste the order of the church.

In the year 1832, whilst travelling as one of a committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting, to visit its subordinate branches, she perceived symptoms of the painful disorder, which soon after so increased as to confine her to the house for the remainder of her days. During this protracted sickness of seven years, there were times when her bodily sufferings were great, but through the power of Divine grace, she was preserved in patience and resignation to the Lord's will. She never murmured nor repined at pain or privations, but in humble reliance upon the sustaining arm of her merciful Redeemer, was enabled calmly to commit herself to the ordering of Divine Providence, and to maintain her wonted cheerfulness and equanimity. In moments of deep bodily affliction, her mind was often drawn reverently to commemorate the sufferings of the dear Son of God, on behalf of a guilty world; and on one occasion, she expressed herself thus: "When I consider the blameless Lamb of God, who bore our sins in his own body on the tree, my own light afflictions seem not worthy to be spoken of."

Although deprived of the opportunity of assembling with her Friends in religious meetings, she was frequently engaged in humbly waiting upon the

Lord for the renewal of her strength ; and the daily clothing of her spirit seemed to be that of watchfulness and prayer for her own advancement in holiness, and for the prosperity of the cause of Truth. In some memorandums found since her decease, the following remarks occur : “ Weakness of body and mind prevails, yet I may, with a degree of thankfulness, acknowledge, that while the family are gone to the place appointed for public worship, I have in my private chamber, witnessed sweet communion of spirit with Him who is omnipresent ; who condescends to our weakness, and strengthens us to look towards His holy hill. Through this merciful Helper of His poor frail creatures, we are permitted to behold with the spiritual eye, Jerusalem, a quiet habitation, and a place of safety, amidst much disquietude which prevails in the world.” In another place, adverting to the convening of one of our meetings for discipline, she remarks : “ May the Great Head of the church be in the midst of those assembled ; and may they be careful to ask counsel of Him, not leaning to their own understandings. Great danger attends, when man, in his own wisdom, attempts to meddle in church government : it makes sad work for the true burden-bearers, who are labouring for the prosperity of Zion, and the enlargement of her borders.”

On another occasion, she observes ; “ Notwithstanding I have long been deprived of assembling

with my Friends in social worship, I may say of a truth, I am often brought into feeling with them ; particularly with the Lord's anointed ministers." " When the ministers of the Gospel of Christ wait in their gifts for the immediate influences of His Spirit, the word will not return void, whether it be in few expressions, or greater enlargement, so that all is kept in the pure gift. Under this influence, the holy unction will be felt by the living members, and be made instrumental in awakening those who are dead in trespasses and sins ; and without it, whatever is spoken, whether less or more, will be superficial ; burdensome to the living members, and a hurt to the assembly." " I have fellowship also with the Lord's anointed elders, who, as they keep in their gifts, are made to feel deeply together, and to drink together as of the same cup. That the precious cement which accompanies right exercise, may increase in all our religious assemblies, is the fervent breathing of my spirit."

She had long felt a deep and affectionate interest in the welfare of the youth, and by her kind counsel and affable demeanour, had gained considerable place in their minds ; and during her confinement, her religious concern for their best welfare, appears to have remained unabated. In one of her memorandums she observes : " O ! saith my spirit, that the children of believing parents, who have had much religious instruction, and have often witnessed

the tears of anxious solicitude to flow on their behalf, would be persuaded to forsake youthful vanities, and come and taste of the sweet fruits of obedience ; which some have been partakers of, even to the latest period of life.”

The state of her mind during her sickness is indicated by the following brief extracts from her memorandums. “ O ! thou inexhaustible Source and Fountain of all good, keep me, I pray thee, in a state of daily watchfulness, so that I may be enabled to follow thee in the regeneration ; for without this, dearest Lord, I am made sensible that all pretensions to discipleship will do nothing for me, in the day of awful decision.” Again : “ Humbled under a sense of my entire inability even to think a good thought, unaided by Thee, thou fountain of all good ; be pleased, in thy matchless mercy, to keep me watchful, that I enter not into temptation.” On another occasion ; “ Favoured this evening with solemn quiet, in which the spirit of supplication, was, I think, livingly felt, with thanksgiving for past and present favours ; earnestly craving that every succeeding day of my life may be spent in watchfulness, and fear of offending my blessed Saviour and Intercessor, in thought, word, or deed.” At another time, she says ; “ A song in the night, through Divine mercy, is felt to arise to him, who of old had power to make the dumb sing, the deaf to hear, the blind to see, and the lame to walk.

Miraculous power ! which extends to both body and mind ; revives the spirit of the weak and faint, enabling them to press forward, through every crowd of opposition." Again, in speaking of the Christian's voyage through life, she says ; " we may very possibly persuade ourselves that we are secure, supposing the haven is nearly attained ; but alas ! for that individual who relaxes in labour, until safely landed on the shores of everlasting rest." On another occasion : " Thankful, I trust, for the crumb of Heavenly bread received. I feel as though I knew not how to number, as I ought, all my blessings, spiritual and temporal. Dearest Lord ! be pleased to strengthen me day by day, to draw nearer and nearer to thee." Shortly before her decease, she writes : " May I be strengthened diligently to labour, pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, that at the end of the race, I may be permitted to enter His kingdom, ' where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.' "

For some weeks previous to her close, though there was no very striking change in her disorder, her mind was impressed with a belief that the event was at hand, and though the intimation produced much solemnity of feeling, she was favoured to receive it with composure, and to contemplate her change with joy, in the well-grounded hope of a blessed and glorious immortality. On the 28th of

the Third Month, 1840, she observed; "I have very many outward blessings; much to love and enjoy; but my concern is so to live and watch, that when summoned to leave them, I may render my account with joy, and not with grief. In order to obtain this state, we must experience many deep baptisms, and much of the searching and purifying operation must be submitted to. I think I may say that in my lowest moments, when the billows have seemed to rise, and the storm to beat, I have never entirely lost my hold upon the anchor, the hope in Jesus, finding it, even in such seasons, sure and steadfast." On another occasion, she remarked, "When we consider the greatness of Him, without whom not a sparrow falls, what cause for thankfulness have we for His care over us, unworthy as we are."

On the 4th of the Fourth Month, she said, "I have for some time felt as if the period of my continuing here was drawing to a close; and this feeling increases. I have been endeavouring to give up all, and lay everything at the feet of my blessed Saviour; and poor as I am, and at times low in faith and patience, I have never had my trust and confidence in him removed." And after a solemn pause, she added; "He will be with me, I feel assured, through the valley and shadow of death." Thus as a faithful servant, looking for the coming of her Lord, she calmly awaited the summons of the

solemn messenger ; and as her bodily weakness and her sufferings increased, she was enabled, through the Lord's sustaining power, to evince that there is a blessed reality in the Christian faith.

On the evening of the 12th, her mind being very tranquil and collected, and her faculties clear, it was remarked to her as a favour ; to which she replied, " I esteem it a very great favour indeed ;" adding, " I have loved the Lord Jesus from an early period of my life to the present day ; and he has not forsaken me. Notwithstanding my shortcomings, I have hope in Him ; but it is not by any acts of righteousness that we have done, but of his mercy He saveth us."

As the last conflict of nature approached, her pain and bodily distress increased, but she was mercifully borne above it, and with a pleasant countenance observed, " These light afflictions are but for a moment ;"—which were her last words. She was soon permitted, as we believe, to receive that far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, which they work for the righteous ; gently passing away, without any struggle, on the morning of the 13th of the Fourth Month, 1840, in the 67th year of her age ; leaving the consoling assurance, that, through the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, she has joined " the general assembly and Church of the first-born, which are written in heaven."

May her watchfulness and circumspection, and

the peaceful termination of her exemplary life, be the means of inducing others, and especially our beloved young friends, to embrace the visitations of heavenly love, and to submit to the refining baptisms of the Holy Spirit; that thus a succession of faithful labourers may be raised up; who, dedicating themselves to the Lord and his cause, may be qualified and strengthened to “serve their generation according to the will of God;” so that they also may at last receive “the end of their faith, even the salvation of their souls.”













