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Mary Wheeler

MEMOIRS

OF THE

LIFE, GOSPEL LABOURS,

AND

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

OF

JOHN WIGHAM,

CHIEFLY WRITTEN BY HIMSELF;

TO WHICH ARE ADDED SOME CONCLUDING REMARKS BY HIS SON,

ANTHONY WIGHAM.

“He being dead yet speaketh.”—HEB. xi. 4.

LONDON :

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ERRATA.

- Page 8, line 15 from top, *for sheewd, read shewed.*
" 41, " 4 " *for nearly, read newly.*
" 44, " 13 " *for John Bullon's, read John Button's.*
" 61, " 3 " *read a before widow.*
" 67, " 18 " *for as wearing crew, read a swearing crew.*
" 80, " 6 " *for Mary Sevett, read Mary Swett.*



P R E F A C E.

JOHN WIGHAM, the author of the following pages, was the son of William and Rachel Wigham of Hargill House in Cornwood, in the county of Northumberland; and the grandson of Cuthbert Wigham of Burn House, in the same township.

Respecting his grandfather there is a short account in the second volume of '*Piety Promoted*, by John Field,' at page 462, from which the following is extracted:—'He was educated in the way of the Church of England; and was in his youth addicted to many youthful follies, and some gross evils. But it pleased God, who is rich in mercy toward sinners to call him by His grace, and to reveal His Son in him; whereby about the year 1734, he was convinced of the blessed Truth as it is in Jesus, and received it. Being thus brought into deep judgment for his transgressions, and sensibly feeling God's wrath poured forth, he durst no longer follow his old courses and ways of living, nor durst longer associate with his old companions; but joined in Society with the people called Quakers: and several of his neighbours being about the same time convinced of the Truth, he was made instrumental in settling a meeting at Cornwood, in the year 1735. About a year after his conviction, a dispensation of the gospel was committed to

him ; in which he laboured faithfully, according to the ability given. His ministry was not with the enticing words of man's wisdom, but in the power and demonstration of the Spirit. He often had to magnify that power, which had redeemed his soul out of the horrible pit of everlasting darkness ; and having known (as he expressed it) the terrors of the Lord for evil doing, he was earnestly engaged to warn others to take heed to their ways, lest they should bring themselves under such terrors as he had felt ; but from which he now, through infinite mercy, was released ; and was come to the enjoyment of that peace, which the world cannot give or take away.' He died in 1780, aged about seventy-seven years.

The author's mother, Rachel Wigham, whose maiden name was Teasdale, was also a minister ; and must, it is presumed, have been pretty well known in that character from her extensive gospel labours. The testimony respecting her, issued by Allendale Monthly Meeting, states, that about the twenty-fourth year of her age, she was joined in marriage with William Wigham of Hargill House in Cornwall ; and very soon after she came forth in public testimony in meetings, which was very acceptable to Friends : and by carefully occupying with the talent received, she became an able minister of the gospel. Her service in this capacity was very great in the meeting to which she belonged ; and she was several times drawn forth in gospel love, to visit the meetings of Friends in divers counties of England and Wales, and also in Scotland and Ireland : in all which services, we believe her labours of love tended to the

edification of Friends and her own peace. She finished her course at the house of her son-in-law at Allendale, the 6th of Fourth Month, 1813.

In preparing the succeeding Memoir for publication, which the writer appears to have penned especially for the benefit of his own descendants and surviving relatives, it has been deemed needful to make some omissions and abridgements; and occasionally for the sake of greater perspicuity, an alteration or transposition of some of the sentences has been introduced; but in no case has there been any intentional deviation from the meaning of the Author.

A few explanatory notes, and some concluding remarks have been added by the Editor; who may be permitted in this place to express regret that the preparation of the present work for the press, has not fallen into hands more competent for the task, being sensible of his own deficiencies, in many respects, for the undertaking: but seeing the duty has devolved upon himself, he has been willing to do his best, trusting to the candour and indulgence of the reader, to excuse and pass over the faults and errors that may meet his eye.

In presenting to the Society of Friends and the public in a printed form, what appears to have been written more particularly for private perusal, some apology may appear requisite. The reasons for adopting this course may be stated very shortly. The Editor, and other relatives and friends of the deceased Author, believing, as they do, that there is much valuable instruction contained in what is thus offered, think they should have been doing

wrong to withhold it ; and, moreover, they can hardly entertain a doubt, but that it will prove acceptable to many. It is true, that most of the Author's contemporaries have passed away before him ; but there are still remaining not a few who knew his worth, and cherish love and respect for his memory : some survive, it is believed, who have been witnesses of his abundant and devoted gospel labours ;—others, it may be, on whose hearts he has left seals of his ministry ; and these would doubtless regret being deprived of the edification they may derive, from even an imperfect sketch of his religious exercises and experience. The Editor also entertains a hope, that the rising youth in our religious Society, may reap instruction and benefit in the best sense from the example of dedication, thus exhibited in the life of a humble, self-denying follower of our holy Redeemer ;—that they may see, to their comfort, that “ Godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”

With these views and impressions the publication is put forth, and with earnest desires that the perusal of it may be blessed to the reader ;—that it may be the means of quickening and stirring him up afresh, by putting him in remembrance of the things already known, and encouraging him to become more decidedly a “ follower of them, who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

A. W.

Aberdeen,
Twelfth Month, 1841.

A TESTIMONY

From ABERDEEN MONTHLY MEETING, concerning JOHN WIGHAM, who departed this life at Aberdeen, the 17th of Fourth Month, 1839, and was interred in Friends' Burial-ground, at Kimmuck, the 20th of the same. He was in the 91st year of his age, and had been a Minister about 67 years.

“ MARK THE PERFECT MAN, AND BEHOLD THE UPRIGHT;
FOR THE END OF THAT MAN IS PEACE.”

THIS declaration of the royal Psalmist, we believe to be peculiarly applicable to this our dear and honoured friend; who was enabled in the course of a long life, faithfully to labour for the promotion of the cause of truth and righteousness in the earth. His end was peace.

What follows, respecting his youth and early life, is chiefly derived from his own account left in writing. He was born at Cornwood, in the county of Northumberland, in the compass of Allendale Monthly Meeting. His parents were William and Rachel Wigham, whose religious care over him during his minority he has recorded in terms of thankfulness and gratitude, as having been particularly valuable to him, and especially that of his mother, who, he says, ‘was deeply concerned that her children might be carefully educated in the way of Truth,

and preserved from the snares of the world; she often exhorted us to be attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, secretly manifested in our own hearts, which was of great benefit to me in my childhood; for as the Lord was graciously pleased sensibly to visit me when very young, I was made aware, sooner perhaps than many children who are not favoured with such instruction, what that Spirit was, that both reprov'd and comforted me. When I was about eight years of age, strong desires to be the Lord's servant were raised in my mind; and being made sensible that I could not serve Him acceptably, unless I were preserved from evil, I often begged, in my childish way, that He would enable me to overcome all my evil propensities, which I saw were many.' He appears to have continued much under religious exercise of mind, and to have been preserved from many of the snares incident to youth, until he attained to about the sixteenth year of his age; when, having been put to work with his father's servants, and not maintaining a state of watchfulness, their company proved very hurtful to him; for beginning to take delight in folly and merriment with his companions, he soon became leavened into their spirit; and, though still preserved from what are deemed gross sins, yet being led into many wrong things, his mind became alienated from his God and Saviour, and he lost that savour of Truth, with which he had been favoured in his earlier years. During this period of disobedience, distress and bitterness of soul were often his portion, and he seemed to have no power to escape from the bondage in which he was held. At length, the Lord, in infinite compassion, who had continued to follow him by the convictions of his Holy Spirit, was pleased to open a way for his deliverance. In the twenty-first year of his age, he

entered into the married state with Elizabeth Donwiddy, who proved to him a truly faithful helpmeet. This change of situation became the means of separating him from the company that had led him astray; and being mercifully favoured soon after this event, with a fresh and powerful visitation of Divine love, he was enabled to see the load of guilt and sin that was upon him; under a sense whereof he was deeply humbled, and brought to sincere repentance. The blessed fountain (he says) was set open to his view—the blood of Christ to cleanse from all pollution, on condition of his forsaking those things that defile; and although he was made sensible that he had no strength of himself to forsake sin, yet a portion of precious faith was afforded him, in the efficacy of the grace of God, which was sufficient to give him the victory over all his spiritual enemies; and he was preserved from fainting, and encouraged and strengthened to hold on his way, by his gracious Redeemer manifesting Himself to be “a High Priest touched with a feeling of his infirmities,”—and who was also “his Advocate with the Father.” After passing through many secret exercises and conflicts of spirit, and experiencing the operations of that baptism that cleanses the floor of the heart, he became convinced, that, if he was faithful to what was required of him, he must become willing to testify of the Lord’s goodness to others; and yielding obedience to this call, he came forth as a minister, about the twenty-fourth year of his age. In the exercise of his gift, he appears to have been especially careful to keep close to the Divine openings, waiting in all his movements for the fresh anointing and putting forth of the good Shepherd. Thus he became fitted for the work committed to him, and with the unity of his brethren, was engaged, at different times, to visit in gospel love, many of the

meetings, and some of the families of Friends in several parts of England, to the peace of his own mind.

Some time previous to the year 1783, he was impressed with a belief that the Lord called him to leave his native country and near connexions, and go and reside in Scotland. This brought him under very close trial and exercise, and, for a season, into much discouragement: he having at that time a family of seven young children, and his means of supporting them being small, he could not well see how they were to be provided for. But at length he found relief in yielding up *all*, in resignation to what he believed to be the Divine will; and his faith was strengthened and confirmed in the rectitude of the proposed movement by his beloved wife, (who had before this time appeared as a minister,) communicating to him, though she had no outward knowledge of his concern, that she had in view a similar prospect. Thus in simple faith, in obedience to the Divine requiring, and with the concurrence of his friends, in the year 1784, he removed with his family to the vicinity of Edinburgh. After remaining there about two years, he came into our Monthly Meeting: first residing at Aberdeen, and subsequently near Kinmuck. In the year 1794, he paid a religious visit to Friends in America, travelling among them for about three years, both in the United States and in some of the British settlements,—holding many meetings among those not professing with us; and, from the testimonials received, it appears that his gospel labours were acceptable and edifying to those he visited.

After his return, in 1797, he continued a diligent labourer in his Great Master's cause. In the years 1798, 1799 and 1800, he was much from home, visiting many of the counties of England, as far as the Land's-end in Cornwall, South Wales, and the island of Guernsey.

During this period, and for some years after, he resided occasionally at his former place of abode, near Kinmuck, but principally at Edinburgh, until the year 1807, when he left that city, and removed to Aberdeen, which was his home during the remainder of his life. Subsequent to this removal, he was again engaged in visiting Friends in and about London, and many other parts of the nation; and in 1812-13, he paid a visit to Friends in Ireland, Cumberland, and some parts of Westmoreland and Lancashire, which he accomplished under considerable bodily suffering: these proved his last engagements of the kind out of Scotland. He continued, nevertheless, while ability was afforded, a diligent attender of meetings at home, and visited those at a distance within the compass of his own General Meeting; but the infirmities of age continuing to increase, he was confined to the house for a number of years, during which, his sight, which had been gradually becoming defective, at length totally failed, and he was for a considerable period quite blind: this he felt a great privation, but he was enabled to bear it, and all the other afflictions that were allotted him, with Christian resignation and cheerfulness,—being ever more ready to number his remaining blessings than to utter a word of complaint.

In the year 1827 he was deprived by death of his wife, who had been his affectionate and sympathizing companion for about fifty-seven years. Soon after this event, he penned a memorandum, of which the following is an extract:—‘I am now in my eightieth year—a long and weary pilgrimage;—many conflicts—many trying exercises have attended me, yet through all the Lord has sustained me. It seems as if I had well nigh finished my course. I say not, I have kept the faith, but the Lord has kept me in the faith; and I feel near and dear

to me his precious cause, which, I believe, He engaged me to advocate; and though day after day passes over in much weariness of the flesh, yet, by his sustaining love, the bitter is sometimes made sweet, and what would otherwise seem hard is made easy. I feel constrained to say, that the Lord is good—inexpressibly good; and I have an unshaken hope, which is the precious gift of God, that, when the conflicts of time are over, I shall enter a region of everlasting rest, peace, and joy. I sensibly feel I have no merit; I am unworthy of the least of the mercies bestowed upon me: the love, grace, and mercy of God in Christ Jesus has done all for me. By faith my dear wife obtained the victory, and was enabled to triumph over death, hell, and the grave; as evinced by almost her last expressions, praising the Lord with her latest breath. I feel the loss of her company, but I do not regret that she is gone before me (as I trust) to be with Christ, which is far better.'

As a minister, he was much esteemed among us, being sound in the Christian faith and doctrine, exemplifying by a life of self-denial, the precepts of the gospel,—being truly “an example to the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in faith, in purity.”

During his long confinement, our dear friend having been favoured to have his memory clear and retentive, and his mental powers unimpaired, he continued to take a lively interest in all that concerned the best welfare of his fellow-professors, and the prosperity of our religious Society. He frequently expressed deep regret for those amongst us, who, as he believed, were “forsaking the fountain of living waters, and hewing them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water;” but he was nevertheless confirmed in a belief, that, though the Lord had permitted a sifting time, He had not forsaken his

people;—that eventually the testimonies of Truth committed to our predecessors, would be more and more conspicuously exalted among mankind.

The meetings of ministers and elders for several years were held at his house; at the conclusion of one of these, he expressed himself to the following effect:—‘As this is probably the last time I shall sit with you, in this capacity, I feel free to tell you, that *all is well*. I have not been following cunningly devised fables; neither have I been endeavouring to serve the Lord for nought, notwithstanding my unworthiness, my many weaknesses, and short-comings. He has richly rewarded me—and I may also tell you, that if you continue to persevere in faith and patience, in stability of conduct, He will crown your latter end with loving kindness and tender mercies, as He is abundantly doing for me.’

About three weeks before his final close, his sufferings were often very distressing to him, and he sometimes expressed a desire to be unclothed of mortality; but in giving utterance to such a wish, he never failed to add, ‘When the right time comes.—It is the Lord’s will that I am kept here, and it must be right;—He doeth all things well, and we are called to *suffer*, as well as to *do* his will.’

On one occasion, on being asked how he was, he replied, ‘I am just about as weak and poorly as I can well be, but I have a hope—I am favoured with a lively hope, that, when I have done with time, I shall have peace for ever.’ And, on its being remarked to him, that it was a great mercy to have such a feeling to sustain him, he replied, ‘O yes! and none can tell how precious it is, but those who feel it.’ At another time, in a fit of pain and sickness, thinking his end was near, he sent for some of his family who were not then with

him, to whom he signified his readiness to depart, saying, he had no desire to be any thing but what the Lord would have him to be,—wholly resigned to His will; and, addressing himself to those around him, said, ‘ You, too, must follow on,—never let go your hold,—keep to the Rock that never failed any one.’

During the few days he continued after this, he seemed to wish for quietness, and said but little; yet evincing at different times, so long as the power of articulation remained, his unshaken confidence in his God and Saviour,—saying, he had nothing to trust to, but the goodness and mercy of the Almighty.

Thus he finished his course, full of days and full of peace. His memory is precious to us; and we reverently believe his redeemed spirit is numbered among those, who “ came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Given forth by the said Monthly Meeting held at Aberdeen, the 15th of Fourth Month, 1840, and signed therein by a number of men and women Friends.

‘ GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh, 4th of Fifth Month, 1840.

‘ The foregoing Testimony on behalf of our late dear friend John Wigham, has been received from Aberdeen Monthly Meeting, and being approved, is signed on behalf of the meeting.’

WILLIAM MILLER, Clerk.

Signed in and on behalf of the women’s meeting, held at the same time and place.

LUCY CRUICKSHANK, Clerk.

SOME ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIFE OF JOHN WIGHAM.

CHAPTER I.

HIS BIRTH AND PARENTAGE—RELIGIOUS EXERCISES IN
EARLY LIFE—HIS MARRIAGE AND CALL TO THE
MINISTRY—REMOVAL INTO SCOTLAND.

As I have frequently had it on my mind, to leave behind me some record of the Lord's gracious dealings with me from my childhood, for the information and encouragement of my offspring; and being at this time renewedly impressed with the uncertainty of my time in this world, I feel afraid to delay it longer.

To begin now, this 5th day of the Ninth Month, 1808, in the 60th year of my age. I was born at Cornwood, near Haltwhistle, in the county of Northumberland, the 23rd of the Third Month, 1749, and was blessed with religious parents. My mother particularly, was deeply concerned, that her children might be carefully educated in the way of truth, and preserved from the snares of the world; and with this view, she often exhorted us to be attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit secretly manifested in our own hearts; which was of great benefit to me in my childhood: for, as the Lord was graciously pleased

sensibly to visit me when very young, I was made aware, sooner perhaps than many children who are not favoured with such instruction, what that Spirit was, which both reproved and comforted me.

When I was about eight years of age, strong desires to be the Lord's servant were raised in my mind; and being made sensible that I could not serve Him acceptably, unless I were preserved from evil, I often begged in my childish way, that He would enable me to overcome all my evil propensities, which I saw were many: and although I frequently entered into covenant with my God to be watchful, especially when under His correction, yet I felt great weakness, and frequently committed errors. I was naturally lively and wild, and of a hasty passionate temper; which often hurried me into things for which I felt condemnation, and which, in my more serious moments I detested; knowing them to be evil, and sensibly feeling that they separated me from Him, whom my soul loved. For the Lord was sometimes graciously pleased so to fill my heart with his love, that my soul was quite enamoured; and under that influence, I thought I could cheerfully suffer even death for His sake. But when his face was veiled, and I was under his correction for evil, then the enemy of my happiness, by his insinuations, endeavoured to persuade me that I might as well give over striving, and live at ease; for I should never be able to overcome my evil propensities. For some time, I was in great horror of mind on these occasions, and nigh unto despair: when the Lord would again comfort my tossed mind, frequently by bringing to my remembrance some of His gracious promises, and enabling me to take fresh courage and renew my covenant. Thus were spent my childish days and years.

I do not know that any one perceived that I was under

any [religious] exercise whatever, for I took great pains to conceal it, being afraid that any of my companions should know it: for though the Lord was thus graciously dealing with me, and though, when my heart was filled with love, I thought I could suffer anything for Him; yet I was far from having attained to a willingness to confess Him before men. When a boy, I was frequently employed in taking care of sheep, all alone; and when so situated, my mind was often drawn to seek the Lord; and to my exceeding joy, He was sometimes graciously pleased to be found of me; and my heart was melted within me;—love inexpressible flowed towards God and man. In these seasons He began to discover to me, that if I would be his servant and retain his favour, I must tell to others what He had done for me; and I still believe, that had I happily kept close to Him and been faithful, I should have had a testimony to bear for His cause, when very young in years: but this, alas! was not the case; for as I grew older, my father, who was a very industrious man, put me to work with the servants, whose company proved very pernicious to me. My father, whose memory I revere, had a care for his children's preservation; but was not I think sufficiently aware of the danger to which we were exposed. From the time I was about sixteen years of age, I rapidly lost ground in religion: for I began to delight in company, which proved a snare to me; and I was led into many wrong things, and gradually lost that sense and savour of Truth, with which I had before been favoured; so that my mind became darkened, and I even called in question all those feelings I had experienced at an earlier period: thus indeed was experienced the force of the remark,—“a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.” The reasoner too got entrance, and I grew wise to dispute against and strong to stifle conviction. Yet the

Lord in mercy followed me long with his reproofs, and made me feel, even in the time of my rebellion, much bitterness of soul. O! I have often remembered the bitter wages of the cunning adversary; for though he could promise pleasure, he could not give peace.—I was ensnared by evil company.

I leave this as a warning to others to beware of evil company; and to those of my offspring, who are, or may be parents, let them never if they can possibly avoid it, expose their children to this dangerous temptation. In my worst state I was, through great mercy, preserved from what the world calls gross sins: but alas! I left my God, my guide,—and bitter suffering was the consequence: and, had He left me, I had been undone for ever. But He mercifully followed me with His judgments:—I had no peace;—merry nights were succeeded by sad mornings. I often bewailed my condition, and longed to be freed from my fetters; but I had no power or resolution to break off from my companions: though sometimes when the Lord's judgments were heavy upon me, I resolved to do so; but having departed from Him, in whom alone is the power, He, in his justice, left me enslaved in bitter servitude. Thus I spent several years in a state of rebellion against my God: at length, in His mercy, He made a way for my deliverance.

My father having suggested my entering into the married state, I went to see a young woman, to whom I became affectionately attached; and having obtained her consent, we were united in marriage before I was quite twenty-one years of age. This union proved a great blessing to me at the time, and my beloved partner has been a blessing and a helpmate to this day; for though, like myself, she had not then much religion,—yet by this step I be ame settled, and was rescued from those associates,

who had so much injured me; and it was not long before the Lord was pleased to visit us both afresh. Weary of my servitude to sin, I was thankful to embrace liberty on any terms, and would gladly have returned to the right way; but many of the corrupt inclinations of my nature, which, through grace, had been somewhat subdued in my childhood, were now by my revolt and disobedience much strengthened, and a great conflict ensued. I was made sensible that I had no power of myself to obtain the victory,—that the power was in and of God alone, dispensed through his grace or good Spirit. Thus, I was exceedingly humbled by the sight I had obtained of my condition; I felt such a load of guilt upon me, and such propensities to add thereto, that I was often very near to despair. For though the Lord was graciously pleased to open to my view the fountain,—the blood of Christ, to cleanse from all pollution; yet I saw, at the same time, that that fountain was opened only to those, who repent and forsake all those things that defile: and though I believed my repentance was sincere, as I did from my heart abhor myself and all my former sins, yet I felt so much weakness and such strong desires and temptations to some things which I knew to be displeasing to the Almighty, that I was for some time almost without hope. All my grievous struggles were however in secret; none knew them but the Lord alone: for I was afraid to let it be seen that I was at all exercised about religion, lest I should fall, and dishonour the cause, and prove a stumbling-block in the way of others.

Whilst I was thus labouring under these exercises of mind, the Lord showed me, that though man could not help himself, he could injure himself; and thus was brought to my remembrance this language,—“Thy destruction is of thyself; but thy help is in me.” I was convinced that

God was willing to save all men ; and for that end He visited them by His grace, inviting them to accept and use the means He offered them, namely, a measure of His light and grace ; in which he dispensed power sufficient to give them the victory over all their spiritual enemies, if they would embrace it, and become co-workers with it. But if, on the other hand, they neglected to lay hold of and use the means, the fault was their own, and their destruction of themselves. Thus I saw, I must maintain a warfare, and resist and strive against temptations, in watchfulness and humble dependence on the Lord's strength. The way being thus clearly opened before me, I was made willing to enlist under the banner of Christ, and prayed that He would enable me to be a faithful soldier : but, alas ! I was often surprised and wounded, when off my guard ; and I should have fainted had not my gracious Redeemer manifested himself to be a High Priest touched with a feeling of my infirmities. I now began experimentally to know Him in his various offices ; — passages of scripture were often brought to my remembrance for my refreshment, and for the strengthening of my faith. I recollected the testimony of the Apostle, — that we have an advocate with the Father, and that for his sake God was propitiated. I felt that He refreshed and strengthened me, as well as washed and healed my wounds, by his balsamic virtue. Oh ! I often to this day remember his unutterable goodness to my exercised mind. He had won my heart ; — He knew my sincerity : and though, through unwatchfulness and infirmity, I often failed on my part ; yet in His mercy He did not leave me.

Having, about this time, entered into close covenant with my God, I felt very desirous of having a sound faith ; and began to be exercised about some points of Christian doctrine. The state of children dying in in-

fancy, occasioned me considerable perplexity; for though I could clearly comprehend that Adam our first parent, by transgressing the Divine command *fell*, so all his offspring were in a *fallen state*,—and though I was satisfied with respect to the means provided for their restoration through Christ the one offering, and by the operation of the Holy Spirit in the heart subduing the corrupt nature, and by the washing of regeneration, making new the creature,—yet I could not conceive how infants could experience this change; and to suppose that such were excluded from God's kingdom, appeared contrary to the declaration of Christ—“of such is the kingdom of heaven.” I knew there was an invention among men, as a kind of salvo for this difficulty, that of sprinkling, or what they call baptism; by which they profess to believe that the child is regenerated and initiated into the church of Christ: but this appeared a fiction, and not at all satisfactory to my mind. I tried to come at a right knowledge of the subject by an examination of other men's opinions, and by comparing these with Scripture testimony, but without attaining what I desired. At length, the Lord condescended so to enlighten my understanding, that I was left without doubt. I well remember the very time and place when the matter was opened to me, and in a way that satisfied me at once, and has done so ever since: it was thus,—that as Adam's sin was disobedience, and aspiring to the *knowledge of good and evil*, so his offspring are innocent, (or not held responsible,) till they arrive at a capacity to partake of *this knowledge*. This will apply to idiots also, as well as children.—Rom. iv. 15; v. 13.

Another point of doctrine with which I was then much tried, was that of election and reprobation, which opened to me thus:—Christ was the elect and chosen of

God, for the salvation of mankind; He was offered to all men by a manifestation of his Spirit; and all those who joined in with this offer, and thereby became united to Him, became *in Him* the elect of God; and that God had predestined to a separation from himself, all those who rejected this offer, by refusing to receive him; and that this (the election as well as the reprobation) included all, even those who had never heard of Christ's appearance in the flesh. Thus was my mind satisfied in this respect also; and I now began to see clearly, that I never could comprehend the things of God, but by the Spirit of God: this induced me in every difficulty, to wait in humility and dependence on the fresh openings of Truth.

About this time the Lord sheewd me that I must acknowledge Him more openly; that I must not only overcome that unwillingness to let it be seen that I was religiously exercised, but also testify to others of his goodness to me. Indeed, my mind was frequently so clothed with love to mankind, that I did not much resist this opening: only I felt myself very unfit for it, and prayed that He would better prepare me, and give me a clean heart and a right spirit; and then I covenanted with Him to do any thing which he saw meet to appoint. But, notwithstanding my professed willingness to be what the Lord would have me to be, I was exceedingly afraid of deception, and of mistaking something different for the Lord's requirings; and this fear prevailed so much, that I durst hardly go to meeting,—and when there, was fearful of turning my mind to a right exercise, lest something should be presented for me to say. The Lord was then displeas'd with me, and let me see that my heart was deceitful, and not right in His sight;—that this fear was caused by self-will; and in displeasure He seemed to

leave me. Greatly did I now bemoan my situation, and in deep sorrow and repentance, did I entreat Him to return and strengthen me, promising to strive against that fearfulness. In mercy He inclined his ear, and shortly afterwards in a meeting, impressed my mind with a few words, accompanied with such an impulse, as I had not before felt; which left me no doubt that the Lord required me to express them. After having done so, my heart was so filled with peace, that it seemed not only like a vessel full, but running over with praises to the Lord, who had thus strengthened me to do his will: for though it was a very little simple matter that was thus brought to my mind I scarce know how, yet, "as the wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it comes nor whither it goes," so appeared to me the influence of the Spirit, with respect to that little offering; and so it has been ever since with respect to communications in the line of gospel ministry.

From this time my heart was dedicated to the Lord and his service, being desirous, above all things, to know and do his will; and though I often fell short through weakness, yet the Lord, in his unspeakable mercy, did not leave me, but corrected and restored me again to favour; so that I have great cause to praise Him, for by his rod, as well as his staff, He hath comforted me.

I continued to express a few words in meetings, when thus impressed, and was favoured with the answer of peace; and as I carefully attended to the impulse or motion of the Spirit, my gift gradually increased, and faith was given me to stand up, even when I felt only the impulse, and very few words were presented to my mind; but matter would sometimes flow to my admiration, and to the enlargement of my communications.

My first appearance as a minister was, I believe, little expected by most Friends; yet, as far as I ever understood, they were generally satisfied. From the love I felt to flow to the people, I was sometimes desirous that something might be given me to say to them, but these desires were generally disappointed; it was shewn to me they were wrong, and had their origin in self-will, and were to be rejected; and that gospel ministry should be exercised and in great simplicity and resignation to the Divine will, without human labour or creaturely contrivance. Thus I was instructed to wait in humble dependence.

In a short time, my faith was more particularly tried, for the Lord was pleased to withdraw the gift [of the ministry] for some time, I think about six months, so that I had nothing to communicate; in this time, did the enemy endeavour to mislead me, by presenting to my mind such specious openings and fields of doctrine, that I was sometimes nearly deceived; but the impulse was wanting, which I had been convinced was as the voice of my true guide, and without which I durst not move: but the enemy endeavoured to imitate that also; in this attempt, however, the counterfeit and the snare were more manifest. Though the Lord was pleased to permit me to be thus tried, in his great mercy and by his own invisible power he preserved me from yielding to any of the temptations with which I was assailed; and often at the close of meetings, when I had been thus tempted, He filled my heart with thankfulness: in His own time however, he returned with that sweet simple evidence, which had been my unfailing guide, and which continues to be so to the present day. I have been the more particular in my remarks on the ministry, knowing that many snares are laid by the enemy, even for such as

have made a right beginning ; and to those so tried, my experience may perhaps afford some instruction. If such an one should see this, I would say to him, ‘ I entreat thee never to move, without that fresh feeling of the Divine impulse, which was thy guide in the beginning, whatever fields of doctrine may be spread before thee, or however clearly thou mayst see the states of the people.’ It is not always necessary to speak, when we see things ; but we must sometimes conceal the vision, and always wait the Lord’s command : if we do otherwise, we shall lose our guide, and be involved in confusion.

My beloved wife had, before this time, come forth in public testimony as a minister ; which was a great comfort to me. Being now enlisted in earnest, in a while I conceived it my duty to leave home, and visit Friends in their meetings : this I performed in several counties in England ; and was also frequently engaged in visiting Friends’ families in different places : and though I felt myself a very poor, weak, insignificant servant, yet I had often to adore the goodness of God, in condescending so to enable me to serve him, as to obtain peace.

About this time, (1783,) a very trying exercise came upon me, from an apprehension that the Lord called me to leave my native country and near connexions, and go to reside in Scotland. The prospect really looked very discouraging. There were few Friends at Edinburgh, which was the first place pointed out to me ;—I had a young family, and how to provide for them I could not tell. But, after some secret struggles, my mind was relieved through resignation to the Divine will ; and I felt greatly encouraged by my dear wife’s informing me, that she also had a similar prospect : she knew nothing of mine, as I had kept it to myself ; but when we came to open our views to each other, and found them so much

in unison, our faith was strengthened. But when we informed some of our near connexions of our prospects, it was different: my valuable mother discouraged us much at first; setting before us the disadvantages of bringing up a family, where there were so few Friends, and how our children would be exposed to mix with the people in marriage, &c. In a short time, however, she acknowledged that what she had said, in the way of discouragement, had occasioned her much uneasiness, and that she saw it had originated in her unwillingness to part with us; that she could now say, "Go; and I believe the Lord will go with you." Thus was way gradually made for us in the minds of our relations and friends, and to Scotland we came with our seven children in the year 1784. In this country we have had many and various exercises, many removals from one place to another, under an apprehension of duty; but though we have been like pilgrims, the Lord has in his abundant goodness fully satisfied us, that our coming was in the way of our duty. He has been truly our Shepherd, and we have not lacked.

[My dear father has not left any record of this period of his first coming to Edinburgh, but it is known to have been one of peculiar trial and difficulty. There were at that time but very few in profession with Friends, and even of this small number, the greater part had so much departed from their principles, and had become in their manners, their language, and their dress, so conformed to the fashions of the world, that there was little or nothing left to distinguish them; and in this state of things, as might have been expected, the discipline of the Society was scarcely supported at all. Monthly Meetings had ceased to be held, and it could not be ascertained who were or were not entitled to membership.

During this time of deep and painful exercise, his faith in his Almighty helper, whose cause he had espoused, was mercifully sustained; and being enabled to persevere, his labours were ultimately blessed with considerable success. By the assistance of some Friends in the ministry, who were drawn to visit this nearly desolate part of the heritage, the discipline was before long, measurably restored, and a few well concerned Friends raised up to conduct the affairs of the Society. Among those who laboured in this work of reformation, were our valued friends George Dillwyn of America, who was then residing in England, and Henry Tuke of York, who visited Edinburgh about this time.

At Aberdeen and its neighbouring meetings, the state of things was also very discouraging. It is true, they had not ceased to hold Monthly Meetings, but the right exercise of the discipline was inefficiently supported; and in order to its revival, it was found needful both there and at Edinburgh, to make up lists of such as might be considered members or claimed to be such.

During his first residence in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, he occupied a small dairy farm about two miles from meeting; but his stay here was but of short duration. In about two years, under an impression of religious duty, he moved to Aberdeen, where during his stay there, about two years more, he opened a small grocery shop for the support of his family. In the early part of the year 1788 he left Aberdeen, and went to occupy a farm about fourteen miles farther north, near Kinnuck meeting; and when not absent on religious service, this continued to be his home till 1794, when he left it to pay a visit in the love of the gospel to Friends in America, as stated in his own account.

It appears, he received a certificate from his Monthly

Meeting in the Eleventh Month 1789, to visit Friends of the Quarterly Meeting of Cumberland, and the Meetings adjacent. This visit, of which he has not left any account, was performed chiefly, it is believed, on foot; as were also many of his journeys to attend the Half-year's Meeting, in travelling to and from Edinburgh. He has been heard to say, that he and his companions when on some of these journeys, after walking as far as they were well able, were refused lodgings at some of the Inns, partly from their not appearing like profitable guests, and also on some occasions from the remains of a prejudice against Friends, which many in that day still entertained. The distance from Kinmuck to Edinburgh is upwards of 120 miles.]

CHAPTER II.

PROSPECT OF A RELIGIOUS VISIT TO FRIENDS IN NORTH AMERICA—HIS VOYAGE THITHER AND LANDING AT BOSTON IN 1794.

IN the year 1793, a very weighty concern revived in my mind, to visit Friends in America; of which I had had some prospect, before leaving England; but for several years it had disappeared, so that I hoped I should have been excused: but it now returned with so much weight, that I was constrained to give up to it, though not without considerable conflict. I felt so poor a creature every way, and ill qualified for what appeared to me so great an undertaking, that I was often sunk very low; and the prospect of leaving my family, now consisting of nine children, who seemed greatly to need my care and assistance, appeared sometimes very trying. But I had covenanted to do whatever the Lord required, if He would condescend to give me satisfactory evidence of his will, which He so far did from time to time, that I had no excuse left: I therefore gave up to it, and laid my concern before my Monthly Meeting and Half-year's Meeting; and having received certificates of their sympathy and concurrence, I proceeded to London, where I had also the unity of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders; and thus the way seemed clear for my procedure.

[Previous to his embarking for America, he wrote to his wife as follows:—]

London, Fifth Month 22nd, 1794.

I doubt not thou wilt be desirous to know what I am doing. I would have written thee sooner, but waited till I should be able to inform thee, how my concern felt to the Yearly Meeting [of Ministers and Elders:] and as it was laid before it yesterday, I may now tell thee, that, far contrary to what I had sometimes thought, it was generally approved of; and many, very many Friends expressed their near unity with me;—so much so, that it was indeed a humbling time to my mind:—may my heart be sufficiently thankful. Through the unspeakable mercy of our dear Lord,—who seemed so to cover us with His love, that the *living* were knit together as the heart of one man,—it was made a memorable time to many. Dear Martha Routh opened her concern first, which helped me, for indeed I was so overcome with fear and diffidence that I needed help.

I cannot tell thee yet, which way I am to go, or when I may get away, not having had full inquiry made [as to a vessel;] but shall write thee when the matter is fixed.—I am lodging at Miller Christy's, a very agreeable lodging it is, the whole family are so affectionately kind: they often speak of thee with much respect.

The Yearly Meeting is very large, the new Meeting-houses, both the men's and women's are quite filled;* and it may be acknowledged, that evident tokens of the Great Master's regard were to be felt: yet I do believe we should be more eminently blessed with His presence, if there were less of the wisdom of the creature prevalent in our meetings for discipline.

* The first year in which the present Meeting-houses were thus used.

London, 20th of Sixth Month, 1794.

TO BARBARA CRUIKSHANK.

In love unchangeable I salute thee; in which I feel afresh united to thee in spirit in the gospel covenant,—which covenant is love and life. Though in our respective allotments, we may at times have to experience varied trials, and in our measures a portion of suffering with the seed; and often to go down into baptisms for the dead, as well as on our own account, to prepare us by a stepping into the river of judgment, to bring up our stones of memorial to the excellency of that Divine power, which supports and keeps steady in the flood; and which preserves in the faith and patience, in times of seeming desertion, when we may be exceedingly hungry; insomuch that the enemy may be suffered to tempt us to desire, that the stones may be made bread. Let us in these times remember our dear Lord's answer to the tempter,—“that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God;”—by every dispensation that the Lord in His wisdom sees meet to bring us through:—this is meat and drink to the truly devoted heart. And however long a state of desertion may continue, let us beware of forming any image or likeness in His absence;—remembering [for our warning] that when Moses remained long on the mount, the people adopted this language,—“As for this Moses, we know not what is become of him;” and they proposed to Aaron, to make them gods to go before them. Now this impatient spirit, the enemy takes advantage of; and by his subtle transformations, by presenting to the mind specious and pleasing openings, and withal attempting to create a desire to communicate these openings to the people, suggesting that [the matter presented] is something very suitable to their states, and may bring esteem to self.

All these things, my dear Barbara, are carefully to be rejected, and the patient waiting kept in, for the return of the right thing [the Divine Anointing,] which perhaps may come in, whilst the mind is under a feeling of great weakness; and a cross [to the natural will] will be experienced in stepping forward under this weakness. Mayst thou ever bear in mind that the cross is the way to the crown; and that all right ministry is exercised in some degree under the power of the cross, and under a sense of [human] weakness.——I believe thou knowest that I am deeply concerned for thy growth and preservation, and feel a desire to open to thy view, some of the snares by which the enemy of our soul's peace seeks to make us stumble and fall.——I write to thee as a child; and suppose thou wilt not be unwilling to acknowledge thyself one.——Every crown must be cast down at the feet of Jesus.—O! may He preserve thee, and nurse thee in the arms of His love; and enable thee, under the influence of His Spirit, to remember poor me, and to beg for my preservation.

I embarked at London on board the ship Barclay, bound for Boston, New England, the 21st of Seventh Month, 1794: I had the company of the following Friends as fellow-passengers, viz. Samuel Emlen, who was returning from a religious visit to Friends in England,—Martha Routh, who like myself was bound on a similar errand to Friends in America,—William Rotch, his wife, two daughters, and two female servants, also four young men going with a view to settle in that country.

We cast anchor at Gravesend, where I went on shore and lodged two nights.

Seventh Month 30th. Have had calms and contrary winds since leaving the Downs, we are now tossing

about with the wind still against us ; but I have cause thankfully to acknowledge Divine goodness, in preserving my mind calm. Samuel Emlen poorly, and weak in body, but animated and active in mind,—richly laden with good fruit, a little of which he sometimes scatters among us.

Eighth Month 1st. Passed the Isle of Wight with a fair wind ; most of the passengers sick, Samuel Emlen and myself excepted. I have renewed cause of thankfulness, in being able a little to assist some of the most neglected part of the sick family. I feel fresh sympathy with the poor, and long for more of the harmonizing power to prevail in our hearts ; that we, like our heavenly Father, might know no respect of persons, from their higher or lower stations in life. O my God ! purify my heart more and more : qualify me to dwell with thy pure seed, even in suffering, if it may be the means of fitting me, in any degree, as an instrument in thy hand, to remove obstructions in the hearts of others. O Lord ! I thank thee for a renewal of confidence in Thee ; and beg that thou wilt be pleased to preserve me in thy fear.

2nd. Had a tossing night ; but to-day the wind is fair : pretty well in health, but oh ! my leanness of soul : I seem the poorest of the poor. I am ready to cry out, Lord grant patience and preservation from taking flight in the winter.

6th. Last twenty-four hours very rough ; wind continues contrary, but not quite so high : most of the passengers sick ; I am through mercy about as well as any of them. My poor mind has been a little refreshed this morning, being filled with calm resignation and thankfulness to the God of all grace, inasmuch as He is pleased to sustain me in a degree of confidence in His mercy, and in a willingness to conform to what He sees

fit. This morning I have felt renewed sympathy with the poor, in observing the different situations of the sick in this vessel. While some are attended with the utmost diligence, and everything possible done to alleviate their sufferings, others seem little heeded or felt for. I am thankful that the Lord is pleased to afford me a poor creature, the ability of rendering some little assistance to those who are neglected by others. O my God! may the operation of thy power more and more purge from my heart and those of others, everything that obstructs the pure unity, the prevalence of that undefiled love, in which thy creatures may, like Thee, be divested of respect of persons, and which would produce uninterrupted harmony. Who can sufficiently admire the extent of 'Thy unparalleled love;' it continues even when we rebel against Thee; for thou strivest with us to gain us to thyself, while we, ungrateful creatures, can scarcely forgive the smallest fault;—Thou forgivest us all our great debt, but we are not willing to abate one farthing. O Lord! be pleased to humble us under a sense of thy goodness and of our unworthiness, and sanctify every dispensation to the purification of our hearts; that we may be enabled to serve thee more acceptably.

9th. Fair and moderate wind.—Our passengers have got over their sickness, and look a little cheerful to-day. We have seen many porpoises and one whale, a wonderful creature.—

“ Marvellous are thy works,

“ Parent of good Almighty!

“ Thine this universal frame, thus wondrous fair;

“ Thyself how wondrous then!”

O! enable me still to put my trust in thy name, and constantly to watch unto prayer, that I may be preserved

from the wiles of the enemy,—who I feel is busy with me, though speciously disguised;—and teach me to do thy will, desiring nothing more.

11th. Distressed in spirit, without knowing the cause, —unless it be sympathy with a dear youth, in whom a considerable struggle is evident, which of the two seeds shall have the victory:—strong natural propensities to vivacity, require deep baptisms to subdue the efforts of the creature to preserve that life, which ought to be crucified and given up, for the sake of Christ and the gospel. O Lord! spare not,—but let thy power so operate, as to break the rock in pieces. I feel at this time, through thy mercy, willing to suffer every dispensation necessary to prepare my heart to do thy will, and to enable me profitably to feel the state of the seed in the hearts of the people.

12th. Had two meetings yesterday, at one of which the captain and several of the sailors, with the passengers not belonging to our Society, were present; to whom suitable counsel was administered in some degree of gospel authority; by which the hearts of several were affected, and some of ours made thankful for the renewed favour. A heart-tendering season, we had together in the evening among ourselves; some deeply exercised state was felt with and spoken to with encouragement; and yet after all, how pained and depressed do I feel to-day. O Lord! grant patience: thou knowest that I desire nothing but light to discover, and ability to perform thy will.

Last night, we were apprehensive that we were chased by three ships of war; but this morning they are out of sight. The wind continues fair, though but little of it; very pleasant weather.

13th. Wind fair and pretty fresh. I have a headache, but my mind though poor, is, through mercy, pretty

quiet, and my confidence in the sufficiency of infinite Power and goodness is renewed: may no instability in me, tend to lessen it.

18th. Wind fair to-day, after three days, in which it was strongly contrary. Yesterday, I was very poorly with head-ache and excessive sickness; but, through infinite mercy, was favoured with a sweet feeling of love; in which I was enabled to pray for entire conformity to the Divine will, during the remainder of my days. In the evening I was a little better, and we had a meeting, in which some instructive communication was handed to the seamen and passengers; but my mind was grieved with the impure spirits and corrupting conduct of some that profess with us. I have mourned, since we came on board, under a sense that such as these may pull down more than the advocates of the gospel can build up. But what can we say? Lord! the work is thine: to thee do we look.

23rd. For four days we have made very little progress, the wind, though moderate, is directly a-head. By the seamen's calculation, we are still 1800 miles from Boston. Our passage is likely to be long; yet we have no cause of complaint, but rather of thankfulness, as we all enjoy pretty good health, except Martha Routh, who is sickly, and spends most of her time in bed. Last night she was up, and we had a little religious sitting together; when some instructive counsel, tending to encourage to faithfulness, was handed to an individual. The Lord was pleased to give a taste of his love; if He graciously continue to do so from time to time, my soul will say, It is enough.

25th. A pleasant morning, but little wind; all well. Had a favoured meeting yesterday: the Lord has not left us, but frequently covers us with his uniting love,

giving renewed evidence that He is willing to draw near to those who are at a distance ;—thanks be to His ever worthy name.

29th. Calm yesterday and to-day, after a strong gale, which continued two days, and brought on almost a general sickness among the passengers ; but now all are well again. We were roused sooner than usual this morning, by a report of a vessel making signals of distress ; on which account our captain lowered sail, and waited for her ; but when she came near, she was discerned to be a ship of war, and by her endeavouring to get to windward of us, she was suspected to have some hostile design ; some even feared she was an Algerine, at which W. R., and one of his daughters in particular, were not a little alarmed. Through mercy I was preserved calm, and enabled quietly to hope in God. Our people hoisted sail and made away from her, upon which she fired several shots at us ; some of the balls were observed to graze the water very near us ; but the wind sprung up favourable, and we soon got out of reach of her guns, and she then turned round.

Ninth Month 5th. Yesterday sounded, and found bottom 100 fathoms, on the banks of Newfoundland. This morning found bottom at forty-five fathoms. Our people tried to catch some cod fish, but without success. Saw several fishing vessels at a distance, and spoke one from Nova Scotia : they offered us some fish, which our captain at first declined, and made another attempt to catch some ; but as he did not succeed, our mate and two sailors were sent in the little boat with a present of some rum and porter for the captain, who in return, sent us thirty-five large fish ; upon a dozen of which we all dined heartily. We have much contrary wind, and get on very slowly,—sometimes rough weather, but not what

the seamen call a storm. Last night we saw very near us a mountain of ice, similar in size and appearance to a large old castle. The seamen say it is common to see such masses floating here; and sometimes in dark nights, ships strike upon them, and get damaged. We are supposed to be 1000 miles from Boston.

8th. We have had a fine run, the seamen say 300 miles, in the last two days. This forenoon, a hard gale of wind; the dead lights were put in, and we tumbled about the cabin from side to side; but the wind suddenly turned, and it soon became quite calm. Had two meetings yesterday, in which some degree of good was extended, particularly to some of the blacks belonging to the vessel, who were present in the evening.

11th. All well. Contrary winds continue; for the last two days we have been in what is called the Gulf Stream. The sea is nearly as warm as new milk, occasioned, it is supposed, by a stream flowing out of the Gulf of Mexico, forced along by the trade winds. We spoke a ship to-day from America, bound for Liverpool, by which we sent some letters. We are supposed to be about 500 miles from Boston: three or four days of fair wind would now bring us there, but that is in the Lord's hand; may He grant patience to wait His time. We have had meetings constantly on Fourth days, and twice on First days: the Lord has not failed to be with us, blessed be His name!

12th. A perfect calm;—not the smallest progress,—but through mercy all well. Several of the passengers, who could swim, went overboard to bathe. My mind renewedly entreats preservation in exact conformity to the Divine will.

14th. All well; wind fair; 320 miles from Boston. Our meeting very poor, though I believe some were

favoured with a renewal of strength: Samuel Emlen and Martha Routh had considerable communications to the youth; but dryness and barrenness were my portion. Lord! grant patience.

Yesterday, I was favoured with the reading of M. R.'s memoranda of the voyage, which had a humbling effect upon my mind. The many instructive remarks tended to open to my view my own extreme barrenness. A sense of my unfruitfulness often makes me conclude, that so poor a creature was never before sent on such an errand; however I am sometimes a little encouraged by recollecting, that where little is given little is required. I mourn deeply that so much labour bestowed on some of our young people, seems to be in vain. May the Lord meet with them in a narrow place.

15th. Very languid to-day, rheumatism in my legs: yet through mercy my mind is calm, and renewedly centred in the one desire, to be favoured to know and enabled to do the Divine will.

Last evening, in meeting had a depressing time, in sympathy with the thirsty travellers. Towards the close was a little relieved by the communication of a few encouraging hints.

19th. All well, but progress slow; wind mostly contrary. Have spoken with two vessels from Boston to-day, and find by their account, that our desired port is more distant than we expected

On Fourth day, we had a very solemn meeting,—a memorable time of favour; for which reason some of our company were ready to conclude it would be the last which we should have on board: for my part, I am too blind to foretel any thing, but through mercy feel resigned. Many small land birds came on board to-day, some of which our people caught and put in a cage.

21st. Had a comfortable meeting,—my mind renewedly covered with love and thankfulness, that the Lord has not forsaken us. M. R. reminded us, to our comfort, that “They who trust in the Lord, shall never be confounded;”—adding a few remarks encouraging to the youth: with some of this class I feel a close spiritual union, which I believe to be gospel fellowship.

Yesterday spoke two vessels, the captain of one kindly offered some apples for our female passengers. Our captain sent the boat with a present of some porter, and brought us in return a basket of apples, with some vegetables, on which we made a pleasant repast. A poor little cat accidentally fell overboard: we were affected by seeing the poor creature drowning, and one of our young men wrote an elegy on its death.

22nd. Yesterday we were within sight of Cape Cod; but the wind continuing adverse, we have made very little progress. We are supposed to be within twenty miles of Boston, but there is no prospect of getting there without a change of wind.

We had our meeting as usual yesterday, in which several communications were offered; and we were favoured with a renewed evidence of the continued extension of Divine regard. My mind was introduced into a feeling of deep sympathy with an individual of our company, who, I apprehend, is suffering under discouraging fearfulness, so as to prevent a full obedience to the manifestations of truth. My secret prayer is,—Lord! thou who knowest all our weaknesses, be pleased to extend help to thy little ones, and increase our faith and confidence in thy power.

CHAPTER III.

HIS TRAVELS IN AMERICA IN THE YEARS 1794 TO 1797.

[THEY landed at Boston 23rd of Ninth Month; but an affecting accident happened on board the ship on the preceding day, which cast a gloom over the passengers and ship's company. John Wigham notices the event in a letter to his wife, in nearly the following terms: "A melancholy accident happened on board our ship last night; one of the sailors, a brother of the Captain, fell from the top-gallant yard into the boat on the deck, and was killed instantly. There was no storm at the time, nor any other known cause, but it was supposed he had missed his hold. It was an alarming circumstance to us to be called up in the night about 12 o'clock, with the striking intelligence; and our tender spirited young women were almost overcome with grief on the occasion. The body was brought on shore to be buried this afternoon."]

After attending the week day meeting at Boston on the 25th, I left it on the 27th, and reached New Bedford the same evening; attended the Meetings there on the First day, and on the four succeeding days;—had meetings at different places,—was at the Quarterly Meeting at New Bedford, and again at their usual meetings on First day.

5th of Tenth Month. Second day, had a meeting with the towns-people; and on the following day one across the river in the Presbyterian Meeting-house.

8th. Embarked for the island of Nantucket; arrived about midnight, but did not reach my lodgings till two o'clock in the afternoon, being detained by a young woman, one of our passengers, taking fits: I could not leave her till I saw her better. She lay in this state for about four hours; when she recovered and walked home leaning on my arm. I called to see her next day; and with her, her mother, and several sisters, I had a religious opportunity, which proved a tendering time: they did not belong to our Society.

12th, First day. I attended the South meeting in the morning, and the North in the afternoon; and in the evening had one appointed at the South house for the members of both meetings.

Second day. Embarked for New Bedford, which I reached the same night, accompanied by David Sands and dear Lydia Rotch, the latter came over to be the companion of Martha Routh in her travels: on Third day morning they set off towards Boston. We had been nearly united as fellow-labourers, and our parting was a close trial to me: in which I believe they felt much sympathy, for I was not at that time favoured to see which way to move.

On Fourth day, I attended a meeting at Acushnet, and on Fifth and Sixth had meetings at Longplain and Falmouth. On the Seventh day, rode to Paul Wing's, where I lodged. In this family were five precious daughters, Hephzibah, Beulah, Content, Tryphosa, and Lydia, and several sons, who appeared hopeful; among whom, with their worthy parents, so sweet a spirit seemed to prevail, that the house felt like a paradise.

19th, First day. Attended their meeting at Sandwich, and at the close gave notice of a meeting at 4 o'clock in the afternoon,—to which Friends were requested to invite

their neighbours; of whom a good many attended, and it ended to satisfaction.

Providence, Rhode Island,
Eleventh Month 5th, 1794.

TO HIS WIFE,

Though I am pretty far from any seaport, and not conveniently situated to get a letter forwarded to thee, yet knowing how acceptable it will be to thee and our dear children, to be informed that I am well, at least as well as usual, I am desirous to make the attempt [to convey to you this intelligence.] I wrote thee from Boston on our landing, which I hope thou mayst have received before now; but at that time I could not give thee any account of the line of my movements. I may now inform thee, that, as far as I see at present, I am likely to continue in New England during this winter. There seems as much to do in these states (of New England,) as I shall be able to get through before the ensuing spring.—

I have been much stripped, and sometimes very low; yet through unspeakable mercy I have been helped hitherto to get along, so as that I hope the Truth has not suffered; and I have at times been favoured with an undoubted evidence, that I am in the way of my duty: and should it so please the Almighty, that my body be laid down in this land, I desire to be content with His will, and I hope thou wilt be so too; though I can say in truth, that I never loved thee more, nor felt thine and our dear children's welfare dearer to me, than since our present wide separation. But, my dear Lord has given me an unshaken evidence that He will take care of you: if you cleave close to Him, and make Him your confidence, He will never leave nor forsake you.

Tell my Amos [his eldest son] to take care of himself,

not only as respects his bodily strength, not to over-do it, but also in an especial manner regarding his conduct in his transactions among men, that it may be upright in all things;—and in every matter of moment to have recourse to the Monitor,—to mind the dictates of the Spirit of the Truth; so that whatever suffers, the Truth may not suffer. Tell him to keep close to meetings, let no work hinder him; but let him so contrive his matters, that they may give way to this important duty:—and if he give up his heart to serve the Lord, He will bless him in his endeavours. And thou my dearest, I wish thee not to overcharge either body or mind with the things of this life; for indeed we often find the truth of the declaration, that by taking thought we cannot add one cubit to our stature. The Lord knows what things we stand in need of;—may He bless thee with a peaceful mind, and be near to support thee in every trying time.

To my dear children,—how do I feel my heart filled with paternal love to them all!—and renewedly so, at this time while I am writing.

[From the preceding period till the 1st of Twelfth Month, John Wigham was diligently engaged in gospel labours; having, as appears from his memoranda, rode 378 miles, attended thirty-five meetings,—several of them appointed for those not in profession with our religious Society; besides visiting the families of Friends at Sandwich. Arriving at Richmond, he attended a Monthly Meeting there, and thus proceeds with his narrative.]

Twelfth Month. After the Monthly Meeting at Richmond, I attended an appointed meeting the following day; thence proceeded to Hopkintown, Westerly, South Kingston, New Meeting House. First day, was at a

meeting on an island, called Connanicut, after which crossed to Rhode Island, and attended the afternoon meeting at Newport: lodged at Jonathan Green's. Second day, was at Portsmouth meeting on the north end of the island, where were a large number of Friends: there was but little given me to communicate among them, and the preceding meeting at Newport was held altogether in silence. Here I was glad to meet with Rebecca Wright; and on Third day was favoured with her company to a meeting at a place called Tiverton on the Main; after which I rode to Jeremiah Austin's.

Fourth day. Had a meeting at Little Compton, where I again had the company of Rebecca Wright, as a fellow-labourer: a large number of people attended, among whom was a Presbyterian minister and most of his flock: it was, through Divine mercy, a pretty open time. After meeting, the minister came and very respectfully offered me his hand, and invited me to his house. Rode to New Bedford, where I met with a kind reception; the Friends seemed glad to see me, and to some of them I felt nearly united. The receipt of a letter at this place from my beloved Mary R——, and one also from P. Wing, were strengthening and reviving to my poor mind.

11th and 12th of Twelfth Month. Attended the Quarterly Meeting, and the 13th rode to Rhode Island, where my mind was bound to visit families; in which my beloved friend, Isaac Layton, was my companion. There were 120 families on this island and at Connanicut; and visiting these kept us engaged till the 7th of First Month, 1795.

8th of First Month. I went thence to the Quarterly Meeting at Swansea, where I met with my beloved sisters, Martha Routh, Rebecca Wright, and Lydia Rotch. We were favoured to rejoice together in gospel fellowship.

After attending this Quarterly Meeting, I proceeded under a weighty concern of mind to Longplain, finding that to obtain peace, I must visit the families there, and not only those of our Society, but also a number who had gone with Timothy Davis, and set up a separate meeting. The exercising painful labour that I had among them, will not I believe be easily forgotten. The Lord in mercy, in the extending of His power, favoured me with ability to clear myself; and I trust many of them were left in some degree humbled and broken down.

On Fourth day, went to Cushnet week day meeting; and the following day returned to that at Longplain, where I was favoured considerably to relieve my mind. The aforesaid Timothy Davis, a preacher among the Separatists, and many of his adherents were at the meeting; and their states being through holy help clearly spoken to, it ended, I think, to the satisfaction of those rightly disposed. When the meeting was over, a Judge named Spooner sent a message, requesting me to go and see him; I did so, and had a favoured time in a religious opportunity in his family; they were kind and respectful, and their minds seemed softened.

I wrote a letter to Timothy Davis, exhorting him to humble himself, and return to the Lord and His people. I went the same evening to Cushnet, and on Sixth and Seventh days visited families, and attended their meeting on First day. On Second day, I went to Poneganset Monthly Meeting;—returned to New Bedford, and attended their Monthly Meeting on Third day, the 19th of First Month.

After this time, I was much tried, for want of clearness of prospect, as to my future movement; and when some light did appear thereon, I found some difficulty in becoming willing to yield to my impressions of duty:

my mind was drawn towards Nantucket. I had already been there, and besides M. Routh and R. Wright were there, and reason suggested that they were sufficient.

I stayed at Bedford over Fourth and Fifth days, and on Sixth day I thought the way was a little opened to go to Poneganset and Slocum's Neck. Joseph Austin went with me, and we appointed a meeting at the latter place on Seventh day: a good many people attended. The Lord favoured me with strength to discharge myself pretty fully, and the meeting ended to satisfaction.

First day. Attended the meeting at Poneganset in the morning; in the afternoon rode to New Bedford to attend the meeting there; and still feeling constrained to go to Nantucket, on the 2nd of Second Month, I embarked on board the packet, and landed there next day. Here I found dear Martha and Rebecca in the same situation as I had been in on the other side of the water. Martha told me that her way had been quite shut up, and though she had been willing to visit families, and had mentioned it in meeting, yet she had now no freedom to proceed. I told her the state of my own mind, and that I thought we must undertake the family visit together, which, accompanied by R. Wright, we accordingly began next day. The Lord was pleased to own and encourage us in the service; but after visiting a few families, Rebecca finding, as she said, that it was not her business, left us: we parted in tender love and fellowship, desiring each other's preservation. We were sometimes accompanied by William Rotch, sometimes by Elizabeth or Lydia: we were helped onwards from time to time, and have great cause for thankfulness to the Lord, who was our strength and our dependence.

Sherburn, Island of Nantucket,
16th of Second Month, 1795.

TO HIS SON, A. WIGHAM,

I can thankfully tell thee, that through mercy I have been favoured, since my arrival in this land, with a better state of health, than when I left England; I have only been stopped from travelling one afternoon on account of illness. I have no certain companion in the ministry, now one and then another; though it did seem desirable, when I first landed to have met with a Friend under a similar concern to mine; but none has yet been provided, though I have not been without company. The Lord hath hitherto been my helper; I have lacked nothing;—if He be graciously pleased to continue His preserving and supporting power to abilitate to do His will, it is all I desire or ask.

I often remember thee, as well as the rest of my dear children, with strong desires for your preservation, not only in the innocency of children, but that as you grow in years you may grow in grace, from stature to stature.

My dear ——, dwell deep;—feel after the life:—don't be content with a superficial conformity, to moral rectitude, but feel after the pure substance of religion; *that* makes and keeps the heart clean.

After going through the families [upon the island,] and attending both their Monthly Meetings, we felt our minds clear; and on the 23rd of Third Month, embarked in the packet, accompanied by many Friends going to the Quarterly Meeting at Sandwich. Landed at Woodshole, from whence William Rotch intended to drive Martha Routh and Lydia Rotch in a waggon with two horses. I had purposed to go by water to New Bedford, where my horse was; but the boat having

run aground, and seeming likely to be detained all night, I concluded to accompany them, and send for my horse to meet me at Sandwich. At this, M. R. and especially dear Lydia seemed much pleased, and the latter pleasantly remarked, as she was stepping into the waggon, "I have got my wish:"—but to her no small mortification, one of the horses refused to go, and we were all obliged to give it up for that night, and wait to procure another horse next morning. They remained at the inn, and I returned on board the packet, where I slept comfortably. When the tide rose she was got off, and about ten o'clock we arrived at New Bedford, where my friends and I were mutually glad to meet; reciprocal love united us.

25th. Left New Bedford in company with a number of Friends going to the Quarterly Meeting, and arrived at Paul Wing's in the evening. To this family I felt united, and we were mutually glad again to see each other: as "iron sharpeneth iron, so doth the countenance of a man his friend."

Attended the Quarterly Meeting at Sandwich, and also their meeting for worship on First day, which occupied me till the 30th; and after having a few more meetings on my way, on the 3rd of Fourth Month, I attended Longplain Monthly Meeting, to which Timothy Davis sent an acknowledgment, expressing much desire for a reconciliation. The Lord was pleased to own us,—Truth prevailed, and the opposing spirits were restrained, so that every thing passed off quietly. I was truly thankful, for it had been cause of great concern to me; and Friends were comforted in the hope, that this painful breach would be satisfactorily made up. After meeting, I parted with dear Martha and Lydia, who set out to New Bedford that evening. We had been nearly united

in gospel labour at Nantucket, and the meetings since. I was now left without any companion; but the best of companions was near to afford me support.

Joseph Cloud, a minister from Carolina, going to visit Friends in the eastern parts of New England: he and I were desirous to join as companions, and partly concluded to do so; but after attending a few meetings together, we both felt more easy to separate for the work's sake, though in opposition to our personal wishes; and two Friends whom we consulted on the subject, having also thought it best, we parted in much love, and with sincere desires for each other's preservation. He set off to Pembroke: I was again left alone.

A few places opening in my view to have meetings at, where no Friends resided, and Obadiah Davis kindly offering to accompany and assist me; we went to Rochester where was a meeting house, but none of our Society. We had a pretty large gathering of people, and through Divine favour it proved an acceptable time. After meeting rode twelve miles to a tavern called Monument, where, next day being the First of the week, we had a meeting in a Presbyterian meeting-house. As that day they had no preacher, and notice having been given, a large concourse of people attended; whose behaviour was becoming, and some of them were affected to tenderness. Dined at the house of a Presbyterian, who with his wife received us with great kindness.

6th. At a meeting in the evening at Sandwich, held also in a Presbyterian meeting-house; the attendance was large, and they seemed to me to be a people seeking after the pearl of great price; and, through holy help, I was enabled to direct them where their souls might be satisfied.

7th. Proceeded to Rochester, where notice was given of a meeting to be held in the Court House the following day. After a few had assembled, a company of the higher rank came and requested us to go to the Presbyterian meeting-house, which they said was close by, and would accommodate us better. I should have preferred remaining in the Court House, but the people were so urgent, that I thought it best to yield to their wishes, and complied. It was through mercy a satisfactory time. Though I have often had the use of the meeting-houses belonging to other religious societies, yet I prefer a Town Hall or any other public building, when it can be procured. There is a difference, however, between this country and Old England; their meeting-houses here are at the disposal of the people, and they do not seem to be under any fear of offending their ministers in granting them to Friends or others; and in proposing a meeting, I have frequently left it to themselves to appoint the place, that I might not bring Friends under obligation.

These public meetings have been upon the whole very awful to me, feeling so very inadequate to such undertakings; and I have often thought, that if the people knew how poor a creature I am, few would attend, and I have at times been ready to conclude in my own mind, that if this was over, I would take care not to venture again: nevertheless, the Lord's power has, from time to time, made me willing to yield to the manifestations of duty, and I trust so helped me in the needful time, that the cause of Truth has not suffered; and if He continue so to do, I cannot but admire His condescension, and humbly praise Him to whom alone all praise is due.

23rd. Reached Meadowsburgh, having had many meetings at different places on my way thither; and after

meeting there, still accompanied by my kind friend Obadiah Davis, I rode, a good deal tired, to Elijah Jenkin's, hoping to get a good rest; but I was kept awake most part of the night, by an exercise about having a meeting at a village we had passed, about five miles back, where there is no Friends' meeting. In the morning I yielded to it, seeing no other way to obtain peace. I mentioned the subject to my companion and the Friends of the house, they thought it might be arranged; and we accordingly set out after breakfast, and on reaching the place, proposed the matter to some of the principal people. They offered the Baptist meeting-house which we accepted, and appointed a meeting at five in the afternoon. Through Divine favour my mind was greatly relieved: some of the people expressed much satisfaction with the opportunity, and I felt humbly thankful to the Father of mercies; indeed I can never feel sufficiently thankful for His condescending goodness to a poor unworthy creature.

Since I undertook this eastward journey, I have had several large meetings, attended by many of other religious societies, which frequently caused me to feel great fear, lest I should do anything to dishonour the cause of Truth; but the Lord has hitherto helped me, and often in His unspeakable love caused the gospel message to flow forth freely to the people, and contrited many hearts by His power. May His name be ever praised, honoured, and adored; and may I become more and more devoted to do His will!

We have found here and there among Friends a little remnant of true travellers, though great carelessness is too prevalent; but the Lord is at work in the hearts of the people, calling home the wanderers,—and is, I believe preparing himself instruments among the youth, for

whom my mind is often deeply baptised, and sometimes I am engaged to minister to their encouragement. May the Lord be pleased to strengthen them, is often the earnest prayer of my heart. Stayed over First day at Berwick.

The next day rode to a place called Desert; had a meeting at five in the evening, at the house of a friendly man, who with his wife had been a Baptist; but now opens his house to a few tender hearted people, partly convinced of our principles, who are not easy to meet with the Baptists or Presbyterians, and therefore assemble to worship in silence. I had a satisfactory meeting with them, and left them in much tenderness and love. Next morning had a satisfactory meeting at a Baptist's house; thence attended meetings at Portland and Falmouth, and afterwards went to Windham, where I unexpectedly met with Joseph Cloud, whom I was glad to see, my mind being very low and almost overcome; but meeting with an exercised brother a little refreshed me.

1st of Fifth Month, 1795. Had a meeting at Windham, where the Lord was pleased to open counsel to several different states, and to give ability to communicate it with a considerable degree of clearness; through Divine favour it was a satisfactory meeting. A meeting at Durham was held in silence, except a few words at the close, informing the people that in accordance with the apostles' experience, we were sensible that of ourselves we could do nothing, but were only required to communicate what the Lord gives for that purpose. I could discover in some of the people dissatisfaction at the want of words, but I felt peace, and was satisfied with bearing my testimony to silent worship, by example as well as precept. Had a satisfactory

meeting at Bath, the people chiefly Baptists; thence to Broad Cove, forty miles of bad road, was much tossed; I was kindly received by one who had lately joined Friends as well as by his wife and family, who were not of our Society. Had a meeting next day at Cornelius Roads'; the succeeding one, (Seventh day,) visited some families.

First day, 10th. Had two meetings, one at Cornelius Roads' and one at a widow's house at the head of the bay. Several of the people here seem tender and convinced of the Truth, but stumble at the cross. I felt satisfied with visiting them, sympathizing much with some of the young people, children of parents who had been many years convinced, but continued in weakness, having for want of faithfulness, made little progress in religion, and I fear, proved rather a cause of stumbling than of assistance to their children. I felt very reluctant to leave them.

[First day, 24th. During the preceding two weeks he appears to have travelled on horseback, on foot, and by water, 189 miles, had about fifteen meetings, besides attending a Monthly Meeting at Vasselburgh.] His narrative proceeds:—

At Been's Green we lodged with Cyrus and Mary Dean, who entertained us kindly in a little log-house; though poor as to this world, yet they are rich in love and good works, which made their abode a sweet comfortable lodging place. They were convinced Friends, and had been the means of convincing several of their neighbours; and a lively little meeting was settled there. Went next to Lewistown. The meetings have been small since we left Vasselburgh; but the neighbours of other religious societies seem inclined to attend, and

appear seeking after the right way. The Lord was pleased to give and enable to communicate matter, which I believe was suitable to their states. At Stoney and Green in particular, there are a few nearly convinced Friends, of sweet spirits ; through whom, the influence of Truth seemed to me to be attractive to the people around them.

Attended the Quarterly Meeting at Falmouth on the 27th and 28th. The meetings for worship and discipline held from eleven till half-past five o'clock, by which I was much exhausted. Next day, I proceeded to Berwick, where, and at several other places, I had meetings ; I also attended the Quarterly Meeting at Salem, held on the 3rd and 4th of Sixth Month.

7th of Sixth Month. Reached New Bedford, where to our mutual pleasure I met my dear friends, Martha Routh, her companion Lydia Rotch, and Samuel Smith from Philadelphia.

8th. Accompanied by many Friends, went to the Yearly Meeting on Rhode Island. I attended its several sittings, and also a public meeting held at Portsmouth. Here I met my beloved friends, Deborah Darby, and Rebecca Young—strangers like myself. Through Divine assistance we were sweetly united in gospel labour, by which we were endeared to each other ; and when the time came for us to be separated, each to our several allotments of duty, our parting proved a solemn one.

[Being joined by his friend, Samuel Smith, as companion, they travelled together, and held many meetings, through a rough country, where the roads were difficult ; and the weather being very hot, Samuel Smith finding himself unequal to the exertion of proceeding further,

left John Wigham at Richmond, and turned towards Rhode Island.]

12th of Seventh Month. I set out towards the Cohons' Country with a Friend named Israel Saby, as guide. In two days, travelling ninety miles, we reached a place called Sharon.

15th. Had a meeting in a Friend's house at Strafford. Most of the people living near are Baptists, by some called Quaker-Baptists. They express a great desire to associate with Friends, and claim a kind of kindred with them, professing to hold the same sentiments, except on the point of baptism: but I thought there was among them much of a creaturely activity, without sufficiently seeking for that sanctifying influence, under which spiritual worship is performed. One of their preachers prayed in our meeting, during which Friends kept their seats, at which some of the people seemed dissatisfied; one woman in particular, did not forbear to express it. I spoke a few words shewing the reason why we could not unite in prayers offered in the time and will of man; I likewise told her I was a stranger, and did not know whether the person was a member of our Society or not, but I felt an evident stop in my mind, which prevented my standing up. The people generally appeared satisfied with my explanation, and some of them expressed their satisfaction: the preacher said nothing. I was glad that I was present, and had an opportunity of bearing testimony against their unauthorized activity. A Friend told me afterwards, that he hoped it would be some check to their speaking in Friends' meetings, with which they had been much tried.

After attending a meeting at Sharon, I set out for

Fraserburgh, reached Thomas Robinson's at Virginia, much exhausted by riding seventy-five miles in the heat, through a rugged country, over what is called the Green Mountain. We were four hours in going eleven miles, being often obliged to alight and lead our horses, the hills being so steep and the woods so thick.

19th, First Day. Attended meeting at Fraserburgh: next to Moncton and the Grand Island, as it is called, where a few Friends are settled. In getting there, we rode a mile in water so deep, as to be above the tops of our boots, and in this wet condition we had to ride eight miles before we reached a Friend's house. Next day had a meeting,—then went ten miles in a canoe, and walked seven to Peru.

23rd. After a meeting at Peru, returned as before by land and water, to Grand Isle.

24th. Returned to Fraserburgh. We have had hot weather, bad roads, and poor accommodation in small log-houses, in some places very poor beds. The people in these woods seem to have some sense of religion: but they live in a very rough slovenly manner, many of them having settled here when very poor, retain their slovenly habits, even now when they have got plentiful estates. Few of them, either men or women, wear shoes in the summer. The men wear trowsers and shirts of coarse linen, often with their collars open, and without neckcloth; and being sooty from working among the burnt wood, they form a singular appearance as they come in groups from their work to their little huts. I often think that their manner of living, ill accords with my dear sister Martha Routh's system—of cleanliness and religion going together; but much allowance must be made for the force of custom. The Lord regards them in their low estate, and there are some precious tender minds among them.

26th. Attended meeting at Fraserburgh; and one in the afternoon at Nicholas Holmes', six miles off.

27th. Set out for Danby; next day reached Stephen Rodgers', a distance of seventy miles. Here I stayed a day or two to rest, being almost worn out by travelling in the heat.

1st of Eighth Month. Stephen Rodgers accompanied me to a place called Mount Holy, with an intention of holding a meeting; but, on arrival, we found that most of the people in the settlement being Baptists, were gone to one of their Quarterly Meetings. After some satisfactory conversation with two of their families, we returned to John Bullon's, where we stayed over Seventh day.

3rd. First day. Had a meeting in the forenoon in the Court-house at Rutland; and one in the afternoon at the Presbyterian meeting-house. Their minister is a Mulatto, a liberal man,—he attended the meeting, and I believe most of his flock; it was a favoured time,—the Lord afforded ability to declare the Truth to the people, who were very attentive, and some of them affected. The nature of a free gospel ministry was pretty clearly opened; yet the minister was respectful, and kindly invited us to lodge with him. We acknowledged his hospitality, but took leave and rode six miles farther to the house of a Baptist, an acquaintance of Stephen Rodgers, who entertained us kindly.

Saratogo, Eighth Month 9th, 1795.

TO HIS WIFE,

I received both my dear Eliza's letters yesterday, which were truly acceptable. My heart feels very thankful for the favour of health conferred on thee and our dear children:—you do indeed feel near and dear to my life. How good is the Lord, who supplieth all your wants:—

thou sayest you want for nothing,—save my company ; and that thou knowest can do you no good, if my proper place be elsewhere. I have been favoured with health beyond my expectation ; although the extreme heat of this country is exceedingly trying to my constitution, and I often feel much overcome by it : feeble and faint, I am very thin in flesh ; but on the whole, seem renewed day by day, so as to be able to keep on travelling, not having been detained one day on account of illness. I cannot do less than acknowledge with thankfulness, that the Lord hath hitherto helped me, (unworthy as I am,) to get along to a good degree of satisfaction.——

The sun heats through the wooden houses, so that they feel like being in a stove ; and the flies are so numerous, they are exceedingly troublesome, and as soon as daylight appears, I can obtain no more rest.——I have been as far North as Lake Champlain, and over it at a place called Peru, adjoining Canada. There are some settlements of Friends here and there all over the woods. I have had long rides and bad roads for some weeks past ; but now have got where Friends are more thickly settled.

I have given thee a pretty full account of my bodily state ; and as to the mind, the varied exercises attendant on poor travellers, thou knowest from experimental feeling, better than from any description I can give with my pen. Thou knowest what a poor creature I am, hobbling along much as usual. I am frequently detained visiting families, and having meetings among those of other Societies ; so that I get on but slowly : but I sometimes think perhaps I may not have to visit all America, but in this I desire to be resigned to the Lord's will. I believe I need not put thee in mind to pray for my preservation ;—that cementing, uniting sympathy, which

subsists between us, renders it impossible for us not to feel concerned for the welfare of each other as for our own.

10th of Eighth Month. First day, at Saratogo: I attended their meeting, having held several others on my way hither. I remained at the house of Thomas Welbert, over Second day. Here I had the satisfaction of receiving two letters from my dear wife, informing me of the welfare of my family, at which I was glad. I spent the day in writing to her and some others.

11th. Arrived at Eastbourn, where I attended the Quarterly Meeting, and had a public meeting with the inhabitants; and on the 15th proceeded onwards, holding many meetings, till I reached Cornwall; near which I lodged at the house of David Sands, which seemed like home, his dear wife and daughters were affectionately kind, and I felt sweetly comforted under their roof.*

7th of Ninth Month. Had a meeting at Cornwall in the forenoon; and one at Clive in the afternoon. Went thence over a mountain to West Point, where I lodged at the house of a son-in-law of David Sands.

[Holding meetings by the way, he appears now to have bent his course towards Philadelphia, at which city, he states, he attended the Yearly Meeting and three Monthly Meetings. On the 5th of Tenth Month, he proceeded to Baltimore, which he reached on the 9th, having had meetings on his way thither at Derby, Centre, Kennet, and Wilmington, previous to his leaving Philadelphia, he wrote as follows:—]

* David Sands was at this time absent, being engaged in a religious visit to Friends and others in Europe.

Philadelphia, Ninth Month 29th, 1795.

TO HIS SON-IN-LAW, JOHN CRUIKSHANK,

———— I have often remembered thee and thy dear wife, with affectionate love and fatherly solicitude, greatly desiring your preservation and perseverance in religious pursuits. Having believed you are called to be way-marks, to hold up an ensign to the people, it has often been the prayer of my heart, that you may be so preserved, that it may never be said of you, as it hath happened to Israel, “when a standard bearer fainteth.” If you, my dear children, be watchful and obedient in all things, the Lord will keep you. He [the Shepherd of Israel] neither slumbers nor sleeps; and none is able to pluck his sheep out of His hand:—if you do not yourselves turn away from Him, no power can hurt you. Take care that you prefer nothing before Him; for such as do so, are not worthy of Him.—If he bring you into the furnace, it is for your refinement:—if He proclaim a fast, it is to make your appetites better:—if He dip you in Jordan, the river of judgment, it is in order for your further washing;—and all to make you more fruitful in those things, by which His excellent name is glorified; that you also may be glorified with Him in an endless eternity, when these few fleeting days are over. And truly, a termination to our earthly pilgrimage may soon come; numerous are the instances of mortality now in this country, not so much here as in New York, where a fever prevails, similar to the one that raged in this city two years ago, of which I doubt not, you have accounts in the newspapers. Much sickness also exists in many other parts of the country, arising from fevers, fluxes, &c., of which many die.

This has been considered a remarkably hot summer; and indeed it has felt so to me, and I have been much

overcome with it; yet through mercy, I have been enabled to move along; and now the weather is cooler, I am as well as usual. It is now the time of the Yearly Meeting here; when it is over I expect to go towards Baltimore, and then during the winter to Virginia, Maryland, and the Carolinas, whence, perhaps I may not have any opportunity of writing; so that you need not think it strange, should you be long in hearing from me, though I intend to write to some of you should any way open for it.

Give my dear love to my poor children; I often think how they are left—fatherless and motherless,—and sometimes it feels pinching; but I hope He, whom we believe we are following, will do that which is best for them; if they do not oppose His will; and this they might do, even if we were with them.*

10th. Baltimore. Attended the Yearly Meeting, which held five days; had the company of Deborah Darby and Rebecca Young, whom I was truly glad to meet, and we laboured together in much unity. Had a meeting appointed on First day evening for the coloured people, which was large and satisfactory. Visited the prisoners in the gaol, several of whom, both black and white, were in irons: during our religious communications some of them were much contrited. Stayed over First day; and on Second day went to Ellicots Mills, where I had a public meeting. Thence to Elkridge, Sandy Spring, Indian Spring, where, and at twelve other places I had meetings. I proceeded to Jennets, Richmond, Black Creek, and Wyon Oak: these are all small meetings, and religion as to the life of it, is at a low

* At this period his wife had left her home on religious service.

ebb in Virginia; there seems to be a root of corruption so deep, that makes it hard work for the poor ministers to reach. My labour among them seldom gives me relief, and I have often to go from place to place heavy-hearted and mourning on my way.

I now proceeded to Scirmons, then returned to Wyon Oak, Curles and Richmond, where I had two public meetings; the one in the afternoon was specially appointed for the blacks, at which several members of the Assembly attended; some of whom, I understood, were displeased at being so plainly dealt with in the presence of their bondsmen. I was led to declare among them the universality of the love of God, and the equality of his ways;—that Christ died for all men, of whatever colour, and was willing to save them on the same terms of belief and of baptism,—namely, the washing of regeneration and renewing of the heart, by the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. I felt peace and satisfaction in the censure of these hard-hearted taskmasters.

[After leaving Richmond, he appears to have been again at Wyon Oak, where he attended a Quarterly Meeting; and on the 1st of Twelfth Month proceeded to Burley, Scarbrook, and Blackwater, where, and at a number of other places, he had meetings without recording any remarks, till coming to Lower Trent, his narrative proceeds:—]

I attended the meeting with dear Martha Routh and Lydia Rotch; when the Lord was graciously pleased to unite us under a renewed feeling of the influence of His love, for which favour our hearts were lifted up to Him, in thankful acknowledgment of His condescending goodness. My companion, William Tremble, being attacked with gout and rheumatism, had left me at Contentney, and returned home. I felt lonely, but the Lord sustained

me,—praises be to His name! I next proceeded to Club-foot Creek and Corsound, and back to Contentney, to attend the Quarterly Meeting. There I again met with my beloved fellow-travellers, Martha and Lydia; and was truly refreshed by the unity of their devoted spirits, and my doubtful mind strengthened and confirmed by our similarity of feeling. We were detained several days by a flood; during which I often thought, that after parting with them, I should be “like a sparrow alone on the house-top:”—Lord be pleased to help, as thou hast hitherto done!

*Contentney, North Carolina,
First Month 3rd, 1796.*

TO HIS WIFE,

Having met with an opportunity to send a line to Baltimore, from whence, perhaps, this may be forwarded to England, I am willing to embrace it, to tell thee that I am well; and have abundant cause to acknowledge the Lord's goodness, even in supporting my poor weak body to travel about in this country, where people at this time are so sickly;—scarcely a family where I come, is free from ague, or some other disorder. It is now the middle of winter, and yet the weather is so warm, that it is needful to have all the doors and windows open in the meeting-houses.

I am getting about from meeting to meeting, often under discouraging feelings; yet have no just ground of complaint, having I trust been hitherto preserved from hurting the cause.

I often think on thee, my dearest, and our dear children, with ardent desires for your welfare; I look towards you with sympathy, but think I cannot help you, and therefore endeavour to confide in Him who can.

I see no end of my labours here yet ; you must give me up, and do the best you can :—we serve a good Master ; and I have sometimes strength to hope, that He will take care of you, if you cleave unto Him. May the Lord direct and keep you ; there is no other Saviour.

[His narrative proceeds :]—The select Quarterly Meeting at Contentney was held on the Seventh day, a public meeting on First day, and the meeting for discipline on Second day. Fourth day, I rode to Bonecreek, and had a meeting ; after which I intended to go to Nuce, but the river was so high it was impassable. I therefore returned to Benjamin Arnold's, and stayed at this kind Friend's house, till after First day meeting ; then rode eighteen miles towards Nuce, crossed in a canoe, the river being still too high to ford,* and walked to meeting.

Set out for Smithfield, to a bridge twenty miles up the river ; and when there, found my mind most drawn to New Garden Settlement, so proceeded towards Eno meeting ; thence taking many meetings by the way, came to Centre to the Quarterly Meeting. It was very

* In fording one of the rivers in America, he was apparently involved in considerable danger. His horse fell when about the middle of the stream, and he was consequently thrown into the water. The horse lay on his side with his feet down the current, and all John Wigham's efforts to get him on his feet again, proved in vain. A person at the side of the river, to which he intended to proceed, observing him in difficulty, called to him, attempting to offer some advice ; but the distance being considerable, he could not make John Wigham hear ; and seeing the critical situation in which he was placed, kindly rushed into the river, waded to him, and seizing the horse by the bridle, drew his head round, until his feet were against the stream, when he readily recovered his standing.

large, and many persons of other societies, probably some hundreds, came to the public meeting on First day; not as it seemed to attend it, but to amuse themselves in companies about the meeting-house, never desiring to enter it, nor even paying any attention when a Friend (Peter Yarnell,) was preaching. A number of them came next day, while the meeting for discipline was sitting, and were if possible more imprudent than before,—looking in at the windows and door, and refusing to go away when desired: but what most affected me was, that several members of our Society encouraged them, by joining them in conversation, in parties about the door. In these parts, there is a lamentable neglect in the education of children, and much that is formal and superficial; though there are a few upright labourers, yet it seems to me they are almost smothered in rubbish. Much pains were taken in this meeting to reform these abuses. A committee was appointed, consisting of members of the different Monthly Meetings, to have a care over the young people, particularly at these times; and to endeavour to prevent their going out of meeting, or associating with those troublesome people, who, it was hoped, would then refrain from coming.

After this meeting, which was a trying laborious one, I went to Sherburn, Pinewoods, New Garden, and Hope-well: at this last place, I had a meeting with a people called Nicholites. Thence to Muddy Creek, Blue Creek, and back to New Garden, where we felt a concern to visit the families,—Peter Yarnell and James Emlen being now with me. We visited in company eighty families in twelve days; then attended the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings. The latter, which was held the 12th of Third Month, 1796, was large; but many seemed

superficial professors, so that the few, who dwelt low with the pure witness, had hard labour.

Proceeded to Muddy Creek, where also we found we must labour with them from house to house. We visited thirty-seven families. Then taking several meetings in our way, we passed over the Blue Ridge to Chesnut Creek, Reedy Island, and Burkforke. Here I parted with Peter Yarnell and James Emlen, which was a trial to me, as we had been knit together in true fellowship through some arduous labour.

I returned over the Blue Ridge, accompanied only by a guide, eighty miles to Goose Creek; here I lodged at Christopher Anthony's, which seemed like a change from savage to civilized life,—kind friends and a comfortable house, clean and neat; especially when contrasted with the dwellings of the backwood's people.

[After leaving this comfortable abode, he mentions having had a number of meetings on his way to Philadelphia; where, to their mutual rejoicing, he met unexpectedly with his beloved sisters, Martha Routh, Lydia Rotch, Deborah Darby, and Rebecca Young. From this city he wrote to his wife as follows:—]

Philadelphia, Fifth Month 2nd, 1796.

TO HIS WIFE,

On Seventh day last I arrived at this city, where I met with thy two letters: I was glad of them, (as it is more than seven months since I received one;) though some of the intelligence they contained affected me;—so many removals by death, and also thy concern about going to [reside in] Edinburgh. In this prospect I cannot help feeling much sympathy with thee, well knowing how trying it must be; though I have no manner of doubt of its being right. Our path through this vale of

tears seems to be a singular one ; but no matter, if we land safe at last. Be encouraged, my dear love, to faithfulness ;—we know no other way to peace. We find it necessary to dwell deep :—let us steadily continue in the patience :—no matter how little or how obscure we are, if we are near our Master.——

D. Darby and R. Young are here, preparing to embark for home ; by whom I intend to send this letter. Samuel Emlen and William Savery, a Friend belonging to this city, also two women Friends from the country, whose names I do not now recollect, all intend going in the same ship, and expect to sail in ten days. D. Darby and R. Young, have, I believe, laboured honestly and very diligently in this land, and have left a sweet savour where they have been :—I hope they may be favoured to reach their native land in peace. M. Routh is also here ; I met with them all unexpectedly, which was very pleasing, after a long wilderness journey in a very poor country to the southward. I thought I felt excused from going to South Carolina and Georgia, at least at this time : I have spent the last winter in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. Thou must endeavour, my dear, to keep in the patience ; there seems a large field before me, and when I shall get through I know not ; but I am as diligent as I am able to bear, and through favour, as well in my health as when at home. If I am longer in visiting America than some have been, do not think it strange ; Friends within a few years past are spread many hundreds of miles back into the woods ; and I have often been detained visiting families ;—I suppose I have visited six or seven hundred families ;—I wish much to do what is required, that I may find peace at last.

I often feel for thee and my dear children with anxious solicitude of soul ; and when I am labouring among

young people, which has been much my concern, I often remember, that I have left my own : but I am sometimes comforted in recollecting, that I have committed them to the keeping of the good Shepherd ; and a hope is with me, that if they will be teachable children, He will care for them : whether it be His will that we should meet in mutability or not, if we meet in a better country, His will be done.

CHAPTER IV.

HIS TRAVELS IN AMERICA CONTINUED—RETURNS HOME
IN 1797.

[FROM Philadelphia John Wigham journeyed towards New York, holding several meetings; among which he mentions, Almswick and Colebarrack, as affording a pleasant prospect, from there being a number of religious young people, and some under conviction; particularly at the former place, where he says, he had a comfortable silent meeting. Leaving New York, he proceeded to Flushing; where, and at some other places, he had meetings; and returned again to that city. His manuscript, at this part supplies no dates, but continues with the following remarks:—]

Friends in Long Island seem to me to depend too much on the labours of others, of which much has been bestowed, for they have several able ministers among them; their desire to hear preaching makes them wait for it, thus neglecting their own exercise; so that though very plain in appearance, their attainments in religion, are, I fear, but small. They are trusting too much to the form:—may the Lord break their false rest, and give them to see the danger of such a state.

From New York I went to Rahway and to Plainfield, to attend the Monthly Meeting. The case of a Mulatto woman, who had applied for membership with Friends,

came before the meeting : a committee had been appointed to visit her, and reported their satisfaction as to her convincement ; but thought it unsafe to receive her on account of her colour ! After much discussion, it was at last concluded to refer the matter to the Quarterly Meeting. How hard it is to overcome old prejudices.

Proceeded to Squankim, Little and Great Egg Harbour, and several other places, to Philadelphia, where I attended meetings on First day ; and on Second, accompanied by my beloved friend Samuel Smith, also Ebenezer Cresson, and several other Friends, I went to Plymouth, Providence, and Potsgrove ; where I parted with all my companions, except Ebenezer Cresson, who continued with me, and we had meetings at a number of places. On our way to Milesburgh, up the river Susquehanna, we passed through a very pleasant valley, among good land for about thirty miles. There are none of our Society at Milesburgh ; but Richard Miles, the founder of the town, entertained us kindly, and we had a satisfactory meeting on First day.

Second day, rode to Halfmoon Valley, to a Friend's house ; had a meeting next day at Warrior Mark Valley, where there is a considerable settlement of Friends ; it was comforting and encouraging. We next lodged at Daniel Pennington's, and had a meeting at his house ; then went sixty miles to Dennis's Creek, a wilderness journey, in many places only a foot path, and that a very rough one ; but we were favoured to get along safely to William Conworthy's, where we were kindly received ; the family, which is a pretty large one, have the mark of discipleship. We attended their meeting on First day ; on the following day, had a meeting in Bedford Court House ; after which, rode back to William Conworthy's, attended their meeting on Fourth day, and then proceeded to Miller's Tavern, among the Alleghany mountains.

The next day's ride was twenty-six miles to James M'Grow's; then attended Soweekly meeting; and so to Providence, Fairfield, and Frankford. We have had a long journey through woods and wilds in abundance, yet not without some satisfaction; though many of these settlers are very ignorant of what they profess: yet the Lord is in mercy following them, and some are listening to His voice. May the visitations of His love prove effectual for their gathering unto Christ, the true Shepherd.

Went from thence to Fallowfield and Westland, where we met with an ancient friend, Zachariah Farrington from Wilmington; he seemed to enter into the state of the meeting, and had considerable openness in communication, but it did not relieve me. At the close of the meeting I gave intimation, that I thought of attending their next week-day meeting; so I went to Redstone, and returned to Westland, and on to Centre. The Redstone settlement, as this Monthly Meeting is called, seems to me to have more of the form than the substance; however, when I consider that most of them who generally come here, are wanderers from mere worldly motives, without regard to the honour of Truth, I admire the goodness of a gracious God in following them. Some are brought under a right concern, and seem to be deeply sensible that the seed of the kingdom is depressed under a worldly spirit. May the Lord strengthen them!

I next went to Union and Sandy Creek-Glade, over the Laurel Hills; so crossed the mountains to Frankford, sixty-one miles, where I had a meeting; none of our Society living there: had meetings also at Banegarden, and a number of other places. At Lampeter the week-day meeting was very small, and I have reason to

believe that great deficiency in the attendance of week-day meetings prevails among Friends in these parts; a worldly spirit is too prevalent among parents, who, though they attend themselves, leave their children at home employed about their business, and thus neglect the spiritual interests of their precious charge. On this account I often feel sorrowful, and am frequently exercised in close labour with them.

Proceeded to Robert Moore's at Sudbury, who with his valuable wife received us kindly; and their precious daughters seemed to have pleasure in performing many kind offices for us. I felt so weak and unworthy, that I had not faith to have a meeting appointed for me; so I stayed two days to attend their First day meeting, which, through merciful help, proved a reviving and strengthening time. Taking a few more meetings on my way, I arrived at Philadelphia, to attend the Yearly Meeting.

I can do no less than commemorate the Lord's goodness to me; for though often very low, and in my own eyes the most unworthy servant ever sent on such an errand, yet the Lord has graciously helped me along from place to place; and though I cannot record extraordinary times of favour in meetings, which some have enjoyed, yet I trust the cause, though weakly supported, has not been dishonoured. I humbly thank my God, that he has, from time to time, renewed faith and strength to endeavour to do what I apprehended to be his will; nor do I at this time ask for more than light to see, and ability to perform it.

24th of Ninth Month, 1796. The Yearly Meeting which commenced this day was graciously owned, and I hope it proved a profitable time to many.

Philadelphia, 24th of Ninth Month, 1796.

TO ANN CHRISTY.

I am come here to attend the Yearly Meeting, which begins to-day.—I have had a long mountainous journey this summer, in a newly settled country, over the Alleghany mountains; and through favour have got along pretty well: the weather has not been so oppressively hot, as in the preceding summer, and consequently I am not so much reduced, and feel pretty well in health. I must acknowledge I serve a good Master; who, notwithstanding my many weaknesses, condescends to be a present help in the needful time. I can write encouragingly to thee, to dedicate thy heart and *all* to Him, and to serve Him faithfully in the way of His requirings:—He will be thy helper in every trial.

After the Yearly Meeting at Philadelphia was over, I proceeded to the Yearly Meeting at Baltimore, accompanied by Ebenezer Cresson, his precious sister Sarah, and Catherine Haines, in a carriage; taking several meetings by the way. The Yearly Meeting was satisfactory, as were also a meeting on First day morning at Baltimore; and one in the afternoon appointed for the black people.

Had the company of the aforesaid Friends to three meetings. At West Nottingham, I parted with Sarah Cresson, and Catherine Haines, and accompanied by Ebenezer Cresson, went to East Nottingham, Sassafrax and several other meetings; they were small as to those professing with Friends, but the neighbours of other religious societies attended, so as nearly to fill the houses; and strength was afforded to minister to those assembled. A few solid Friends remain in those parts, but their number has greatly decreased of late years; and from this cause,

several of the meetings seem likely to be discontinued. We were refreshed both in body and mind, at the house of Susanna Matthews, widow, who delights to wash the disciples' feet; may the Lord reward her labours of love.

[It appears he was at New York in the Eleventh Month, 1796, from which city he addressed a letter.—]

New York, 6th of Eleventh Month, 1796.

TO HIS DAUGHTER, JANE CRUICKSHANK.

Thou hast so often been the companion of my mind, in something like a sympathy with thine in conflict, that I feel willing to tell thee my belief, that it is the Lord's way of working, to prepare the ground, to make it productive of fruits to His honour,—to turn and overturn it, and burn up the weeds. Now, my dear child, do not be too much discouraged under the operation,—or think when thou art plunged into pits, that thou will never get out again. I know there are dispensations to pass through, during which we can discover no profit that can arise out of them, because of the darkness that surrounds; but when the light again breaks forth, we can say, the Lord's way is a great deep, and in it marvellous mysteries are discovered. May thy trust be in Him, and thy heart devoted to Him; and He will never leave thee. My dear John, thy beloved husband, will I trust be a true helpmeet,—and that you will be travellers together, take sweet counsel together, and go up to the house of God in company;—and unite in giving the preference to the Lord's work and service at all times and on all occasions. I know the advantage of such a union; thy mother and I were united in desire to serve the Lord, above all and before all; and in this union we were often concerned to encourage and strengthen one another in dedication of heart.

Thy dear John's letters I have received; he seems to think I am slack about writing; but he mistakes,—in these remote places where I have been, there is rarely any opportunity of conveying letters; Friends are scattered very wide, and far back in the woods. There are also many people of other societies in similar situations, whom the Lord seems to be peculiarly visiting:—many have been added to our Society by conviction, especially in these back settlements, and several have requested to be received, who are situated several hundreds of miles from any settlement of Friends.

As to the time of my return, you must keep in the patience; give me up freely, and pray for my preservation. If I am but favoured to finish well,—no matter when or where. I never felt more love to you all; yet I believe it best to resign you to the keeping of the Shepherd of Israel; believing, if you are faithful to Him, He will keep you.

[About this part of his travels, John Wigham gives a list of a number of places at which he had meetings; he also states having attended the Quarterly Meetings at Concord and London-grove, which were large and satisfactory. Arriving at Philadelphia, he says, 'I attended the meetings on First day evening, and Second day morning, and the North meeting on Third day; then crossed the Delaware, and rode to Joseph Whittall's, who with his wife received us kindly,—a sweet young couple, fellow-travellers in spirit; my mind was refreshed in their company.' No dates are supplied here. He afterwards enumerates thirty-one different places which he visited, and came again to Philadelphia. The two following letters appear to have been written during this interval:—]

Hockeson, Pennsylvania,
16th of Eleventh Month, 1796.

TO BARBARA CRUICKSHANK.

I received thy acceptable lines about two weeks ago. Thy sweet sympathetic remarks were truly reviving, and no part of thy letter was more pleasing, than thy sensible acknowledgment of thy feeling of weakness, and thy desire of continuing under the refining power. It is an inexpressible mercy to be preserved sensible of what we are, and in whom is our strength; turning our attention to, and placing our dependence upon, the supporting Arm of power. I desire to be thy companion in watchfulness and fear;—"the fear of the Lord is a fountain of life," preserving from the snares of death.

I am here hobbling along as usual: thou knowest I am a poor weak creature; but I may say, in humble thankfulness, the Lord hath hitherto helped me; so that I trust I have been preserved from bringing dishonour on the cause I have espoused. I cannot tell thee much about the time of release from this country, though if no new concern open, perhaps I may get through the prospect now before me this winter; I sometimes look at reaching the next Yearly Meeting in London.

Philadelphia, 15th of Second Month, 1797.

TO HIS WIFE.

I received my dear Eliza's acceptable letter, dated the 3rd of Eleventh Month, after a long time of waiting in suspense; the date of thy last preceding one, was in Seventh Month. Whether thou hast been so long between writing, or some letters have miscarried, I know not, but I thought the time very long.——

I am here, through favour, pretty well in health. I expect to leave this city on Sixth day, to attend three

Quarterly Meetings in the Jerseys, and hope to be clear to leave this place after the Spring Meeting, which is to be held the latter end of next month. I am looking towards the Yearly Meeting in London; but a prospect sometimes presents, though not yet with clearness, and whether it may die away or revive when the time comes, I believe it is best to leave, and stand resigned;—this prospect is Nova Scotia, which if it should be visited, will prevent my getting home, (if spared to do so) till the fall of the latter part of summer. I wish to stand resigned;—the Lord hath hitherto helped;—His goodness I must acknowledge, whatever becomes of me: I cannot offer Him less than full dedication and obedience to what He clearly discovers to be His requiring; and I have a belief that He will not condemn for omission, when the matter is not made clear. I feel for thee and sympathize with thee in thy exercises, which I know have been many; but my dearest, seeing we unite in acknowledging the Lord's goodness, let us continue to put our trust in Him, and follow on to do His will, as well as we know how. Our pilgrimage is passing over, it will not be long;—let us keep the recompence of reward in view;—if we can only attain to a quiet habitation at last, all these conflicts will be forgotten.——

Here (at Philadelphia,) I attended meetings almost every day, and in company with Martha Routh, visited twenty-four schools, and had some satisfactory times with the children. Attended Abingdon Quarterly Meeting, and returned to the city. Paid a comfortable visit to eighteen young women, who had formed themselves into a society for the education of black girls:—they take it by turns, two or three at a time, and teach them reading and writing, from six till nine o'clock in the evening:

they have about seventy scholars, chiefly grown up. Visited another society of young women, twenty-five in number, who make it their business to search out and relieve the poor : they beg from the rich, some of whom give liberally ; and in this way they distribute several hundred pounds a year. They meet once a week to settle their accounts, and confer together about objects. I was with them at one of their weekly meetings, much to my satisfaction.

Left Philadelphia to attend the Quarterly Meetings of Woodbury, Bucks, and Burlington ; and then returned to the city, and attended the Spring General Meeting [of Ministers and Elders,] and three Monthly Meetings which succeeded.

Philadelphia, 4th of Fourth Month, 1797.

TO ANN CHRISTY.

I feel unfit to stain much paper with the pen, yet to thee I think I can do a little, when I remember thy solicitude about me, and expression of a hope of seeing me at the Yearly Meeting [in London.] These lines may let thee know that my views are turned another way.

Yesterday, I took a passage in a vessel bound to Charleston, South Carolina, and from thence I have a prospect of proceeding to Nova Scotia, if way open. It has been a pretty close trial to turn my back on home, after having entertained some hope of being released from further labour in this land ; but through favour I have been enabled to say, "Thy will be done." Two Friends from this continent, Charity Cook, and Mary Sevett, have a prospect of going over to England to visit you, and expect to sail in a few weeks. Martha Routh expects to leave this city in a few days, to go to Long Island, and to New York, and Rhode Island Yearly Meetings.

Thy attention I take kind: I believe it is love in thy tender mind to the Great Master, that makes thee willing to serve the servants, how little worth soever they may be; and verily I often think, none can be more unworthy than myself:—however, I have no disposition at present to complain; I must acknowledge that the Lord is good. May we be enabled to keep our eye single unto Him, and lean upon Him; this will meet His acceptance.——

Fourth Month 6th, 1797. Left Philadelphia, and embarked in the brig Maria, Captain Strong, for Charleston, South Carolina, with my former companion Ebenezer Cresson. It was a disappointment to me to have to turn my back on home, after hoping that I should have been released from further labour on this continent; yet when the Lord gave a clear prospect, He also gave faith. Praised for ever be His holy name!

I now enjoyed a mental calm, attended by an evidence that the Lord continues to be all powerful, and that His power makes His people willing.*

Fourth Month 7th. In the river opposite New Castle. Lord! thou knowest what a poor creature I am;—my trust is in Thee; O! keep me in thy pavilion. Thou art my stay, gracious God! while floating on this unstable

* At this period John Wigham appears to have been brought under close trial. He had sometime before apprehended that way was opening for him to return home, and he had given his friends and near connexions some expectation, that he might arrive in time to attend the Yearly Meeting in London in 1797; and in anticipation of this being the case, his beloved wife went up thither, hoping to meet him, but was, of course, painfully disappointed. When, however, he became fully convinced of the Divine requiring for farther gospel labour in America, he evinced his dedication to the cause he had espoused, by yielding thereto in simple obedience. In allusion to the subject, he says in a letter to a Friend, ‘through favour I have been enabled to say,’—“Thy will be done.”

element; for which I humbly thank Thee. O! enable me faithfully to fulfil the embassy on which thou hast sent me!

14th. Passed Cape Hatteras with a fair wind, all well, though we have had two tossing days and nights, occasioned by a strong south-west wind. I have been a good deal tried by the apparent carelessness of the Captain, not that I feel much anxiety about my own life; but I have been uneasy about dear Ebenezer,—having been the cause of his taking this voyage. I had little sleep last night, but feel peaceful and quiet this morning.

15th. Have had a roughish sea since yesterday, and last night nearly ran upon Look-out shoals. I lay awake all night, and could not banish fearful apprehensions about my dear Ebenezer, and the distress of his mother and sisters, should any accident happen to him; but the innocent youth himself slept sweetly. We are among as wearing crew, the Captain particularly; though alarmed last night, he cursed terribly. "If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear."

16th. Last night very stormy,—thunder, lightning and rain, made more awful by the darkness. The sailors say they never saw a more dismal time. A squall of wind ensued, and it was very rough.

17th. Calm and fine now, after the rolling. We see many wonders as well as changes. I think of all the men I ever saw, our Captain is the most hardened and desperate, though civil and obliging to us.

Landed at Charleston on the morning of the 20th; stayed there over First day, and had two meetings. Here are a few, who call themselves, and are called by others Friends; but alas! the name is all; they seem completely united with the world.

*Charleston, South Carolina,
21st of Fourth Month, 1797.*

TO HIS DAUGHTER JANE CRUICKSHANK.

Though we are far, very far separated, yet I frequently feel a near sympathetic union with thy spirit, and renewedly so at this time; and as there is an opportunity from this place, by a ship expected to sail for London in a few days, I thought I might tell thee what revived in my remembrance, in my looking at thee and feeling with thee;—even the prophet's expressions respecting the blindness of the Lord's servants, and how He leads them in a way that they neither have heretofore known, nor yet do know,—yet He makes darkness light before them—smooths and makes straight their rough and crooked paths,—and promises that all these things He will do for them, and not forsake them.

Various indeed are the dispensations, through which the Lord sees it needful to bring His chosen servants, preparatory to the production of acceptable fruits unto Him; yet He is never wanting to sustain and help those, who put their trust and confidence in Him, and who give up the will to Him, excluding self, and watching and warring against it in all its varied appearances. My spirit salutes thee, and bids thee fear not;—hold fast thy confidence, and keep on thy way in the littleness;—O! the littleness,—how beautiful and how safe!

Charleston, South Carolina, 21st of Fourth Month, 1797.

TO ANN CHRISTY.

I arrived here yesterday, having had a passage of two weeks from Philadelphia; in which we met with contrary winds, thunder, gusts, and squalls; but we were preserved through all; and neither my companion nor myself sick, which I esteem a great favour.

We have made a sudden transition from winter to summer,—every thing here is in full bloom,—green peas in perfection,—peaches half grown, and figs just setting. How my poor tabernacle will stand this hot climate I know not, it is now very warm.

There are very few in this city that profess with us, though they do keep up a meeting: the family where we are lodged, received us kindly; though except the man Friend, the rest of the family were dressed in high French fashion. It appears to be a place of idleness and dissipation,—the white inhabitants being supported by the labours of the slave; indeed, it may truly be said, these southern states are a land of darkness,—darkness that may be felt; and yet in this thick darkness, the people are boasting of light and liberty;—a miserable mournful situation, pride and oppression abounding. I do not want to hurt thy feeling mind, dear ——, with such things; but the subject somehow has stolen my pen.

Now turn thy thoughts.—Though darkness cover the earth and gross darkness the people, the Lord continues to be a light to those, who know their dwelling to be in Jerusalem, the quiet habitation: there is still light in Goshen;—the Lord is a sanctuary to his people, and will be the preservation of all who trust in Him.

I do not know that I have much more to say, having written thee so lately; but I desire my love may be communicated to Friends, leaving the particulars pretty much to thee. Thou knowest I love them that love the Truth, and I know thou dost so likewise. We love one another, and in that reciprocal love, may we experience a growth; which no doubt we shall do, as we continue to watch and war against every thing, that would obstruct the precious spiritual union with the Father and the Son, in whom is the life.—

Second day. Set out towards Wrightsburgh, in Georgia; reached a Friend's house at a place called Eddiston, where we had a meeting with a few Friends, who live in the neighbourhood. Hence proceeded without any other meeting to Wrightsburgh, a long weary journey of about ninety miles. My horse became foundered, so that we were obliged to leave him; and not being able to procure another, my companion and I had only one horse betwixt us, and we were consequently, obliged to walk by turns most of the way.* At Wrightsburgh, we lodged at a Friend's house, and got another horse. Visited all the meetings in Georgia and South Carolina, and returned

* During this part of his travels, although John Wigham has not left any record of it, a circumstance of a very trying nature occurred, which he has frequently related to some of his friends; the particulars of which as near as can be recollected, were the following:— His companion and he, having, as before stated, only one horse to carry themselves and saddle bags, rose early in the morning, and travelled till about ten o'clock, when they stopped to breakfast. They had only just commenced their repast, when an alarm was given, that their horse, which had been put into the stable, but not tied up, had run off, having as was thought followed some other horses, that had been passing. John Wigham, his companion, and some other persons, immediately set out in pursuit, following him into the woods. They were not long in finding him, for in crossing a piece of boggy ground, the horse sunk down into it so completely, that all the exertions of the party, continued for several hours, failed in extricating him. Towards afternoon, John Wigham, having become faint from fatigue and want of food, lay down on the ground, in sorrow and perplexity. Whilst lying in this exhausted condition, it occurred to him, to have small branches cut from trees, and trodden down into the bog, just before the horse's head. His assistants, on his suggesting it, adopted this plan, until they had formed a pretty firm footing near the animal's fore-feet: they then excited him to a fresh effort, when he speedily raised himself on the platform thus prepared, and to the great relief of John Wigham and his companion, came out without having sustained any injury; thus enabling them to pursue their journey.

to Charleston, 383 miles.—Had a public meeting in the Council Chamber above the Exchange,—a large place, and pretty well filled, chiefly by men of the upper rank; who behaved as well as I expected, considering the fear they seem to feel with respect to their slaves. The doctrines of Christianity are so opposed to their practice, that it is hard for them to hear the Truth declared. However, I was favoured to get through to some satisfaction, without meeting with any public opposition; though I sensibly felt an opposing spirit. My gracious Master took away fear, and enabled me honestly to deliver what was given me; for which I feel thankful. At the close of the meeting, some of the Methodists, particularly a preacher, came and offered their meeting-house to accommodate the people of colour. As I had felt drawn towards a meeting with that people, I accepted the offer: the Methodists also undertook to give notice that the meeting was to be held on First day morning.

Seventh day, 27th. While pensively sitting upon a bank over against Charleston, (which appears to have been at some former period cast up as a fort,) I felt deeply sensible how poor a creature I am; and was much humbled on this account.—Lord! thou knowest my dependence is on Thee; O! forsake me not, for thy mercy's sake! Though I am nothing, and worth nothing; yet as the honour of thy cause is at stake, O! be pleased to grant strength and preservation.

28th. The meeting was held as appointed; it was large, and through merciful regard, an open time. A great number of the black people attended, and were sober, attentive, and many of them tender. Attended Friends' meeting in the afternoon, which proved a laborious time. Through favour I was enabled to deal plainly with them, and honestly to tell them the danger

they were in ; believing that several of them were stumbling blocks, instead of way marks. After meeting my mind was relieved of a heavy burden, and I felt easy to leave them.

Next day, about eleven o'clock, embarked on board the Mercury, Captain Rease, bound for New York.

Sixth Month 1st. In the Gulf stream, most of the passengers sick, myself not far from it; though dear Ebenezer and I are about as well as any of them.

I esteem it a singular favour that my mind has been employed in contemplating the goodness and greatness of God ; but the longer I live, the more I see the imperfection of man's finite conception, and his liability to err. God is truly an incomprehensible being ; I feel Him to be Love, Life, and Power. I perceive that, as to my own experience, He sometimes withdraws, and sometimes makes himself manifest : when He withdraws, all is void and empty ; when He returns the soul is filled. Yet even in these seasons, when He seems to veil himself, His invisible power supports and calms the mind in quiet resignation ; and while there is an earnest desire or breathing for His return, the life and regular frame of the soul is preserved :—but if these earnest desires are suspended, the frame is disordered, and the spiritual health impaired ; and hence arises the necessity of *watching*. O ! what care ought to rest on the mind of a minister, to deliver nothing as doctrine, but what he receives afresh in the opening and vision of the Divine Light. O Lord ! preserve me !—my dependence, thou knowest, is on Thee alone.

2nd. At four in the afternoon, rose from my bed sickly : have had a rolling night, but the wind is now fair, and I hope we may not have a long passage. The company we have, is by no means desirable ; it is a strange mixture,—an old captain, a dancing-master, and a Metho-

dist preacher, with his family. Lord! help ust o walk among them with consistent steadiness, as becomes followers of Christ.

4th. Off the Capes of Virginia.—Moderate weather, and all well.

5th. All well. About thirty miles from Sandy Hook. We have got a pilot on board, and hope to reach New York to-morrow. We are tired of some of our companions, though they have all behaved respectfully to us, except on one occasion, in conversing about the slave-trade and slavery, when a temperate vindication of the rights of the oppressed Africans, drew forth violent and profane language from some of them.

6th. Arrived at New York: next day attended meeting.

8th. Sailed for Newport, Rhode Island; where we arrived on the 11th. Attended the Yearly Meeting; after which, rode to New Bedford. Attended First day meeting, and the Monthly Meeting on Third day. Seventh day embarked for Nantucket, and arrived the same day. Attended their meetings on First day; also their Quarterly, Monthly, and week-day meetings. Returned to New Bedford, and attended First day meetings.

Seventh Month 3rd. Set out towards Nova Scotia,* took several meetings by the way.

Portland, 10th of Seventh Month, 1797. st

TO BARBARA CRUICKSHANK

—— I know it is pleasing to converse in this way with those we love; and I think it may be lawful and right to indulge in this pleasure, even when we have

* It appears by one of his letters, that in this journey, besides his former companion Ebenezer Cresson, Joseph Wing a Friend in the station of an Elder, was also with him.

nothing to communicate but common things ; as it has a tendency to sharpen, as iron sharpens iron, and to revive in our remembrance those endearing sensations, which have been formerly experienced in a participation of that uniting love, which flows from the pure fountain ; and of which thou and I, in our measures, have been mercifully made partakers.

I expect by this time thou hast experienced some plungings, preparatory to the reception of stronger meat than that, with which children are generally fed ; and possibly some dispensations may be allotted, similar to those, concerning which the Apostle encouragingly [exhorts the believers]—“not to think it strange, as though some new thing had happened to them.” Dispensations for the trial of our faith, which is more precious than that of gold, are needful for our deepening in the root, and growth in experience ; as well as to prepare the heart for a more plentiful production of good fruit. Well, my dear friend, I believe we cannot do better than keep in the patience ; for I think there is not a more necessary part in the composition of a Christian, than patience ; and if we add to it humility, self-nothingness, and a simple dependence on Divine power, the enemy cannot hurt us much. We have abundant promises to encourage us to seek and pray for this frame of mind ; and I believe it may, through watchfulness and care, be measurably dwelt in. May we, dear Barbara, never cease striving, till we have attained.

I am here on my way to Nova Scotia ; and how long I may be detained in this country I know not : there are but few Friends in these parts, but my concern is pretty much for those of other societies. It is likely to be a long journey, and I suppose from what I have heard, rather a difficult one, through a country that has not

been much travelled in. Persons going to Nova Scotia mostly go by water; but I seem most easy to try to get through by land,—my mind being drawn to a scattered people among the bays and lakes, which, I am informed abound in that country.—

At Broodcove had a meeting with some newly convinced persons, to our comfort and rejoicing: twelve have been received into membership with Friends since I was there before; and several others appear hopeful. We visited some persons of a similar description at Camden; then went to Belfast, where I had a satisfactory meeting in a Presbyterian meeting-house. The whole were quiet and attentive, and some appeared tenderly impressed.

We found that a member of our Society had appointed a meeting at his house, seven miles from Belfast, to which we went: the people in the neighbourhood attended, but they seemed very wild and uncivilized. The Lord enabled me to declare the Truth among them, but it seemed to make very little impression.

We rode as far as Pleasant River, without having any meetings; though I passed through some settlements where my mind was attracted,—as I thought the people were like sheep bleating for the shepherd: but I did not feel a sufficiently clear commission to appoint meetings; so passed on, rather expecting to return the same way. Here we left our horses, and hired a boat to take us to a place called St. Andrews, about eighty miles distant, in the British dominions. We arrived there on First day morning, and appointed a meeting for the same afternoon, to which a good many of the inhabitants came. On Second day, took a boat to Beaver Harbour; got there on Third day morning, and were kindly

received by Ellis Wright: he had been a member of our Society, but had gone out in the war. He told us of some families of professors, about three miles back in the woods; we walked there, and found several descendants of Friends, and some who have a right to membership; with whom and their neighbours, we had a satisfactory meeting. They were glad of our visit, which was certainly a merciful visitation. They informed us of a family nine miles further back; of which the wife and nine children were members, the husband had been disowned. We walked there, and had a comfortable meeting with them and their neighbours: some of the latter, expressed much satisfaction. We returned to Beaver Harbour, and hired a small boat to take us to a place called St. John's, fifty miles distant; where we arrived on Seventh day, the 29th. Next day had a meeting in the Methodist meeting-house. Second day, went in the post-boat seventy-five miles up the river, to Richard Mead's, and had a meeting in his house: thence to Frederickstore, where I had a meeting in the Court House, and returned to Richard Mead's. First day, had a large meeting in a barn. Second day, one at Benjamin Burdsel's, and one at A. Carpenter's; then went on board a small vessel, and down the river to St. John's (so called.) The people in this country are chiefly refugees or disbanded soldiers, to whom land had been given at the conclusion of the American war. Some of them were descended from Friends, and several of their families are grown up: they know something of the principles of Friends from books belonging to their parents, or which, perhaps, were sent to them from some of their connexions; but they have no good example from their parents, and no associates, but such as adopt the vain customs of the world. They have generally joined their neighbours in

these things, and also in their worship; yet they seem to feel that they want something, and are like sheep that have strayed long and far: they miss the pasture, and bleat for the Shepherd; yet though He calls, they do not follow Him, and so remain estranged from both the flock and the fold. I was well satisfied with being among them, and trust it may be a means of shewing them the real principles and practice of Friends. Of late many preachers, some called New Lights, and some Methodists, have visited them, and have persuaded some that they do not differ from Friends, except in non-essentials; and by their activity in singing, preaching, and praying, have prevailed on some of these scattered people to join them. We met with a kind reception, not only from such as have some connexion with our Society, but among all ranks; and I trust have been mercifully enabled so to move among them, as to leave the door open.

At St. John's (so called,) we found a vessel just ready to sail, in which we embarked, and landed next day at Anapolis. Walked seven miles to Job Young's, where we had a meeting, and another next day, (First day), at Samuel Moore's; thence rode on hired horses one hundred and five miles to Halifax. Here we left our horses, and crossed the bay to Dartmouth, where there is a small meeting of Friends. This we attended, and also visited their families; but alas! they seem too weak to hold a meeting with reputation: they have so far given up our testimony against a hireling ministry, as to allow an Episcopalian minister to preach in their meeting-house on First day afternoons. From Halifax we rode to Anapolis, having several meetings on our way thither, and one there to good satisfaction.

[By the date of a letter to a Friend in England, John Wigham appears to have been at Halifax, on the 19th of

Eighth Month, probably at this second time ; as he mentions his prospect of being at liberty to leave America about the Tenth Month following. With his usual diffidence and humility, he mentions his own labours in this letter, nearly as follows :—‘ I have been for some weeks where no Friends live, and have had a good many meetings among the people. There seems an openness to hear and acknowledge the truth, and some of them are tender-hearted ; beyond this I cannot say much. I cannot fix much hope of good being done by such a weak unworthy instrument ; but the desire of my heart is, that if I can do little for the cause, I may do nothing against it. Satisfaction and peace sometimes flow in my mind, in endeavouring to do the little committed to me honestly, believing that the Lord does not require more than He gives.’]

Went to Digby by water, where we had a meeting in the church (so called). In the afternoon, paid a visit to the clergyman and his family ; he appeared a friendly man, and we had some satisfactory conversation with them. His daughter came and spent the evening with us at our lodgings ; her mind seemed touched with a sense of Truth. The people in this country, generally, behaved very respectfully ; those of the first rank mostly gathered about us after the meetings, often expressing much satisfaction with them, and pressing us to go to their houses,—though I had frequently to bear public testimony against war, as being inconsistent with Christianity ; many of them are, or have been officers in the army. Light has measurably arisen,—many are convinced in their judgments ; and I think there is ground to hope, that the testimonies of the Truth will be exalted and held up to view, in that settlement on Anapolis River.

Ninth Month 1st. Left Digby in a packet for St. John's (so called),—my mind calm, and filled with thankfulness. Lord! I thank thee for past, and beg for future preservation.

2nd. Arrived at St. John's (so called); found there a schooner, in which we sailed the same evening. Got the Captain to land us next day at Mouse Island, where we hired a boat to take us to Mousepecky reach. Lodged the first night on the beach by a good fire, which we had kindled: I slept comfortably, feeling peaceful and thankful. Next night, we got to a little house on the shore, where some of us slept on the floor. On the following morning, we arrived to breakfast at the house of a person who professed with Friends; but we could find in him nothing but talk. We had a meeting at his house, and some of the people seemed tender. Next morning, got a small boat to take us to Pleasant River, where we had left our horses in going down; we found them all safe and well.

In the afternoon, we had a meeting among a very zealous people, called New Lights; I loved and pitied them, for I think many are sincere hearted: but they hold some erroneous principles, and do not possess much true knowledge. The Lord enabled me to point out the way with much clearness; they appeared solid and attentive, and some of them tenderly affected. Proceeded to Narragangas, where we had a meeting; thence to Stubbend, where I had a large meeting on First day. My mind was much exercised; but the Lord in mercy helped me, so that I got through with satisfaction. Left them in much love, and travelled to Vasselburgh, one hundred miles, without having any meeting. Attended meeting there on First day: Second day, went to Sidney: Fourth day, took the Monthly Meeting at

Vasselburgh ; thence set out for New York, attending meetings on the way at Falmouth, Portland, Salem, and Lynn.

Tenth Month 6th. Arrived at New York, where I met with my beloved friends, Martha Routh, Mary Sevett, and Charity Cook, who had come to this city with a view of taking a passage for Liverpool; and feeling myself at liberty from any farther service in America, I agreed to accompany them. We embarked on the 17th, in the Sovereign, Captain Goodridge.

Eleventh Month 7th, 1797. We have been three weeks at sea, and have had a pretty favourable passage so far. Have been thrice boarded by ships of war, one English and two French ; but our Captain having all his ship's papers correct according to law, they did not give us much trouble. A Frenchman, however, examined the contents of some of the passengers' trunks, under pretence of searching for letters ; but his real object seemed to have been to plunder, as he carried away several articles. On the whole, we came off pretty well ; he did not get any money.

Two or three days of contrary winds have made some of our passengers sick, though none of them are very ill. The Lord is my shepherd ; in Him do I put my trust. I feel myself unworthy of His regard ; but great is His loving kindness.

Eleventh Month 21st. Landed at Liverpool, where I was kindly received by Robert Benson and family.—Stayed two days, attended the week day meeting, and then proceeded directly home by coach. Found my dear wife and family in pretty good health ; and though some circumstances, which were cause of grief and mourning, had occurred during my absence,—yet I could do no less than commemorate the Lord's goodness, and in deep

humility and thankfulness acknowledge, that I had lacked nothing.

Liverpool, Eleventh Month 22nd, 1797.

TO ANN CHRISTY.

We had a passage of five weeks, rather rough, but not much to be complained of. We had a good many passengers, some of whom were very wild, though civil to us: the women Friends kept pretty much to their cabins; I was exposed alone to their disagreeable company. I was favoured to keep quiet; my mind composed in a sweet feeling of peace and thankfulness of heart, in commemorating the unspeakable goodness of God, in helping through past difficulties; and a confidence was afforded, that He continued to be our guardian.

Thou knowest I went out a poor creature;—I am returned a poor creature still: yet through mercy, I feel love to the brethren.

[John Wigham has recorded the following:]

Have travelled in America to 20th of	
Seventh Month, 1796, then at Muncy .	7502 miles.
From the above date, to 6th of Third	
Month, 1797, at James Emlen's, Mid-	
dletown	2000 „
From ditto, to Fifth Month 24th, at	
Charleston	1477 „
	<hr/>
	10,979

Travelled in all, from my leaving home to my return, by sea and land, 22,752 miles.

CHAPTER V.

VISITS THE WESTERN COUNTIES OF ENGLAND, &C. IN 1799
 —ATTENDS THE YEARLY MEETING IN LONDON, IN 1800
 —VISITS THE MEETINGS OF FRIENDS IN VARIOUS
 COUNTIES ON HIS RETURN—REMARKS ON HIS TRIALS,
 RELIGIOUS EXERCISES AND PROVIDENTIAL PRESERVA-
 TIONS—OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATE OF SOCIETY AT
 EDINBURGH, IN 1806—VISITS PARTS OF YORKSHIRE,
 LINCOLNSHIRE, &C. IN 1808, ACCOMPANIED BY GEORGE
 RICHARDSON—WITH SAME FRIEND AS COMPANION,
 VISITS THE MEETINGS IN AND ABOUT LONDON, AND
 SOME OF THE SOUTHERN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES, IN
 1809—THOUGHTS ON THE NATURE OF LOVE, 1812.

[PREVIOUS to his entering on the visit to the western counties, of which an account follows, it appears, John Wigham attended the Yearly Meeting in London, as one of the representatives from the Half Year's Meeting for North Britain. In the minutes of this Meeting, of date 30th of Fourth Month, 1798, the following is recorded, viz.—

‘Two certificates on behalf of our esteemed friend
 ‘ John Wigham, have been now read, to our comfort
 ‘ and edification; and his company and gospel labours,
 ‘ have, on this occasion, been truly acceptable, and for
 ‘ his peaceful return we feel thankful. One of these
 ‘ certificates is from the Yearly Meeting held in Rhode
 ‘ Island, for New England, in the Third Month, 1795,
 ‘ and the other from the General Meeting of Ministers

‘ and Elders, held in Philadelphia, in the Third Month, ‘ 1797.’]

In the Sixth Month, 1799, I set out on a religious visit to Friends, in the western counties of England: my dear wife accompanied me, through Cumberland, and then returned.

Edinburgh, Sixth Month 14th, 1799.

TO HIS SON-IN-LAW, JAMES GLENNY.

—— I am pleased to hear that you are favoured with health:—may your hope and trust be in the arm of Omnipotence, who is ever sufficient to those that faithfully serve Him; we have abundantly proved that He is indeed a present help in every needful time.

An early dedication of heart to the Lord, is no doubt acceptable to Him;—to give up all into His care and keeping, and to look upon ourselves as stewards, to be directed and ordered by Him, is the safest way of steering through this uncertain pilgrimage.

The desire of my heart is, that my children may be the Lord’s children; and then I have no doubt, but He will be their shepherd, and they shall not want.

Yesterday was our Monthly Meeting, when I ventured to mention a prospect I have of a visit to Friends in some parts of England, with which the meeting concurred; and I think of setting out next Fifth day, and my wife thinks of going with me as far as Cumberland Quarterly Meeting.

After my dear wife parted from me, I proceeded through Westmoreland, Lancashire, Cheshire, South Wales, by Bristol as far as the Lands-end in Cornwall; and I crossed to the island of Guernsey, in company with my friend John Abbott.

[The three following letters were written whilst on his journey.]

Preston, Eighth Month 7th, 1799.

TO HIS SON-IN-LAW, JOHN CRUICKSHANK.

—— I have been helped along from place to place, and been enabled to clear myself to a good degree of satisfaction;—though I have visited many low spots, many poor meetings, where little of the life of religion seems to be left,—the standard bearers weak and tottering, —and but few Aarons or Hurs to support the feeble arms of such; so that in many places the enemy seems to prevail, and threaten a total desolation.

The prevalence of a worldly spirit—how it weakens! O! take care of its encroachments;—it is a lurking enemy; plausible are its baits, and many are taken in the snare. I often look towards you, with desires that you may put on strength in the name of the Lord. Strong and ardent is my solicitude for you, my dear children, whom I have left in Scotland,—that you may be faithful warriors in the great cause.—Remember me affectionately to my children, James and Elizabeth;—they are young: tell them, now is their time, now is their day, to give up their hearts to seek and serve the Lord. O! that they may begin at the right end,—seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and no doubt but other things needful will be added. Remember me also to my Amos and Barbara,—tell them they are called and ought to be waymarks; if they mind their standing, the Lord will not fail them. May you all unite in true harmony, as advocates for the one good cause—of spreading and advancing the saving knowledge of God among the children of men,—helpers one of another,—preferring one another in love,—knit together by a bond of love

that can never be broken: then will you shine in your day, and the enemy shall never be able to hurt you.

Coalbrookdale, Eighth Month 23rd, 1799.

TO ANN CHRISTY.

Thy sensibility of weakness confirms my belief, that thou art under the care of the great and good Shepherd,—that thou art preserved sensible of what thou art without Him; and thy fear will be as a fountain of life, preserving from the snares of death. Thou still feels precious to me, I think the union grows stronger; for which I am thankful:—nothing can break it, but our departure from the foundation;—strippedness or poverty of spirit has no tendency to lessen, but rather to increase it; though we may not always feel it alike. Every dispensation that reduces self, increases the spiritual union: the bond is strengthened by obstructions being removed; and if we grow in grace, we shall become less and less in our own eyes. This, I trust, is in some degree our experience: let us then each keep to our own exercise in our own particular gifts; so shall we know an advancement in the performance of the Divine will, until it becomes as our meat and drink.

I may inform thee, which I know will be satisfactory to thee, that I have been helped along so far beyond expectation, both as regards the body and the mind:—my poor body cannot endure much, and my mind often feels inexpressibly feeble: but the Lord in mercy has helped me from time to time with a little help, to hobble on from place to place; and I hope He has preserved me from hurting the cause, and that I may have been enabled sometimes to administer a little encouragement to the honest hearted.

Bristol, Ninth Month, 1799.

TO HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, BARBARA WIGHAM.

I feel inclined to address thee in this way.—I love thee as a daughter, and I love thee as a sister in gospel fellowship; and cannot but desire thy preservation and growth as my own. I am sensible how needful it is to be watchful:—our strength consists in our being preserved in the spiritual union; and many things present themselves, which if not carefully watched against, will obstruct that wherein our strength consists, and by which only we can experience a growth. There are right hand errors, as well as left hand errors,—of commission as well as omission; and to be kept in the path of true obedience, is the desirable attainment:—to have the eye single, is the way to have the whole body full of light.

A perfect resignation and willingness to be *little*, is the way to grow; and when we do in reality grow in the Truth, we shall become *less and less* in our own estimation; self will be weakened, humility increased, and our hearts enlarged in love and gratitude to God, and in submission to His holy commands.—

Suffer me to remind thee of the apostle's exhortation,—“Mind your calling, brethren.” I know not that thou art any way deficient;—but knowing the wiles of Satan, these things seemed to come before me, to express to thee; hoping that thou also, in thy measure, art exercised on my behalf,—no one has more need of constant watchfulness than I have.

Thou hast known a passing through dispensations of deep trial, hid from the knowledge of men;—the Lord has been thy stay in many a tempest, when, perhaps, all around thought thee in quiet;—He has seen all thy buffetings, and has sustained thy tossed mind, when there was no other anchor;—He has heard thy groanings in

secret places, and bottled up thy tears ;—and undoubtedly He will [in His mercy] recompence the fruit thereof into thy bosom. If thou continue in dedication to Him, and His service, He will be thy bow and battle axe,—teach thy hands to war, and thy fingers to fight. Trust in Him then, and thou shalt never be confounded.—

I got here yesterday from Wales, where I have had pretty hard travelling, both for myself and my horse. The weather has been wet, the roads bad, and the hay bad,—so that my horse has got much worn down ; but I hope, as I am now in England, the fare will be better for him, and the journeys shorter.

[To return to his journal.]

We visited the few families professing with Friends in the island of Guernsey, and had some public meetings ; being kindly entertained and assisted by our valued friends, Nicholas and Mary Naftal ; the former was our interpreter. The town (called St. Petersport) is an uncommonly bustling place ; I could not but be surprised at the hurry its crowded inhabitants seemed to be in, and lamented it. I took a lonely walk, and sat down by the side of a hedge over against the town ; my mind was gathered into a state of quietude ; in which I felt content to be a pilgrim, and a willingness, however insignificant, to be just what the Lord would have me to be : and I renewedly entered into covenant to serve Him, in the ability He might be pleased to afford, without desiring any conditions for myself ; for my whole heart was at this time so filled with love to Him, so devoted to labour for the exaltation of His name, that I thought I could not desire anything, or any enjoyment, that would not tend to His honour.

‘O Lord! enable me to do thy will,’—is my only petition.

Leaving Guernsey, we crossed the Channel, and landed at Weymouth the 29th of Eleventh Month; and proceeded to visit meetings as they came in course. John Abbott continued with me till after the Quarterly Meeting at Bridgewater; after which he left me, and returned home, having been my companion about seven weeks. After our parting I felt solitary—like a sparrow alone on the house-top; but was favoured to remember that my heavenly Father careth even for the sparrows.

Proceeding onwards by Somerton, Street, Melksham, Frome—I had meetings at these and several other places, till I came to Stockwell, near London, to my kind friend’s, Miller Christy, where I arrived on the 1st of First Month, 1800.

Stockwell, First Month 4th, 1800.

TO HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, BARBARA WIGHAM.

I received thine of Twelfth Month 4th, by which I was refreshed; it tended to renew and quicken that love and sympathy, by which we have been and are united. I am much in my usual way, both in body and mind,—have nothing to boast of, neither dare I complain; though I have seldom cause of rejoicing, yet the Lord hath hitherto helped me, with a little help, for which I feel thankful.

My confidence, through mercy, still is, that the Lord will continue to help those that trust in Him, and who in dedication of heart give up to his requirings, in humility and fear:—preservation in and an increase of this frame of mind, is what I crave for myself and my dear children.

I have not been in London, though I have been here

two days, within three miles of it. I rather hope I may not be detained in the city: Sarah Lines, Susanna Horne, and several other friends [in the ministry,] are engaged in it.

After visiting the families of Friends of Wandsworth meeting, and attending a Quarterly Meeting at Esher in Surrey, I turned northward; proceeding by Brentford, Staines and Uxbridge, taking meetings in passing through Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, part of Yorkshire, Westmoreland and Northumberland, and so to Edinburgh; [where he arrived about the middle of the Third Month;] and I found my dear wife and children well. What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits!

I stayed seven weeks at Edinburgh, except (during that time,) visiting Glasgow, Perth, and Dundee,—also settled some family matters. Attended the Half-Year's Meeting, and afterwards set out to attend the Yearly Meeting in London. After it was over, I returned homewards by way of Wellingbro', Kettering, Castle-Donnington, Derby, Chesterfield, Sheffield, Highflats and Wakefield: visiting also the meetings in the Dales of Yorkshire, and in the counties of Durham and Northumberland. On reaching Edinburgh, I had travelled 4166 miles, and been from home upwards of a year. After all this, I feel that I am nothing! My heart is humbled under a sense of the Lord's goodness, in enabling me to pass through so many trials and difficulties; and I can but worship at His feet, and offer Him grateful adoration and praise. I am yet but in the fifty-third year of my age, and have done little indeed in His cause, compared with what He has done for me: what may be my future allotment, He only knows; may His will be done.

The increase of bodily infirmities makes me ready to conclude, that not much more travelling will be required ; but, however this may be, may He enable me to serve Him with a perfect heart, in the way of His own appointment ; that my few remaining days may be spent to His honour. In many a deep exercise both at home and abroad, by sea and by land, He has been my Rock ;—in long wearisome journeys on the American continent, amidst almost pathless woods, through swamps and rivers, in the most imminent dangers, He has preserved me ;—and in my deepest baptisms He has sustained my soul. He has won my heart by His love, and has drawn me from my native land and near connexions ; He has often made a way for me, where I could see none. He has provided sustenance for me and my family beyond all human probability,—has made my feet like hind’s feet,—and enabled my poor weak body to undergo almost incredible fatigue. He hath often enabled me to set up my Ebenezer, and say, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped me.” O ! what shall I render unto Him for all His benefits ! I write these memorandums, that when I am gone, my children may be encouraged, by seeing and knowing how He has supported me.

Kinnuck, Sixth Month 12th, 1801.

To A. C.

—— The intelligence conveyed in thine is very grateful to me, though some things make me sorry. H. B.—poor creature ! I do pity,—I still feel love for her ; and would fain keep hold of a hope that she will not be cast off. The Lord is of tender mercy, though He will support His own cause ; and the foundation that He has already laid, shall never be moved, though thousands should leave it, and build upon and lean to their own

understanding. Those who lean upon and trust in the Lord, shall never be confounded; and I do believe that to all generations a people will be preserved, and enabled, to hold up a testimony to the sufficiency of that foundation [the Rock,] against which He hath declared the gates of hell shall not prevail.

Edinburgh, Third Month 15th, 1803.

TO HIS SON-IN-LAW, JAMES GLENNY.

Though I have frequently heard of thee since I saw thee, yet thy mother and I are both desirous to hear from thyself how thou art; whether the cough and expectation are abated, and the hoarseness gone off; and whether thou art gaining any strength. Tell us also how thy Eliza is keeping up, and how the children are.

We feel much sympathy with you; your afflictions of one kind or another, have not been few; but what shall we say?—He who dispenseth such things is infinitely wise, and knows better what is good for us than we do ourselves. He visits with the rod in love, to promote our improvement. Some of us need much to wean us sufficiently from things below, and to fix our hope more stedfastly on things above, or beyond time. May we acquiesce in the Divine will, and endeavour to profit by the various dispensations allotted us.

Edinburgh, Fourth Month 13th, 1803.

TO HIS SON-IN-LAW, JAMES GLENNY.

I received thine, and though it brought but a poor account of the state of thy health, and increased the sympathy I feel with thee and thy Eliza; yet it was satisfactory, inasmuch as it conveyed an evidence, that thou receivedst this present affliction in a resigned frame of mind. A valuable and experienced mind has said, that

the highest anthem sung in heaven is—"Thy will be done." No doubt afflicting dispensations cause a struggle in nature; but they are all in love. The Lord corrects in mercy, and chastises those He loves; though He is just, yet His mercy abounds; prospects in worldly matters are often disappointed in great mercy.

I would fondly hope the summer season may restore thee to health; but if otherwise, the Lord's will must be submitted to:—the mainthing is peace, for indeed the world is full of troubles.

Edinburgh, Second Month 6th, 1804.

To A. C.

—— I have enough to do to forbear wishing to be gone; though I know it is wrong to wish to fly whilst conflict is required; but my faith is sometimes tried (I think) to an hair's-breadth, yet in unutterable mercy it has not yet been permitted wholly to fail. I should be an ungrateful creature, were I to utter the least complaint, or once think suffering for Him hard, who has done so much for me. Sometimes I am a little revived by remembering, that the tribulated path has been the allotment of many besides me; who have been enabled bravely to stand through their various trials, and who, by leaning on the never-failing Helper, have been preserved through many a storm. Dear ——, I never did nor do I aim at or expect great matters: if I be but preserved the *green shrub*, it is my utmost wish.

Edinburgh, Second Month 23rd, 1804.

TO HIS SON-IN-LAW, JAMES GLENNY.

By different accounts we have understood thou hast been getting worse lately. I feel much sympathy with thee and thy dear Eliza: no doubt it must be a trying

dispensation to you both ; and unquestionably thy bodily affliction is wearisome, and will require the exercise of patience. The Lord only can support at such a time : may your minds be stayed upon Him, and resignation to His will be attained. He is all-wise,—never errs,—whatever He does is right. This world at best is but a trying pilgrimage ; and when He sees meet to cut short the work, and dissolve the tabernacle of clay at an early period, and through his matchless mercy and forgiveness receive the immortal part into a mansion of rest,—it is cause of humble rejoicing and adoration ; and if He sees meet, as He sometimes does, to bring down to the brink of the grave, and raise up again, it is all in wisdom and for some good end.

It is not unusual for persons in thy situation, when the mind is turned to look beyond time towards eternity, to have many doubtings, and the remembrance of past failings to lie heavy upon the mind. If this should sometimes be thy case, dear James, be not too much discouraged ; cast thyself at the feet of our dear Lord,—He is merciful. None of us have any merit of our own to plead ; in His mercy is and must be all our trust. He sets our sins in order before us, that we may be brought to an abhorrence of self, and an adoration of His goodness ; and when He has sufficiently humbled the mind, He soothes it with the feeling of His love.*

[From his Journal :—]

Edinburgh, 13th of Fourth Month, 1806.

Several years have passed over since I wrote the

* James Glenny, his son-in-law, died of consumption on the 1st of Eighth Month, 1804, in the 28th year of his age ; leaving a widow and three children. He appears to have made a peaceful close ; having expressed to his wife, when very near his end, that he was trusting in his Saviour, and found nothing in the way.

foregoing. I have been, since that period, but little out of Scotland, and nothing relative to worldly matters has particularly affected me; yet my exercises, and days of mourning have been deep and many. The grand adversary has obtained an entrance, and scattered the seeds of discord among the little flock and family of Friends of Edinburgh, Two Months' Meeting; which has introduced into much trial and suffering a number among us: and I have been at times fearful that some might fall a prey to the devourer.—‘Mayst thou be pleased O! Lord, to preserve and deliver thy little trembling lambs from his paw;—cover them with the canopy of thy love;—and be their shield, in this and every other time of danger:—for Thou knowest, and hast given some of us to know, that none can save us but Thee.’

Fourth Month, 1807. The Yearly Meeting's Committee are labouring among us: they are evidently endowed with Divine wisdom and abundant charity, recommending great patience and long-suffering: their labours, and sympathy of spirit have made them near and dear to me; and I feel an ardent desire that their labours of love may be blessed, to the restoration of those who have been the cause of suffering, to the relief of the sufferers, and to the strengthening of the precious visited children. ‘Lord! Thou alone canst, in Thy own way and time, establish and exalt thy glorious mountain of holiness, over everything that would exalt itself;—even so be it, Lord! Amen.’

The care of Edinburgh meeting having now devolved on the Yearly Meeting, my wife and I felt easy to leave it; which we accordingly did in the Seventh Month, and took a house at Aberdeen, where we have been mercifully favoured to feel quiet and peaceful;—some reward for the late suffering labour at Edinburgh.

Aberdeen, Ninth Month 4th, 1807.

TO ANN CRUICKSHANK.

—— I think the most I have to say is, look not too much at the dark side of things. The things that are seen we do not hope for, but the things that are not seen. —— Let us even wait long in the patience, and endeavour to fix our confidence on Him, who knows every heart; and who will eventually take care of those, who prefer the honour of His cause to every other thing,—who are brought to a willingness to suffer for it, if so be the Lord's will. Our dear Redeemer suffered; and shall we flinch from suffering? Do not think I am writing now as one at a distance; for my spirit is with you in the nearest sympathy; though I feel comforted in believing that we did right in removing, however disadvantageous it may have been in some respects.—Our day is now pretty far spent; to look forward to the close, through unutterable mercy is a pleasing prospect; and yet we can by no means divest ourselves of a concern for those that may be left. I think I may say at this time, I do prefer Jerusalem, and the welfare thereof, to any other joy; and yet near as the end may seem to us, new trials and conflicts may be permitted to attend our evening. When thou canst, do pray for us, that we may hold out.

1808. I felt a concern revive on my mind, to visit Friends in parts of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and some places farther south. After weighing the matter fully, I gave up to it, and informed the Monthly Meeting, who gave me a certificate, expressing their sympathy and concurrence.

I left home, the 19th of Sixth Month,—had a good passage by sea to Newcastle; thence travelled in a gig, accompanied by my beloved friend George Richardson,

who united with me in the concern, and who had a certificate from his Monthly Meeting. We attended York Quarterly Meeting; then took the meetings in the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, crossed the Humber at Hull, and visited the meetings in Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Cambridge, and Huntingdonshire,—returned through some parts of Nottinghamshire by Sheffield, Doncaster, Thorne, Pontefract, Ackworth, Selby, Collingworth, York;—thence to Yarm, Stockton, Sunderland, and Newcastle. We were absent from the last place ten weeks and five days; and according to calculation made by my companion, travelled 1171 miles, and attended eighty-eight meetings. I stayed some days at Newcastle, and attended their Monthly Meeting held at Shields; where I had the pleasure of meeting with the Yearly Meeting's Committee, returning from their second visit to Edinburgh. I was pleased to observe, that they entertained favourable hopes of improvement in that quarter, for which I had ardently longed.

From Newcastle I went to Allendale, to see my poor aged mother; who had been confined to bed a considerable time, in great bodily affliction, and quite blind,—but sweetly alive in spirit. We were comforted together; but had a hard parting. After staying a few days at Cornwood, and attending their Monthly Meeting, I went to Sikeside meeting on First day; and on Second day, set out for Glasgow. Andrew Phillips kindly accompanied me one stage; after which I went on alone rejoicing,—for the Lord had filled my heart with His love, so that I could sing of mercy and of judgment. He has, indeed, fed me in green pastures, and led me beside the still waters. My heart was humbled under a sense of his goodness to an unworthy worm; and my soul was filled with thanksgiving and praise. I got to Glasgow on

Fourth day, stayed over their Fifth and First day meetings, and on Second day set off alone, and reached Aberdeen on Fifth day. I found my family well, and did feelingly adopt the language,—“What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits.”

Aberdeen, 8th of Tenth Month, 1808.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

I got home on Fifth day, having had a long and lonely ride; but I held out pretty well, and my mind was so peaceful, that every thing seemed pleasant; I could think nothing hard. I found my wife and family well.—My horse held out to the end, and I have abundance to be thankful for; indeed I seem full, and can feelingly adopt the language,—“What shall I render to the Lord, for all his benefits?” May I render Him a devoted heart, for the residue of my days,—is my ardent prayer. I was much gratified by being with you: I think it one of the many favours I am made a partaker of, to have affectionate children; and a hope sometimes accompanies my prayers for you, that several of you are likely to be men and women for God; that His cause you will espouse, and even be made willing to suffer for Him, if it be His will. I have a testimony in my heart, that such is His goodness, He is well worthy to be served in His own way: may you and I be more and more dedicated to obey Him in all things.—

I stayed about home during the winter;—my mind often much exercised upon various accounts, particularly from a prospect that presented, of visiting Friends in and about London, and in some of the Southern and Midland Counties. I was much discouraged;—the declining state of my health, and my weakness in every way, made it

awful to me; but it remained and increased in weight, till I could see no means of obtaining peace, but to yield to it. I mentioned the subject to the Monthly Meeting in the Second Month, desiring Friends to feel with me; and at the following meeting I requested a certificate, which was readily granted, expressing their unity and sympathy.

Aberdeen, 19th of First Month, 1809.

TO ANN CRUICKSHANK.

I cannot do less than acknowledge how acceptable thy letter was to me.

———I sympathize with thee in my measure, knowing how difficult it is to tread safely in the path of your allotment. Faith and patience are doubtless necessary, but above all, a steady eye unto, and dependence upon the Lord for help, who is the giver of both faith and patience, and every other qualification to do His will. We here are not without our exercises; and sensible I am, that if the Lord help us not, we cannot stand. Much poverty of spirit has been my allotment of late; but I am moving on in a degree of hope.

On the 31st of Third Month, I accordingly set sail from Aberdeen,—had a quick and good passage of three days to London, and was kindly received by my esteemed friends, John Sanderson and his wife.

London, Fourth Month 22nd, 1809.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

I think it will be pleasant to thee to know that I am pretty well, at least as well as I can expect to be in this great city,—the air of which has never agreed with me. I have got out of it two nights in the week—have been

at Stockwell, and Plaistow, and Tottenham;—and been at meetings at the two latter places, also at Barking, and Winchmorehill:—the rest of the time has been spent in London, where I have had meetings almost every day since I have been in it. Every day brings a weight with it, that I cannot describe to thee; but through adorable mercy, I hope I have been preserved from hurting the cause of Truth; and what I have had to communicate, (I think) has met the acceptance of Friends, and afforded relief to my own mind. Friends have shown me much kind attention, abundantly above my desert; for I can assure thee, I feel myself very little among the great and wise here.

I took meetings as they came in course, in and about London, till the Yearly Meeting began, when I attended its sittings. I then set out with my dear friend George Richardson, who had previously agreed to be my companion. We visited the meetings in Sussex and Kent; and attended the Quarterly Meeting at Dover.

Dover, Sixth Month 17th, 1809.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

—— I may tell thee that I am through mercy pretty well, considerably better than when I left London. We have got a mare that travels well; and upon the whole have certainly much for which to be thankful. We have our conflicts and trials, as I apprehend all poor travellers have, who are exercised in our line. We have been at all the meetings in Sussex and Kent, except Rochester, which we intend to take in our way from Kent Quarterly Meeting to that of London; after which, we propose taking Essex and Suffolk.

Many of the meetings in those counties we have visited,

are small meetings in every sense of the word,—small as to numbers, and in some of them little life to be felt: yet there is a remnant still preserved; and we are abundantly satisfied, that the Lord in mercy continues to own his seeking people, whether collectively or separately, and is even following the revolvers with the cry, “turn ye, turn ye, why will ye die.”

The late Yearly Meeting was by many thought to have been a favoured time; and, perhaps, as much harmony and condescension prevailed, as has been known for many years, which afforded altogether, I think, an encouraging prospect; for really the harmonising love of our heavenly Father was frequently felt to cover us, and many hearts I believe were filled with thankfulness.

My companion George Richardson and I travel together in much harmony, and are often strengthened by our feelings being much in unison. Pray for us, dear —, that we may be preserved from hurting the cause we are seeking to promote; and that we may not seek great things for ourselves.

We returned to London to the Quarterly Meeting: after which we visited meetings in Essex, Suffolk, and the families of Friends in Norwich and in Wymondham Monthly Meetings. We then took the meetings in Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Derbyshire; thence went to Sheffield, Wakefield, and Leeds, &c., &c.; and by Staindrop to Newcastle. There I left my beloved companion, and proceeded by Allendale, Cornwood and Carlisle to Edinburgh, and so home; where I found my family in usual health: my heart was filled with thanksgiving and praise to the God of all grace. Though bodily infirmities frequently made travelling difficult; and a sense of my unworthiness to be employed in

so momentous a service, made me creep along low ; yet I cannot but admire the Lord's goodness, and could say much in His praise ; but so unworthy is my tongue to speak, or my pen to write it, that it seems safer silently to adore.

Aberdeen, Ninth Month 28th, 1809.

TO ELIZABETH (JOSEPH) FRY.

I reached home yesterday, and found my wife, children, and other connexions in usual health ; which, with many more favours, I wish I may be enough thankful for. I cannot express what I feel, in a sense of the Lord's love and condescending goodness to so unworthy a creature : I desire to praise Him ; but alas ! what is my praise worth ? I desire to serve Him ; but have no ability but what I receive from Him. He is *all* ; and I am *nothing*. Amen !

Aberdeen, Fifth Month 26th, 1810.

TO ELIZABETH J. FRY.

Under a renewed feeling of precious love, I acknowledge the receipt of thy letter : it was very acceptable,—indeed all thy communications have been pleasant to me. Although thy mind has been much exercised on various accounts since I saw thee ; yet I am comforted in believing, that the Lord is leading about and instructing thee, under the different dispensations that he sees meet to allot ; and even those which are the most painful ones, are not the least profitable and instructive. Pleasant things, such as the plentiful enjoyment of (Divine) love, light, and life, are very grateful, and raise sensations of joy and rejoicing, and tune our hearts to praise ; but I believe the Lord is as acceptably served, by the patient, resigned mind, in times of stripping and

overty; which tend more to our purification, because they often lead to deep searching of heart and humbling of spirit, which are suitable preparations for the unfolding of the instructive counsel of the Lord, both in what to do, and what to leave undone. I believe, my dear friend, we cannot do better than endeavour, through all the varied dispensations awaiting the pilgrim's path, to keep the eye single, in humble dependence upon that invisible Arm of power, which often supports unseen, and prevents our poor minds from sinking. I feel, at this time, almost faith enough to subscribe myself thy brother in the tribulations and exercises of the Christian warfare: though at times, I scarcely dare think myself one belonging to the family; but in this degree of faith, which I now feel, I may venture to say—'Be, of good cheer, the Lord will not leave, nor forsake those who put their trust in Him; who are willing to be what He would have them to be, and to let Him work in them according to his own good pleasure. These I believe, He will strengthen in the day of battle, and succour in every time of need. Therefore, my dear friend, cast all thy care upon Him, and simply move along as He opens the way. Thou art now, I expect, with many others engaged in the affairs of the Yearly Meeting: my mind has been looking much towards you; and in my small measure, I have felt concerned to pray, that Friends thus met together, may be favoured with that one great and essential thing,—power and life, manifested through love, which begets condescension and mutual forbearance.

Aberdeen, Ninth Month 18th, 1810.

TO ELIZABETH J. FRY.

I am pleased to hear of thy satisfactory visit to —.

I cannot help thinking, that if those that incline to leave Friends, were, in sincerity, to turn their minds to the light of Christ, they would soon see beyond the noisy conformity to types and figures, and be led into a more deep and sensible feeling of the things that are spiritually discerned; and they would be made partakers of more substantial nourishment to their souls, than they can attain to by any external performances. But I am afraid the cross is in the way, which they do not like to submit to. But they must be left, hoping that when they have tried, they will, at last, discover that it is the substance in which there is life, and not the shadow; and this substance they must find in themselves, according to the apostle's testimony, "what is to be known of God, is manifest in man."

I am pleased with thy account of —, O! may you beginners in the awful and important work of the ministry be preserved! As thou sensibly remarks, there are many rocks, and some shoals, that are dangerous. Sarah Robert Grubb, in one of her letters, compares us to dishes, which must be tempered and prepared to bear the heat of the oven; and which are more exposed to danger, than almost any other utensil at the table,—require more cleaning, and are more liable, through some indiscretion or other, to get cracked or broken. But though our standing may be precarious through human weakness or infirmity, and on our part require strict watchfulness; yet there is no cause to be dismayed, when we turn our eye to Him, who is all-powerful to preserve, full of tender compassion, knows our frame altogether, and will preserve those who simply and humbly trust in Him. He mercifully deals with us according to our need; clothes and strips, feeds and proclaims fasts, reduces as well as strengthens—and all in wisdom.

There is one thing I may just mention, though perhaps I have done it before, but it is a matter of the utmost importance;—that in our engagements in the ministry, we simply attend to, and wait for the impulses or intimation when to speak; and never to move without it, whatever openings or impressions we may have. Sometimes we may have openings for our own instruction, and sometimes we may be impressed with a sense of the state of a meeting, or of an individual, and yet it may not be our duty to allude to it, till we receive the intimation so to do. If thou, my dear friend, move on in this safe way, thou wilt thrive, and grow, and deepen in experience; and thy offerings in the ministry, will continue to be precious and sweet, and afford the enjoyment of true peace. Although thou mayst and will have thy plunging, trying times; yet He, to whom thou lookest in humble dependence, will be an anchor stedfast and sure. It is also necessary, when we do feel the clear intimation to speak, that we be faithful to it, and not put it by, even though it may be something disagreeable to ourselves; else we shall offend our Lord, and weaken our own souls.

Aberdeen, 6th of Fifth Month, 1811.

TO ELIZABETH J. FRY.

I have not been hasty in answering thy letter, though it was truly acceptable. That love which waxeth not old, remains fresh with me, with desires for thy preservation and prosperity in every good word and work. I feel thy kindness in inviting us to the Yearly Meeting; but our day for travelling seems nearly over.

It affords us satisfaction that we have not spared ourselves whilst ability was enjoyed; and that now through infinite mercy, we have no disposition to call the Lord a hard master, but can set our seals to that great truth,

that He is unspeakably good, and has helped us far beyond our desert. My hearty good wishes arise for those concerned brethren and sisters who attend the Yearly Meeting:—may you be strengthened and comforted by the fresh feeling of the uniting bond of harmonizing love: that you may be one another's joy in the Lord, and enabled renewedly to praise Him; for, verily, He hath often shewn himself good to Israel, notwithstanding all our backslidings.

1st of First Month, 1812. This day begins a new year. O Lord! from this time preserve me in exact conformity to thy will, without spot or blemish. I have long, thou knowest, been desirous to serve Thee with acceptance; but I have been a poor, frail, imperfect being. O! blot out my imperfections, gracious God! for thy dear Son's sake; and enable me henceforth to serve thee better. Destroy, O! destroy every fibre of selfishness; that what I am, I may be in Thee alone. Amen!

Second Month 1st, 1812. I have been ruminating upon the excellency of love, of which God is the inexhaustible fountain: it appears clear to my mind, that in its nature and ground, it is always the same, but flows forth differently to different objects:—to God in humble reverence and adoration;—to good men in sweet uninterrupted unity;—to the distressed and afflicted in sympathetic tenderness;—to the wicked and ungodly in mournful pity: and it manifests these feelings to God by desiring and endeavouring to do His will;—to good men by a care not to interrupt the union;—to the distressed and afflicted by endeavouring according to ability to relieve them;—to the wicked and ungodly by patiently bearing their insults, and praying that they may be made better answerable to the Apostle's description, bearing,

hoping, and enduring all things. There is something that some men call love, that deserves not the name; having its foundation in a desire of the esteem of others, which largely flows forth to such as feed this desire by flattery; but should this be withdrawn or neglected, and friendly reproof or admonition administered in its stead, it manifests its spurious character by angry resentment, and shews that it is not Christian love, but idolatry of self.

Aberdeen, 24th of Second Month, 1812.

TO ELIZABETH J. FRY.

It would be indeed pleasant to me, as thou mentionest, to sit beside thee, and that we might commune together in the freedom of friendship, which I fully believe is reciprocal: but this we cannot expect to be often indulged in, if ever any more. But there is a comfort in feeling the circulation of love flowing from the true source and fountain of it, in which there is no change, and to which distance is no impediment; and, if we are but favoured to keep our habitations in the Truth, nothing can separate us. I feel bodily infirmities increasing, and am content that it should be so. It is in the course of nature that this should be the case,—and the Lord's will is incontrovertibly best; may *nothing* in me ever—even as much as *wish* to oppose it.

Mountmellick, Twelfth Month 24th, 1812.

TO HIS WIFE.

I received thy acceptable letter, dated 28th of last month. It is reviving to thy poor exercised John Wigham, to hear that thou hast faith respecting him, that the Lord will not fail him, unworthy as he is; and as thou hast, through mercy, a little faith concerning me, I trust it will not fail as regards thyself.

We can do no less than gratefully acknowledge, that the Lord has been good to us hitherto; and to encourage each other to trust in Him, is the most we can do for each other. I am wading along in much weakness, and can only say, I hope I have been hitherto preserved from dishonouring His cause; and that was all I asked, at setting out.

Cork, First Month 20th, 1813.

TO HIS SON, AMOS WIGHAM.

— I am favoured with usual health, though I frequently feel much weariness, and sometimes considerable pain; yet it goes off again, and upon the whole, I have got along as well as I could expect. The Lord has hitherto been my helper in the needful time, and I trust preserved me from dishonouring His cause; and also from time to time renewed a little grain of faith and ability to place my dependence upon Him. I cannot say much as to the time of my leaving this land; I only desire light to discover, and ability to do His will. He is a good master,—I desire to serve Him faithfully, and that you, my dear children, may be more and more dedicated, and a willingness wrought in you, to be just what He would have you to be. Mind your calling, and doubt not but He will give strength to do what He requires. Let Him choose your stations for you, and direct your steps; and then He will guide you in the path of safety. The more fully and freely you give up your own wills, in conformity to the Divine will, the less will be your conflicts under dispensations for their reduction; for I apprehend, we often increase our sufferings, by our unwillingness to be as the passive clay in the hand of the potter, to be formed into such vessels as he sees meet; and this unwillingness arises frequently

from an apprehension of our own unfitness for what He requires. But do we not hereby show our distrust of the all-sufficiency of His power! He requires our passive obedience: the power is His, and the qualification is His gift.

CHAPTER VI.

RETURN FROM IRELAND—LETTERS—CONCLUSION OF HIS JOURNAL—LAST ILLNESS AND DECEASE IN 1839.

FIFTH MONTH 6th, 1813. Returned from a visit to Friends in Ireland, Cumberland, and some parts of Westmoreland and Lancashire, peaceful and thankful. I set out under much fear, and a sense of weakness every way;—such bodily infirmities, that I had little expectation of accomplishing what seemed in prospect; but I was willing to go as far, and do as much, as I might be enabled: and now I cannot but acknowledge, that through adorable mercy I have been strengthened far, very far, beyond my expectation. May my soul for ever adore and praise my gracious helper, and acknowledge Him as the giver of every good and perfect gift! Amen!

Aberdeen, Twelfth Month 11th, 1813.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

—— The revival of trade, and the fall in the price of grain, will indeed be a relief to many: but alas! there appears but little of humble thankfulness among the people here; their rejoicing is like madness, and exceedingly childish, ringing of bells, burning of tar-barrels, and dancing about the fire, like mad people,—drinking and carousing among the upper ranks, as well as the rabble. The consideration of these things, as well as the dreadful carnage [through war] which has occasioned these revellings, makes the heart sad. Among the

trading part of the community, much speculation is going on ; and I think much risk incurred. Things are very uncertain, and the prudent of that class will see great need of caution ; for even when what they call fortune spreads a propitious gale, it is wise to take some canvass in.

“Ye are not of the world, as I am not of the world,” said Christ to his disciples ; and they that are his disciples now, must know the separation, and keep in the separation from the world, or they will lose their title. Let your moderation appear unto all men.

Aberdeen, Fifth Month 25th, 1817.

TO ELIZABETH J. FRY.

Shall I once more address my dearly beloved friend ? It is long since I received a scrap from thy pen, and I greatly desire to hear from thee I am aware that the care of thy large family, and many other important engagements, are sufficient reasons for thy silence ; but I can plead none of these things, but barrenness and inability to write any thing worth thy perusal. However, this I can say, thou art as near and dear to me as ever, in that fellowship and bond of union, which I trust, was formed in the unchangeable Truth ; and which never will decay, except we turn away from the foundation on which it is built. Pray for me, dear Elizabeth, that I stagger not, nor stumble, now when I am old and grey-headed. I am sensible that I can no more preserve myself now, than when I first set out a pilgrim. I am still a worm. But I have had some intimations to keep in resignation's harbour, until I be sent for to pass the river ; and on the other side, I have had a prospect of a fine country :—through adorable mercy, I think I may set up my Ebenezer and say, “Hitherto hath the

Lord helped me." It is in my heart to say to thee, my dear friend,—fear not the assaults of the enemy : He is strong, in whom thou hast believed ; and as thou simply reliest on Him, He will cover thy head in the day of battle, and teach thy hands to war, and thy fingers to fight. Conflicts of various kinds we must expect indeed, I believe the Lord knoweth that these are best for us : they have been the lot of the Lord's servants in every age. We have an unwearied adversary, who not only roars about us, but cunningly and softly whispers in order to draw us aside ; but a constant invariable application to our Captain, defeats him in all his attempts.

Let us then, dear Elizabeth, hold fast our confidence, trust in the Lord's mercy and goodness, and follow Him faithfully in the way of His requirings.

Aberdeen, Seventh Month 21st, 1817.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

I received thine, containing an affecting account of thy poor Mary's indisposition ; we had heard of the accident, but nothing of what succeeded. I am glad to hear she is mending, and hope she will be well before now. It would, however, doubtless be an alarming and anxious time : what a favour that your minds were supported under it in quiet resignation.

Affliction ariseth not out of the dust ; and He who sees meet to permit such trials, intends that we should profit by them ; and, as John Woolman says, that our ears should be opened to discipline, and be favoured to see our precarious standing, how soon and unexpectedly a termination to all things here, with respect to us, may take place : how needful it is to be always ready. "Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear," says an apostle.

Aberdeen, Fourth Month 15th, 1818.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

I yesterday received the mournful intelligence of the removal of our dear John Robertson,—a loss that will be much felt, and particularly so by thee; thy mother and I do deeply sympathize with you, and feel our share of the general loss which the church sustains: we can, indeed, mingle our tears with yours, and pray according to ability, that the Lord may make up the loss;—He can do it.

I could say much of my sense of the worth of our departed friend, but that would only tend to augment the feeling of regret, and resignation is our duty. It is the Lord who has done it, and He never errs. I am forbid to mourn,—the dear man is released from a tribulated pilgrimage, to enter a land of rest, in the Lord's time, will, and wisdom. The great Head of the church, whose power is infinite, can prepare and appoint officers in His house, and qualify them for the offices to which he appoints them. The cause is His; let us trust in Him to support it. He can save by many or by few,—can make a little one equal to a strong nation;—He can guide, and often does condescend to guide, his little ones, (who have no might of their own,) as with His eye; pointing out their way for them, and strengthening them to walk therein. May we, dear —, ever carefully mind His motions, and follow faithfully, though in the way of the cross. Thou wilt need Divine direction, even in thy outward concerns, that thou may not be overburthened with the cares of things appertaining to this life; for truly, if we can get the needful accommodation for the body, with that it is best to be content.

Sixth Month 29th, 1818. — I am lame and weak, but still able to get to meetings, which I esteem a favour.

Indeed I have much to be thankful for, and no cause to complain. The infirmities of age may reasonably be expected; but the Lord has been very good and gracious to me, far beyond my deservings. I am often humbled and thankful in commemorating His unmerited mercy; and if He will be pleased to preserve me, the few remaining days I have to stay, from dishonouring Him or his cause, I shall for ever praise Him.

Aberdeen, Fourth Month 21st, 1819.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

—— I send along with this, William Penn's Key, for ——'s perusal; it is an old book but contains what we believe in doctrinals, in little compass; in reading which he may see, that a belief in Christ, by a measure of His Spirit manifested in our hearts, as a reprover, instructor, leader, and comforter, was from the beginning and still is our principle. This is what our predecessors [in religious profession] found and were convinced of, were settled and centred in,—and they found it to be light and life: and so far was it from leading them to disesteem the great propitiatory sacrifice, that it gave them clearer and more satisfactory views of its efficacy, than they ever could attain by all their researches, till they embraced this precious principle of light and life. By it the scriptures were opened to their understandings, and the mystery of redemption unfolded to their view: and this principle is our principle still, notwithstanding the many weaknesses that appear among us for want of attention to it. If J. M. does not believe herein, he is not of us: and perhaps he had better join himself to that society, with whose views he can more unite. But I love him, and feel for him; and I much wish that he would turn his mind more inward, and have less dependence on his own understanding, also in simplicity receive

the engrafted word, and walk in the light of it ; and then he would come to have fellowship with Christ and with his servants,—then would he indeed know the blood of Christ to cleanse him from all sin.

Aberdeen, Sixth Month 24th, 1819.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

——— Thy account of the Yearly Meeting was pleasant and reviving ; and so many Friends remembering us poor old worn out bodies, was and is grateful ; and raises a hope, that unworthy as we are, the Lord has not cast us out of remembrance : even thy description of thy own stripped and poor state of mind, is to me not discouraging. I have often experienced dispensations of this kind, and even now my state is very similar—a mind tossed and perplexed, because I cannot get it staid and centred where I would willingly have it to be, on the one great object : but former experience of the gracious goodness and long suffering of my dear Lord, makes me hope, and try to adopt the language of the Psalmist,—“ Why art thou cast down, O ! my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me ; hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance and my God.” The ways of God are incomprehensible ; indeed I sometimes think, that man (the workmanship of His holy hands) is an incomprehensible creature ; and the mystery of godliness—the mystery of redemption, is great and deep ;—and the dispensations that the all-wise God sees meet to make use of for its accomplishment are wonderful, and often at the time they are operating upon us we cannot comprehend their usefulness : yet as they are patiently abode under, in a humble trust in Him, who alone can carry on the work, they do not fail to accomplish that for which they are intended. To humble us and keep us humble, requires Almighty power ;—such is

our fallen nature, and self in its workings so subtle, that it needs a great deal to subdue it thoroughly. I have felt it so with respect to myself: and I fully believe many humiliating conflicts are absolutely needful for us,—but perhaps not to all alike; I may need more of these than some others: the desire of my heart is, that the Lord may not spare, till He has made me just what He would have me to be.——

“Trust in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not to thy own understanding;” and there is no doubt with me, but all will be well.

Aberdeen, Twelfth Month 23rd, 1820.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

—— It is certainly safest to be in a little way [of business] these times: may the Lord be thy counsellor, and give thee contentment with food and raiment, and enable to live so loose from the world, that thou mayst be ready to answer his requirings in all things, during thy stay in this thy pilgrimage. I feel much satisfaction in having given the Lord's work the preference, and laboured in my small measure while I had strength; for verily we have but a day: now when I am useless, (and indeed I was always a poor creature), He has given me a hope in his mercy, which is as an anchor—a comfortable anchor to my poor mind, for which I hope I am thankful; and if He preserve me to the end from dishonouring His cause, I shall praise Him for ever.

Aberdeen, Eleventh Month 24th, 1821.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

—— I would have acknowledged thy letter sooner, but I have had such a rheumatic attack in my head, as to unfit me for writing, and even now I am unfit.

I dwell in a weary land, but I have the shadow of a mighty Rock; and though the Lord sees meet to keep me poor, He grants me a hope in His mercy, which is an anchor to my poor mind; and when I get one trying day over, I console myself with thinking, I am another day nearer the close.

I do not wonder at thy feeling frequently low and depressed; it is the path that all the faithful followers of a crucified Saviour have to walk in. He is described in Scripture as a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and surely it is enough for the disciple to be as his Lord. Let us in these low seasons still trust in Him;—He knows what is best for us, and He feeds his children with the food convenient for them; He puts forth his sheep, and goeth before them:—mind, dear ——, His putting forth, and follow Him in the way of his leadings. When thou wast a child, I was a man; and now I am the child, and thou art the man. A word to the wise is sufficient.

TO HIS NIECE, MARGARET WIGHAM, LATE JOHNSTON.

It is without date, but supposed to have been written about the time of her leaving Aberdeen.

—— I shall miss thee much; but hoping thou art going to thy right place, I am resigned. Mayst thou and thy dear Thomas grow in grace, become established as pillars in the church, and be made instrumental in building up that little meeting, where thou art gone to reside. Cross occurrences, trials and conflicts, thou must expect, or else thy lot will not be like that of other pilgrims; but whatever the trials of thy day may be, be sure to keep this point in view—the honour of God; prefer Him and His cause to every other thing; never mind self, let that be of no reputation: still strive to learn of the Divine Master to be meek and lowly in

heart; then thou wilt undoubtedly experience all things to work together for good.

I need not say much;—thou hast the unction from the Holy One, that will teach thee all things needful for thee to know, as thou carefully attendest to it. I love thee as a daughter, and shall always be pleased to hear from thee.

First Month 16th, 1821. You are a little company in Corwood Meeting, which I frequently think of, with desires that you may be built up together in the Truth, and stand as ensigns to the people about you,—that your lights may shine, which, if you are circumspect and watchful, will be the case. The Lord will do you good.

First Month 18th, 1823.

TO HIS NEPHEW, THOMAS WIGHAM.

Written soon after the decease of his wife.

I nearly sympathise with thee in thy recent great loss, also with thy dear mother; she will feel much;—it will greatly increase her concern for the poor children: but resignation must be sought for. Young, when writing on the subject, says:—

What cannot Resignation do?

It wonders can perform:

That powerful charm, “Thy will be done,”

Can lay the loudest storm.

We too have had a heavy loss in the removal of our dearly beloved Elizabeth Glenny;—[a granddaughter who resided with him.] But I have remembered what Christ said to his disciples,—“If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go to the Father.” When we have a well grounded hope, that our near and dear friends are centred where there is no more pain nor sorrow, and

consider the many snares that await us in this pilgrimage; we may rejoice in the belief, that they are for ever safe.

—— My love to A. H., and tell her, if she do her duty, she will take good care of the motherless children.

Aberdeen, First Month 29th, 1823.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

—— Young and old are liable to many ailments, and are removed at all stages of their existence; and as thou hast well observed, the consideration thereof calls upon us to endeavour to be ready. I never felt more need of watchfulness and circumspection, nor a greater sense of weakness and inability to preserve myself,—more need of Divine aid, than now, when I am grown old; so that if the Lord help me not, I shall yet become a cast-away, notwithstanding all my former preaching to others: but thanks be to the Lord for the hope I have in his mercy.

We do feel a great loss in our dear E. G.; but how can I mourn? I loved her dearly, and being satisfied that she is happy—removed from all the snares that await us in this pilgrimage, how can I mourn?—when I hope she, whom I so dearly loved, is rejoicing, and singing halleluiah to the Lord God and the Lamb.

Aberdeen, Second Month 5th, 1824.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

—— As to my spiritual attainments, I am as weak as a child; only through mercy I still retain a confidence in the wisdom, power, and goodness of my dear merciful Lord; and endeavour to rest contented in His will. The removal of Margaret Wigham, now in the middle stage of life, has a warning voice in it. It is cause of rejoicing to hear that the Lord is preparing and anointing some of the

youth to advocate His cause. I hope, dear ——, if he step cautiously and in fear, and yet faithfully and honestly, that he will grow in the root, and bring forth fruit answerable to that growth. With respect to the depression and discouragement which it is thy lot at times to feel, it is nothing new, and only what all the Lord's servants at times experience; and especially such as are His messengers to the people. The great and eminent Apostle Paul had his share; pressed above measure,—despairing even of life,—had the sentence of death in himself: but what was this for? that he might not trust in himself, but in Him who could raise the dead. He also speaks of filling up our measure of what remains of the sufferings of Christ for the body's sake, which is his church: now I understand this to mean, that those who are united to Christ, feel the oppressed state of the seed in the hearts of the people, through the prevalence of wrong things; and this depression may often be felt, when no way opens for relief,—nay, even when we do not see the cause of it. Patience is then necessary, to wait the Lord's time for a change of the dispensation.

Aberdeen, Eleventh Month 21st, 1827.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

—— I often think of you at ——, with fervent desires that you may be preserved, and grow in every good experience—grow downwards—grow in humility and love,—be more and more reduced to nothingness of self. We are never in that perfect state, unto which we are called, till all self-esteem is battered down; there is such a propensity in human nature to wish to be esteemed somebody. O! what a hammering this propensity takes to reduce it to dust; and until this is effected, we cannot so fully esteem others better than ourselves, and bear

one another's burdens. — May you be made, just what the Lord would have you to be,—true standard bearers and ensamples to the flock. I often feel a near sympathy with thee in particular, believing thou hast many heavy burdens to bear; but the Lord is thy shepherd, thou shalt not want strength to support in every exercise. Trust in Him with all thy heart, and lean not to thy own understanding.

Aberdeen, Third Month 5th, 1828.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

I have frequently thought of writing thee, since I received thy last acceptable letter; but it is a task now to set about writing. I am not sorry that thou seest and feelest the stubborn stuff of which thy heart is made (as thou expressest it;) nor that thou shouldest experience low and doubting times. These mark the path, I apprehend, of most, if not all, who travel from Babel to Bethel; at least with respect to myself, [I can say] it is a state I have often been in,—even at the very brink of the pit of despair; but yet the Lord in His mercy has plucked me back from plunging therein, and given me renewed hope: and if I am saved at last, (which I now hope I shall be,) I must acknowledge that it is altogether of the Lord's mercies, and to Him belongs all the praise.

I have seen the profitableness of these proving dispensations; they tend to reduce into a state of self nothingness and humility, which is the grand point,—the best and safest state we can be in. Infinite wisdom knows how to bring us to this state; He knows our nature, and the plunges we need to reduce us, and bring us into it; thou needest not be too much cast down in the process,—but trust in the Lord, and be watchful, and He will bring it to pass. There are indeed many temptations and snares,

so that we have great need of watchfulness; yea frequently begging of the Lord to help us to watch,—for we are poor watchers without His help.

[The following is stated to be the last letter he wrote, and may come in here, though of later date than the next and concluding paragraph of his journal.]

Aberdeen, Second Month 20th, 1829.

TO HIS SON, A. W.

—— The expression of thy sympathy, and the hope thou hast for me, is truly grateful; and I may say through unmerited mercy, I am favoured with a hope for myself, that when this weary pilgrimage is over, I shall be admitted into one of the many mansions in our heavenly Father's house, where the inhabitants of even the lowest are completely happy. I am a poor thing, not worthy of the least of the many mercies bestowed upon me; but I think I can say in truth, I love the Lord, and his people, and often feel solicitous for the preservation of the few Friends at —— . I cannot write much, the little I have now written, has obliged me to stop and rest my eye, before I could see where to make a stroke; I must therefore conclude with the expression of a saying of our blessed Lord,—“Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called the children of God.”

Ninth Month 17th, 1828. I am now in my eightieth year,—a long and weary pilgrimage: many conflicts, many trying exercises, have attended me; yet through all, the Lord has sustained me. It seems as if I had well nigh finished my course; I say not I have kept the faith; but the Lord has kept me in the faith: and I feel near and dear to me His precious cause, which I believe He engaged me to advocate; and though day after day

passes over in much weariness of the flesh, yet by His sustaining love, the bitter is sometimes made sweet, and what would otherwise seem hard, is made easy. I feel constrained to say, that the Lord is good,—inexpressibly good: and I have an unshaken (hope, which is the precious gift of God,) that when the conflicts of time are over, I shall enter a region of everlasting rest, peace, and joy. I leave this as my testimony to the goodness of God, (probably the last memorandum I shall make in writing), that my children may see and believe, and be encouraged to follow Him in the way of His leadings; that in the end they may have to rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of their salvation, as doth my soul this day. I sensibly feel I have no merit;—I am unworthy of the least of the mercies bestowed upon me; the love, grace, and mercy of God through Christ Jesus, has done all for me. I do most firmly believe in the divinity of Christ;—that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself:—that the Scriptures were written by inspiration of God, and they give abundant evidence of the miraculous conception, birth, life, and death of Christ, and their testimony is corroborated by the internal evidence vouchsafed to believers, displaying the glorious mystery, which angels desire to look into. Finite wisdom cannot indeed comprehend the deep things of God; but the wisdom from above opens, to those who seek it, what is necessary for man to know; and man ought to be content with what the Lord is pleased to reveal, and not strive to comprehend by the earthly wisdom, things incomprehensible. True believers, whose minds are mercifully opened, feel the efficacy of Christ's death in salvation from their sins. Thus much I think right to remark, respecting my belief in the divinity of Christ and the truth of the Holy Scriptures. Through this

faith my dear wife obtained the victory, and was enabled to triumph over death, hell, and the grave; as evinced by almost her last expressions, praising the Lord with her latest breath.* I feel the loss of her company; but do not regret that she is gone before me, (as I trust) “to be with Christ, which is far better.” She has left

* The testimony of Aberdeen Monthly Meeting concerning Elizabeth Wigham.

It having pleased the Lord to remove from a state of probation, this our much beloved friend, we deem it a duty incumbent on us to give forth a testimony respecting her.

She was born at Ambroseholm, near Carlisle, in the county of Cumberland, in the year 1748. Of the early part of her life few incidents are recollected which appear likely to afford instruction. In 1769, she entered into the married state with our valued friend John Wigham, then of Cornwood, within the compass of Allendale Monthly Meeting, to whom she was a true helpmate for upwards of fifty-seven years.

A few years after her marriage, she came forth in public testimony, having passed through much previous exercise, and many deep baptisms under the Lord's preparing hand, for so important a work; and by waiting carefully in humility for the openings of Truth, she grew in her gift, and met with the unity of Friends in the exercise thereof.

About the year 1784, she united with her husband in a concern and belief, that the Lord called them to leave their native country, and to go and reside in Scotland; which they did with the unity and concurrence of the Monthly Meeting to which they belonged, having then a family of seven children. This with other movements in Scotland proved a great trial of their faith, and subjected them to many privations and difficulties, to which she piously submitted, trusting in Him, who she believed had called them to so great and weighty a service. On her first removal into Scotland, she resided in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh for about two years, and afterwards came to live within the compass of this meeting; and after a subsequent removal again to Edinburgh, in the year 1802, she finally returned to us in 1807, and remained our member till her decease.

In the love of the gospel, and under an apprehension of duty, she was at several times engaged, with the concurrence of her Monthly

me to struggle a while longer with bodily infirmities and weaknesses, which she indeed felt largely in her own

Meeting, to visit the meetings of Friends in various parts of England; and twice those in Wales and Ireland. She also felt herself engaged several times to take up a temporary residence within the limits of particular meetings: these services were to her, we believe, rendered very weighty and awful; yet she evinced her dedication, by yielding in faith and simple obedience; thus furnishing an instructive and encouraging example to others, who may be called to tread in a similar path. On these occasions, as well as in her more distant travels, we have cause to believe, that her gospel labours were to the satisfaction of those whom she visited, and yielded the reward of peace to her own mind.

When not engaged in religious service from home, a large family of children necessarily occupied much of her attention; and she manifested an earnest and affectionate solicitude for their best interest, being careful, as they advanced in years, to discourage everything in them, which might lead from the simplicity of Truth. Yet she did not suffer these cares (important as they are) to prevent her from going forth, when and where, she believed her Divine Master called her; and on her return from these engagements she cheerfully entered again into her domestic concerns, in which she was a pattern of industry and frugality.

She was a diligent attender of our religious meetings; and even in her declining years, when labouring under the pressure of much bodily infirmity and weakness, she was a striking example of perseverance in the performance of this important duty.

Her ministry was lively and fervent, and although not adorned with much learning, was clear, sound, and pertinent; an evidence attending, that it proceeded from the right spring. In the exercise of her gift, she was often favoured to speak with great clearness to the states of those whom she addressed, as divers can testify, on whose minds she has left seals of her ministry.

During the forepart of her illness, she expressed but little; indeed her day's work seemed to be done, and that she only was waiting to be released from the shackles of mortality: but it was evident to those about her, that her faith was fixed on the immutable Rock, and her soul anchored on her God. On one occasion, after a season of conflict, she broke forth in the following expressions, "O death!

experience. A true sympathizer was she. I have kind and affectionate children and grand-children, who do all

where is thy sting? O grave! where is thy victory?" and then added, 'I believe the grave will have no victory over me; for the eternal God is my refuge, and his everlasting arm is underneath; and that is more to me than thousands of gold and silver,—blessed and praised be his holy name.' At another time, she said to one of her children, 'I believe I am wearing away fast, at least I hope so;' and on taking leave said, 'Farewell my dear; and mayst thou fare well in the Lord thy God; and this is the desire of my heart for all my children.'

As the tenor of her life appeared to breathe her Creator's praise; so in her death we believe she was of the number of those, who are said to have "come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." May we her survivors be animated by her example of dedication, so to follow her, as she endeavoured to follow Christ,—that our end may be alike peaceful;—and that we may through redeeming love and mercy, be admitted into an eternity of rest with the Lord, where we have no doubt her purified spirit is entered.

She quietly departed this life at Aberdeen, the place of her residence, on the 16th of the Fourth Month, 1827, and her remains were interred at Kinmuck, on the 20th of the same. She was in the seventy-ninth year of her age, and a minister upwards of fifty years.

Signed on behalf of our aforesaid meeting, held at Aberdeen, the 16th of Fourth Month, 1828.

JANE CRUICKSHANK.

BARBARA WIGHAM.

MARY GRAY.

ELIZABETH BRANTINGHAM.

HANNAH WIGHAM.

BARBARA JOHNSTON.

HANNAH CRUICKSHANK, }
Clerk. }

AMOS CRUICKSHANK.

JOHN CRUICKSHANK.

ROBERT GRAY.

JAMES MORRIS.

JOHN GLENNY, *Clerk.*

JOHN WIGHAM.

AMOS WIGHAM.

GEORGE BRANTINGHAM.

JAMES GRAY.

JOHN ROBB.

The following friends, as also John Wigham, were prevented from attending the meeting by indisposition, but felt desirous to subscribe

they can to make me comfortable ; but younger people cannot enter into the feelings and infirmities of age. O Lord ! keep and preserve me to the end. Amen, and Amen !

The preceding effusion of pious feeling written by my honoured father, as he states, in his eightieth year, proved as he had anticipated, with the exception of a letter to one of his sons, the last production of his pen : but as he lived for upwards of ten years afterwards, it may perhaps be allowable, and not inappropriate for one, who during several of the latter years of his life, was privileged with being much in his company, to record some particulars respecting him during that period. This is not done with any view of exalting the creature, or eulogising the dead ; but by exhibiting the character, and final close of a dedicated and humble disciple of our holy Redeemer, to magnify the efficacy of that Divine grace, which had sustained him all his life long, and by which, he was ever ready to acknowledge, he was what he was ; and also to prove an incitement to such of us as are still pilgrims on this earth, to be using all diligence to make our calling and election sure, following on in the same precious faith by which he obtained the victory ; that being “ washed, sanctified, and justified, in the name of their names to the foregoing testimony,—Alexander Robb, William Joss, Elizabeth Glenny, Jane Robb, Margaret Robb, Sarah Cruickshank.

The foregoing Testimony having been read and approved in the General Meeting for Scotland, held at Edinburgh, this 25th day of Fourth Month, 1828, is signed in, and on behalf thereof, by

WILLIAM SMEAL, Jun., *Clerk.*

Signed, in and on behalf of the Women’s Meeting.

JANE WIGHAM, *Clerk.*

the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God," we may, when the day of our probation is over, know an entrance ministered to us abundantly into His everlasting kingdom.

At the time when my dear father wrote what concludes his own account, (1828,) his eye-sight had become very defective, and soon afterwards it totally failed, so that writing became impracticable. His lameness also was such, that with difficulty he could move about, requiring even a painful exertion, to get occasionally into his garden; but during the long period of his confinement to the house, he was, under all his privations, and the pressure of many painful ailments, full of a contented resignation, often saying he had much cause for gratitude and thankfulness, for the many blessings and favours he still enjoyed. He was usually very open and cheerful, which rendered his company attractive to his friends, and he seemed to enjoy their visits; and whilst at times he felt at liberty to converse pleasantly with them, on passing events, yet it was evident to a serious observer, that his mind was centred on eternal things, that "his heart was fixed trusting in the Lord."

His love to his friends, he used to say was not lessened by increasing years. His attachment to the precious cause of Truth remained as strong as ever; and to such as visited him, whether those of his own meeting or from a distance, he was sometimes engaged to drop a word in season, mostly short, but weighty and instructive, —like the well-instructed scribe, "bringing forth out of his treasure things new and old;" and on these occasions, even when no communication of a religious character took place, many, it is believed, can acknowledge, that there was a sweetness and solemnity to be felt, under which they have been edified and comforted; so that they

could have adopted the language, "it is good for us to be here."

For a number of years he seemed to live in a state of constant waiting for the call of his Divine Master to put off his earthly tabernacle, that he might be "clothed upon with his house from heaven;" feeling himself, in his own estimation, so deprived of usefulness, that he said he was sometimes ready to wonder, why his stay here was so much prolonged; but would add something to this import,—'the Lord, who knoweth all things, knows what is best for me; when He sees meet in His unerring wisdom, and when his own purposes are effected, He will release me from rather a trying and painful getting on.—I desire to be wholly resigned to do or to suffer His will.'

He sometimes said, he was tried with low times, and that the enemy was even permitted to buffet him; yet through all he was favoured with a hope, which never forsook him, that when the end came, all would be well,—that one of the many mansions in his heavenly Father's house would be allotted him: adding, that he thought there might be a difference in these mansions, even as one star differs from another star in glory; but no doubt there was happiness without alloy in all of them.

For several years the meetings of ministers and elders were held at his house, which he said, he considered a privilege, being the only meetings he had the opportunity of attending; on one of these occasions, in allusion to the trials that had arisen in our religious Society, he expressed himself to this effect:—'although I often feel like a worn out instrument, laid aside as useless,—nevertheless earnest desires are frequently raised in my mind for the prosperity of Zion; and notwithstanding the many causes of discouragement that prevail amongst us, I am permitted to believe that the Lord will not suffer His

blessed Truth to be trampled under foot:—He is still with his people, and as they keep humble and low, He will continue to be with them. The shout of a King is yet in our camp; therefore let us not be dismayed, but thank God and take courage.’

At another of these meetings, being the last but one at which he was present, he made a communication of the following import:—‘As this is probably the last time I shall sit with you in this capacity, I feel free to tell you, that *all is well*. I have not been following cunningly devised fables; neither have I been endeavouring to serve the Lord for nought: notwithstanding my unworthiness, my many weaknesses, and short comings, He has richly rewarded me. And I may tell you, that if you continue to persevere in faith and patience, in stability of conduct, He will crown your latter end with loving-kindness and tender mercies, as He is abundantly doing for me.’

In the early part of 1837, he took cold, and had a cough that distressed him much, especially during the night; at this period, on one of his sons taking leave of him, and a daughter-in-law, expressing a hope that he might have a better night, he replied, he had no hope of that kind:—‘My hope is in my God, that he will forgive my sins,—or rather [my belief is] that He has forgiven them; and I feel thankful to Him for that.’

About a week afterwards, he expressed himself thus:—‘My cough is rather better; and were it not that I feel often so sickly, and my relish for food so much declining, I might perhaps get better of this cold, as I have of many other colds; but these feelings preclude that expectation, not that I know anything about it, for, [respecting the issue of the present illness,] I know nothing; but this I know, that it is my duty to wait patiently

the Lord's time, which we are sure is the best time. It looks pleasanter to be dissolved, and freed from suffering; but then I desire to be content and resigned to His will.'

He recruited soon after this time, and continued, though under an increase of bodily ailments, in his usual state of cheerfulness and mental energy, till the beginning of 1839; when from his declining state, it became evident to his relations and friends, as well as to himself, that his continuing much longer in mutability was not to be expected.

In concluding this little tribute to the memory of my revered parent, I think I cannot do better than introduce the substance of some part of his own expressions, that were noted down or remembered, during what proved his last illness.

On Third day morning, the 26th of Third Month, speaking of his having passed a more comfortable night than any he had done for a long time before, in much tenderness of spirit he expressed how thankful he felt for the favour, to his Lord and Saviour, adding,—' If I had taken the medicine they were urging me so much to take, it would have been said that it had done it; but as the relief has come without any outward means, I esteem it a direct interference of the Lord's hand: He has seen meet to give me a season of ease from great pain.'

Seventh day, 30th. On being inquired of how he was, he replied, ' I am just about as weak and poorly as I can well be; ' but added, ' I have a hope—I am favoured with a lively hope, that when I have done with time, I shall have peace for ever: ' and on its being remarked that it was a great mercy to have such a feeling to sustain him, he said, ' O yes! and none can tell how precious it is, but those who feel it.'

Fourth Month 4th. This morning, suffering intense pain in his foot and leg, he said,—‘ I find it no easy thing to arrive at entire resignation to the Lord’s will under this pain, though I do sincerely desire it. I cannot always suppress desires arising for relief in my own way ; but if patience only holds out to the end, I will try to struggle on.’

In the evening of the same day, he was seized with a fit of severe pain and sickness ; and thinking his end near, he sent for some of his family who were not then with him : on one of them asking him how he felt, he replied, ‘ I seem to be wading through the Black river, over which Bunyan says there is no bridge, and so deep, that poor Christian could scarcely keep his head above water ;’ adding, ‘ I have no desire to get better, but just to be wholly resigned to His will.’ The agonizing pain he was suffering seemed so to overpower him, that he appeared unable to proceed ; at length, after a pause, addressing himself to his children, he said, ‘ you too must follow on ;—never let go your hold ;—keep to the Rock that never failed any one.’

Fourth Month 7th. Since the preceding date, there was little or no abatement of his sufferings, and he obtained scarcely any sleep, but he was enabled to bear them with great patience. On one of his family, who was taking leave of him for the night, asking him if he had anything to communicate, he answered, ‘ pray for me, if thou canst,—that I may be released if it be the Lord’s will.’

The same evening on a message from a son, residing at a distance, being communicated to him, in which allusion was made to the crown immortal being in prospect, and the assurance of its being bestowed on him ere long,—with that diffidence and humility, which peculiarly

marked his character, he replied,—‘there is a hope to be sure,—that sustains.’ He then mentioned, that a Friend who had visited him some years before, had told him of a certain high professor, who had stated that he never met with a Quaker who had true faith,—they had no assurance, hope or trust, was all any of them could say. ‘But,’ added my father, ‘that Friend and I thought we could be content with a humble hope.’ In confirmation of this view, allusion was made, in conversation with one of his family, to an expression of Samuel Emlen at a time when he was sick in London;—‘Thanks be to the Lord, for the hope I have in His mercy;’ on which Joseph Gurney Bevan makes the following striking remarks:—‘It then seemed,’ (says he) ‘a less strong expression, than probably through inexperience I then should have expected, from a man whose whole life seemed devoted to God. I have since lived to see, that it contained every thing, which the self-abased Christian can desire; and such a Christian was he.’ (See *Piety Promoted*, Tenth part, p. 126, second edition.) At another time he remarked, that some had triumphant deaths; but this was the experience of comparatively but a few, and was, he believed, not necessary. One of the lowest of the many mansions was all he desired, and there seemed no cloud to intervene.

About a week before his final close, being visited by a son from a distance, after speaking of his great weakness and continued suffering, he expressed himself to this effect,—‘It is a great support—an inexpressible satisfaction, the prospect of peace and rest when the struggle is over. Nothing to trust to, but the mercy and goodness of the Almighty, and being engaged in seeking for resignation to His holy will. Perhaps this is the most

acceptable state we can attain to,—the pain and suffering is nothing new, it is the way of all living.’

During the last two days of his life, he seemed much sunk in exhaustion, and desired quietude,—expressing but little, and the power of articulation being impaired, he could not well be understood; yet with little exception he appeared sensible, and patiently waiting his appointed time. He was heard repeatedly to utter: ‘I want rest, —I want to be at rest.’

In the morning of the 17th of Fourth Month, 1839, he was peacefully released from the shackles of mortality. His surviving relatives can humbly rejoice in the full belief, that through redeeming love and mercy, on which his hope was placed, his purified spirit has entered into the joy of his Lord. He was aged upwards of ninety, and had been a minister about sixty-seven years. His remains were interred in the burial-ground belonging to Friends at Kinmuck on the 20th of the same month.

THE END.





