

at that time, will not be without interest in many ways; especially to those in early life, who will see that she possessed a very lively imagination and warm feelings; and who may, by the perusal, be the better prepared to appreciate the sacrifices which she had afterwards to make, in order to obtain peace of mind, and to become the humble disciple of a crucified Lord.

CHAPTER II.

SOJOURN IN FRANCE.

"Birmingham, *October 19th, 1776.*

Very busy making preparations to set out for London, in the diligence, to-morrow morning, with Mr. and Miss Bingham; the latter purposing to accompany me to Paris, or some other part of France, where I am going for the recovery of my health, which has been upon the decline for some months.

London, *Tuesday, 21st.*—Just arrived at the Castle and Falcon; much fatigued, having travelled all night without sleep. We arrived at Stratford at ten o'clock, and there met with several of Bingham's friends, who were at the inn; we supped together very jovially, after which we resumed our journey with fresh spirits; indeed we then stood in need of our best courage, for it was very dark and the roads bad; this, with the fears that we had of being robbed, was dismal enough. Just as morning began to dawn we reached Oxford; the daylight advanced with all the beautiful attendants of a fine morn, and it was most delightfully pleasant. Breakfasted at Tetsworth; and heartily rejoiced we were, for we were really hungry. I bore the journey better than I could have imagined; after paying proper attention to the bread and butter, we once again set forward; it was a glorious day, and the country appeared beautiful, in spite of the rigorous season. Immediately on my arrival at my journey's end, I wrote to my brother Jasper, and he came half an hour after. I fainted several times, which is not surprising, as I was much fatigued.

Wednesday, 22nd. Was taken to bed last night very ill. My affectionate brother, who had never seen me in that way before, was quite alarmed, and sent for Dr. Knowles. I have slept

tolerably. Walked with my Brother and my friend Bingham, into Cheapside. Dined with my Uncle Smallwood, and spent a rational, agreeable evening with Dr. and Mrs. Knowles, at their house in Ingram Court. I admire the doctor more, I think, than any man I ever met with. He strikes me as a man of learning and affability; polite without ceremony; perfectly good humoured without the least tincture of levity; charitable to all, in thought, word and deed. It is easy to imagine that no one could possess all these qualities without being, in the true sense of the word, a Christian. Though the doctor is, by profession, a Quaker, he is far from endeavouring to influence the judgment of others. We had much serious conversation, and my heart felt interested in every word that fell from the mouth of the worthy doctor. I wish, if my stay in town permits, frequently to repeat these visits. I do not wonder at my dear Jasper being impatient to introduce me into such company, as he knew my inclinations too well to suppose that I should find it irksome. I wish I could prevail upon all my acquaintance to lay aside all their trivial ways of killing time, by playing at cards and such diversions; and in their room, to institute improving, rational conversation; it would undoubtedly be better for society in general; we should then enjoy ourselves in reality. How far more praiseworthy those are who spend their time in searching after and admiring the wonderful power and goodness of the Almighty, than such as think of little but the gratification of the senses; who scarcely know or consider how or wherefore this grand universe is supported, or whether governed by a Supreme, All-powerful Being!

Nancy Fry, a very pleasing young person, drank tea with us; I was struck with her appearance and wish to be better acquainted.

The doctor does not approve of my intention of going into a Convent, as he thinks I shall be in great danger of having my sentiments as to religion totally changed; he remarked that the transition from our form of worship to that of the Romish Church was very trifling, and might possibly be brought about, almost

imperceptibly, as they spare no pains to gain a proselyte. This has quite unsettled my designs, as I would by no means throw myself into the midst of dangers, the nature of which I am entirely unacquainted with. We took our leave of these worthy Friends, with a promise, willingly made on my part, to dine with them on Friday, if nothing prevent.

Thursday, 23rd. My brother Jasper called and took us to dine with my brother William, who lives with Mr. Railton, Holborn Bridge. Railton appears to be a sensible worthy character. After we had had coffee we called a coach, intending to go and spend the evening with my Uncle Capper, in Berkeley Square; but an unaccountable whim entering the head of my brother William, (prompted, I make no doubt, by his wish to give us pleasure,) he asked if we should have any objection to see the Beggar's Opera, to be performed that night. I was inclined to refuse; but fancying that my friend had a desire to hear Miss Catley, I accompanied her without reluctance. My disappointment and disgust are not to be described; I had heard much of the shining qualities of Miss Catley, and therefore expected something extraordinary; but of all the figures I ever saw, she is the most miserable; and her impudence is inconceivable. In the midst of my chagrin, I could not help feeling emotions of pity for the poor unhappy wretch, who, in her serious moments, must call to mind a life spent in such a manner; how melancholy a retrospect! I may truly say, my intended pleasure was turned into actual pain. I was very ill afterwards.

Friday, 24th. My brother Jasper called upon me; he was not pleased at my last night's expedition; in truth I was vexed at myself. I could not help making a comparison between the different feelings with which I retired to rest last evening and the night before; one all hurry and confusion, without one rational idea; the other calm, serene and pleasing; with a train of ideas, delightful, quiet and composed. I very joyfully performed my promise of spending the day in Ingram Court, and it was as

agreeable as I expected. The doctor was at home all the afternoon, and we had much serious conversation, in which my heart was interested, the doctor and his wife explained the benefit arising from silent meetings, which I am convinced must be very great; we are then freed from all external objects, and wait upon the Lord, in silent submission; which must doubtless be a far more acceptable sacrifice than those forms of prayer that are repeated by the lips when the spirit is far from God. This silent meditation is certainly an excellent preparation for vocal prayer.

Saturday, 25th. Nancy Fry called, and went with us to a Mr. Williamson's, a person who keeps bees in a glass hive; it is very entertaining to see these industrious little creatures all busied in their various occupations.

Sunday, 26th. Went, with my brother Jasper, to the Quaker's meeting, and was exceedingly pleased with one of the female preachers. There was silence nearly an hour and a half, in which time I was prepared to receive instruction, and I felt the force of what I heard. Returned to our lodgings well satisfied with silent worship.

27th. Bingham purposes going to speak to a Miss Nicholls, a young person who is going into a Convent at Boulogne. Dined and spent a very agreeable day with Nancy Fry's Parents in Whitechapel. I admire the whole family exceedingly; such marks of sincerity and friendly civility I scarcely ever received. I shall actually venerate this society of people; for among those that I am acquainted with, there reigns such a universal spirit of affection, with a real desire to please, that I cannot help being strongly attached to those sentiments which are productive of these social delights; to me far more engaging than the pompous parade that attends the proudly great.

29th. Mr. Bingham and my brother went with us to the Tower, in order to look at the vessel in which we propose embarking; the Captain is an elderly polite man; he informed us that his daughter would accompany us to Boulogne, where his

family resides. He could not say when he should sail; as there are Press Warrants out, a Protection is necessary, or it is possible that all the men may be taken. On expressing our desire to see the curiosities in the Tower, our obliging conductors willingly complied; and being informed that there were no beasts worth seeing, the old lion, &c. being gone to the shades of their noble ancestors, we visited the Arsenal. I was much pleased with the regular form in which all the arms are placed. Could the mind be divested of the idea of destruction, for which these weapons are designed, it would be possible to behold, with pleasing astonishment, the perfection which has been arrived at in the manufacture. On our return we had some conversation with two young girls who had just come from the Ursuline Convent at Boulogne, and were not discouraged by their account. About five o'clock I took leave of my friend, as I had accepted of Mrs. Morris's invitation to spend a few days with her at Tottenham. She received me with that good nature and affability which characterise her. I cannot but spend my time agreeably here, as in the company of Mrs. Knowles and Mrs. Morris, it is impossible to be otherwise than happy. Very poorly and retired to rest early; Mary Booth, an agreeable girl, was my companion.*

Friday, 31st. Poorly all day. Mrs. Knowles was so obliging as to read in the life of William Penn, an eminent Quaker, who suffered much from persecution, being imprisoned and cruelly treated on account of his religious views and practices. He bore all with fortitude; supported by the true spirit of Christianity, he overcame all difficulties.

Tuesday, November 4th. In tolerable health and spirits; have fainted but twice since Saturday. We had company to dinner. Friends, a new married couple! The more I see of these people, the more I admire them; they receive each other with such marks of sincere love and friendship that my heart partakes

* Mary Booth was afterwards the wife of John Fell.

in their apparent satisfaction. Spent the afternoon in serious conversation.

5th. Read part of the life of George Fox, and found myself interested in his sentiments, which appear to me noble and full of weight. I quit these kind friends to-morrow.

6th. Dined with Nancy Fry at her Father's, and slept in Ingram Court.

Friday, 7th. Very poorly; soon after breakfast my friend Bingham and a daughter of Mr. Powell's, called for me to go on board the vessel, but the Captain was unable to sail on account of the fog.

8th. We embarked on board the "Four Friends," Captain Merriton, accompanied by my brother Jasper. Our fellow-passengers appear tolerably agreeable.

11th. After a very tedious passage, landed at Boulogne, surrounded by a number of strange creatures; but my attention was fixed upon two delicate figures, dressed most fantastically, 'far beneath that creature man, who is so proud of being rational!' Their coats were blue and purple, and their hats covered with various coloured feathers; a delicate tincture of rouge, and an enormously large muff completed the whole. A polite Englishman stepped from amid the throng, and we willingly permitted him to conduct us to the 'Ville de Londres,' a poor, dirty inn compared with English houses. After dinner we walked in the town. I admire the dress of the tradespeople, which has an air of decent simplicity, but what appeared the most diverting and extraordinary was that all men and women, rich and poor, had each a muff; it was very droll to see a miserable creature in rags and wooden clogs, with a large muff.

12th. Between eight and nine o'clock, we were surprised by the entrance of an old dame, pale and meagre as an inhabitant of the grave, attended by two or three young girls. After our astonishment had a little subsided, and the ladies were seated, we took the liberty of enquiring from what cause proceeded the

honour of this early visit; which, in reality, gave us no satisfaction, as we were not dressed, having only left our beds a few minutes before. They, however, made no apology for throwing us into such consternation, but informed us that they were come for two young ladies, who came over with the intention of entering the Convent. Poor Nicholls and Powell did not seem over pleased with the appearance of their future companions; however they agreed to wait upon them after dinner; upon which they rose and took their leave.

A little after four o'clock, we attended our fellow-travellers to the Ursuline Convent, and delivered them into the hands of six nuns, who were dressed perfectly neat and plain. We were informed that the Pensioners rise at five o'clock all the year. To breakfast is not the custom of the country; but at ten o'clock, they dine upon soup, with a morsel of coarse beef, boiled to strings. This is served in a manner by no means elegant. After this frugal repast, they are occupied in studies till five o'clock. Their supper is roasted meat; with a salad, when the season permits. The hour of rest is seven. These particulars did not give my friend and me any strong desire to join them; and what weighs still more with us is, that we should be under the necessity of submitting to all their customs and superstitions. They have mostly fifteen prayers each day, which would be a burden to those who do not imagine that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Returned to our Auberge, and gave up all thoughts of entering a Convent.

13th. Are at a loss how to dispose of ourselves, as our Convent scheme is quite out of the question. My Brother has a letter from a friend in London to a Mrs. Thomas, which he is gone to deliver, and we wait the issue.—In half an hour after my brother's return, we received an invitation to drink tea with the lady. We found her alone; she received us with the politeness of a native, and assured us that she would do all in her power to serve us:

14th. Called on our friends in their prison, as it may justly be termed; we were only allowed to speak to them through an iron grate; poor Powell appeared dissatisfied with her situation, though she was obliged to put on her best looks, and to say that she liked it very well, as the governess who was with them understands English. We returned to the inn by the ramparts, which command an extensive view of the sea, and of distant hills, woods and villages. I observed a large crucifix, placed on an eminence in the middle of the town, and was informed that the people, on certain days, flock in great numbers, to offer their prayers before this figure. Surely this is a zealous blindness, which raises compassion in a thinking mind!

Just after dinner, as we were peaceably seated at work, in flew Mrs. Thomas, almost out of breath with impatience, to inform us that we were the luckiest girls in the world; that she had procured a place for us which could not be disagreeable, as the lady keeps a coach, lives in genteel style, &c. &c. all which she related in such haste that we scarcely knew what to think; but collecting a little presence of mind, we begged her to be seated, that we might talk the matter coolly over. To-morrow she will accompany us to Madame Brunet, the lady in question.

15th. Mrs. Thomas conducted us to one of the best looking houses in Boulogne, situated near the ramparts, in the High Town. We were introduced, by a smart footman, into a pretty parlour; and after a few minutes, Madame Brunet made her appearance, in a neat morning dress. I was much pleased with her, and we soon fixed upon terms. She was on the point of going to spend some time at her house in the country, and she said the coach should come to the inn for us, in the course of two hours. We have therefore settled all, and are in readiness.

Herdighen, *Sunday, 16th of November, 1776.* We had an exceedingly pleasant ride last night to this, the country residence of Monsieur Brunet; it is fifteen miles from Boulogne; the roads are good, being paved with broad flat stones. The noise of the

carriage in the court brought the whole family to the door. Bingham and I appeared like walking statues, as we understood not a word that was addressed to us. Madame Brunet speaks English, which will be a great relief to us. The family consists of Monsieur and Madame Brunet, Monsieur Dupont, a relation, (neither young nor handsome,) two lovely little girls, and a boy about twelve years old; they all look agreeable. After tea we went to choose our chambers; it is a large handsome house, with numberless apartments. We had a very genteel supper, of various dishes. The French are, in general, very early risers; I hope we shall follow this good example. This morning we were down stairs at half-past seven o'clock. Madame Brunet takes tea for breakfast, which is pleasant. The family went to Mass, about a mile distant. We had an elegant dinner; I admire some of the French customs, but cannot say I am enchanted with their manner of eating. In the afternoon we rode round the village; the situation is delightful; pleasing and extensive prospects, and woods and purling streams in abundance. There are two well-built houses near Monsieur Brunet's; one of them inhabited by a sister of Madame Brunet, so that Bingham and I pleased ourselves with the thoughts of having an agreeable neighbour; but we were informed that the families did not visit; for reasons best known to themselves! The other house belongs to a connexion of the same family; they, therefore, have dropped all acquaintance. How distressing it must be, to hearts that have ever known affection, to be thus at variance! On our return, we were astonished to see the card table set out; we were solicited to play but declined, and retired to our chamber, where we found much more real satisfaction.

17th. Spent the morning in studying the French Grammar, the afternoon in writing. Played at cards in the evening, which I am sorry to find is to be our general custom; it is a very irksome thing to me; but Mr. Brunet being extravagantly fond of it, I comply with his humour, much against my own. It is here looked upon as a necessary part of polite education.

20th. Monsieur Dupont took us to a manufactory just by, to see them blow glass; we were much entertained at the droll appearance of our gentleman, who was dressed in almost the shabbiest coat I ever saw, the tattered remains of a fine waistcoat, a bag wig, a very large muff, and to complete all, on the crown of his head, was a delicate little cap of white woollen cloth, edged with gold; to be sure, there never was a more laughable figure! I was fatigued, and so exhausted that I fainted on my return; the whole family were very kind.

21st. Rose early, quite recovered. Most tempestuous weather; many of the poor are great sufferers from the high winds, some of their habitations being laid level with the earth; indeed they are not calculated to stand against a storm, being made of nothing but a sort of clay and sticks; the lower sort of people live miserably in this country. They are in general very idle, and consequently very poor; and their religion rather encourages their natural antipathy to labour.

22nd. Fridays and Saturdays we have no flesh meat, which they pretend is a mortification of the body; but for my own part, I cannot consider it any merit to abstain from meat, when the whole art of cookery is exerted to prepare fish, roots, &c. in the nicest manner.

Sunday, 23rd. The whole family at Mass; as the road to their place of worship is too bad for the coach, my friend and I have not the opportunity of going with them. I know not whether I ought to regret this, as a great misfortune; for I should possibly be under the necessity of submitting to their ceremonies; at the same time I feel a longing desire to join in the assemblies of the faithful. From an idea of politeness, the family desisted from cards; but what was more disagreeable to us, as it prevented our retiring, an optic glass was produced, in order, as they said, to amuse us without wounding our consciences; but they know not our real sentiments. Madame Brunet gave us an entertaining description of one of her sisters, who is a lady of the bon ton; so

much so, that she would certainly die at the vulgar thought of living in the same house with her husband; her nerves are too delicate to endure the noise of drawing a cork from a bottle; a spider or any other poor innocent insect, produces violent agitation, and her time is spent in bed, in visiting, &c. With all these absurdities, Mrs. Brunet says she has fine abilities, great learning and very elegant accomplishments. How far more happy are those who have only bread to eat and raiment to put on, than this rich Extravagant, who torments herself with endeavouring to find happiness in the vanities of the world.

24th. I think I never heard the wind so high as last night; the window shutters made such a loud noise that Bingham and I imagined that the house was beset with robbers, who were firing guns; so we rose and called my Brother to protect us. He convinced us of the real cause of our alarm, so that we retired with courage. The rest of the family slept so soundly that they heard nothing.

I greatly admire the method by which Mrs. Brunet teaches her little girls to read. She has upwards of two thousand cards, upon each of which is written some sentence, or remarkable event in history; the children learn these, and it is done in so easy a manner that it appears more like play than instruction.

Wednesday, 26th. A great feast; the family at Mass. We walked out, but were glad to return, as it was insupportably cold; we found an excellent fire in our chamber, at which we enjoyed ourselves till dinner. Madame Brunet gave us some books to read, telling us she should think it a favour if we would conform to their custom of not working on their holidays. This is disagreeable, as they are numerous, and I cannot find that laziness promotes godliness. In the evening we played at cards. They frequently ask why it is not as great a crime to play at cards on a Monday as on a Sunday; to which I reply that the action itself is equally bad or good on all days; but we are taught that the Almighty said, 'Thou shalt keep holy the Sabbath day;' from

which we conclude that not only all manner of servile work is forbidden, but likewise all diversions and actions which render the mind incapable of prayer and meditation, for which we consider that day as more entirely set apart. They laugh at my reasoning, and tell me I should make an excellent preacher.

27th. Rose very unwell. Bingham is exceedingly kind and attentive; and nothing can exceed the tender affection of my dear brother Jasper. I think I can never be ungrateful to my indulgent friends.

28th. Much better. Mrs. Brunet's son and one of her brothers arrived.

December 2nd. A most delightful morning. Mrs. Brunet obligingly took us in the coach to a small village called Marquise, the curate of which is related to her. I was greatly prepossessed in his favour, by observing the extraordinary attention which he paid to his Father, who is very old and infirm.

3rd. Company to dinner; never was I so tired! I hope it is not customary to give many dinnerings; if it is, I must provide myself with a large stock of patience. I really seem to pick like a sparrow among eating creatures; four hours at table, eating all the time! The dinner I thought extravagantly profuse; served in three courses of nine or ten dishes each; and afterwards an elegant dessert; then coffee, and to conclude, a glass of liqueur. There were four priests present, and all the company ate and drank as if they thought that was the chief end for which they were born.

Sunday, the 6th. The morning alone in my chamber. Experienced a calm satisfaction which I would not exchange for all the world can give. We rode to Marquise, and drank tea with Monsieur le Curé; he invited us to dine on Sunday; I dread dinners! On Friday, my brother Jasper went to see my brother Charles, at Douay; when he returns, he purposes taking his leave of us. Madame Brunet is very desirous that one of her sons should accompany him to England. I know not what to

think of this proposal, as I cannot believe it would be convenient to have him in our numerous family.

14th. Monsieur Dupont informs us that there is a great talk of war; in short, I think we hear of little else than wars and rumours of wars. I know not when they will follow the advice of the apostles, and beat their swords into plough shares, &c.

15th. Very busy all the morning, as we purpose going to Boulogne, and of course, have put all our finery in order. Arrived about six, and found Monsieur Louis Brunet ready to receive us.

16th. The whole morning spent in giving orders to the mantua-maker, &c. At six we went to Madame Corancan's, where we staid till eight; these visits are, I find, the daily custom. The time is spent at cards. There was a large assemblage; among them Madame Joubert, accompanied by her two sons, the delicate little figures with whom we were so much amused on our first landing.

17th. Called at the Convent. Dined with Madame Routier, a relation of Madame Brunet. After dinner Madame Dupont, a sister of Madame Brunet came, accompanied by her daughter, a young girl apparently of my own age, of a pleasing figure, and most engaging countenance, with an air of freedom which I have not before seen in any of the French ladies. I feel an uncommon desire to be better acquainted with her, and have been informed that she goes very little into company, being a great lover of domestic employments, &c. My brother purposes setting out for London to-morrow, Mr. L. Brunet with him.

19th. Took a tender and affectionate leave of my dear brother. Spent the evening at Monsieur Dupont's. Mademoiselle appeared more pleasing than before, and I am impatient to understand French, that I may partake the pleasure of her conversation. Her manner of dressing pleases me much, there is something so simple in it; no dressing and frizzling of the hair! but it hangs in careless ringlets, as nature designed.

