

mutual tenderness, from our kind guide Richard Brown. The country now open and beautiful, but my thoughts were much with the inhabitants of the mountains. Reached Shrewsbury. Buildings and signs of opulence, very different from what we have left. Our minds in a low spot; though through condescending mercy, no railing accusation disturbed our measure of peace.

6th day. The few Friends met us here. Received letters."

Among these was one from Abigail Starbuck, of which the following is an extract.

"Milford, 10th of 10th month, 1794.

DEAR AND ESTEEMED FRIEND, MARY BEESLEY,

We have been anxious to hear how you get along, and we had the pleasure to hear from you by the Friends that visited this quarter; their concern was to strengthen what remained, and to endeavour to build up the waste places, and to encourage in us a diligent perseverance in the Truth. It appeared to me that their counsel and admonition was dropped in much caution and tenderness, and I hope it may be attended to by us all. Their visit was truly acceptable.

My dear friend, I feel myself much obliged to thee for thy tender counsel and advice to our son Samuel, and hope it may make lasting impression on his mind. It is my desire, for mine, that they may be enabled to make straight steps, having their eye single, to that which is able to preserve from the snares and temptations which may present; and as for us that are advanced in years, though we are far short of being as way-marks, it is my desire that we may so conduct ourselves as not to be stumbling-blocks; but that we may endeavour to press forward, though many times under a sense of our own weakness and unworthiness, feeling desires to unite with the living, and to be favoured to partake of the crumbs which fall from their tables.

Samuel desires gratefully to acknowledge thy kindness to him; and Daniel presents his dear love to both his beloved friends, he

was pleased to hear of their being at Llanidloes, and would be obliged by their opinion respecting the school."

"7th day. Set out for Coalbrookdale; good road and fine country; the Severn winds beautifully. Not a little gratified in meeting with our very kind friend, Richard Reynolds, his wife, and dear P. H. Gurney.

1st day, 11th. Sat the preparative and other meetings.

2nd day. Called at two schools, supported by the Dale Friends, for the instruction of poor children. It was pleasant to sit with the children, and to observe the care exercised toward them. We then walked to the Cottage, a quiet retreat: we were accompanied by dear P. H. Gurney, who has an apartment at the Cottage, for her own accommodation, furnished in simplicity.

4th day. Several Friends accompanied us to their Monthly Meeting, at Shrewsbury. A small gathering.

6th day. Came to the house of T. Waring, at Leominster. Our mare failing in strength, we judged it best to send her to Worcester, under the care of our attentive and constant guide, Thomas Goode, whom we also think it right to set at liberty to return home. We have to acknowledge his uniformly obliging care towards us, throughout our long journey.

7th day. Again set our faces toward the mountains, to attend an adjourned Monthly Meeting, at the Pales, in Radnorshire. William Young was so kind as to accompany us. Got to Rees Bowen's about dusk.

1st day, 18th. Agreeably surprised to see Richard Brown, who had come to meet us. Several sober people attended the meeting, to our satisfaction, and we hope in no way to their own hurt. At the meeting for discipline, most of the few members and their children were present, and we have some ground to think it was a favoured opportunity, to our encouragement. The hands of the very few rightly concerned Friends in these parts stand in need of strengthening, and the dear children of instruction.

20th. A beautiful day for our return to Leominster.

21st. At meeting. A weighty part of our concern remains to be accomplished; that of sitting in the families of Friends of this county.

23rd. Entered on the service; the company of our friend William Young is very acceptable to us.

24th. Simple obedience to apprehended requirings is no small exercise; but worthy is the Lord to be waited upon, and in humility obeyed!

29th. Came to meeting at Bromyard.

30th. A day of humiliation and poverty of spirit. Sat with the families; in the evening, favoured with a peaceful calm.

11th mo. 1st. Came to Thomas Pritchard's at Ross.

4th. A little favoured with that which tenders and contrites the hard heart; which is not at our command, but is very precious, and worth waiting for.

6th. Went ten miles to visit a family; very affecting was the situation of the man Friend; lamenting, in much contrition, time passed, with faculties abused; an awful lesson!

10th. Rode on horseback to Cowkerry, and sat with the family; this concludes the engagement here. My mind is in a low spot; but upon a retrospect, do not feel condemnation, but encouragement to continued prayer to the Father of mercies, that I may be a humble, patient believer, waiting at the footstool of Divine Grace.

11th. We have not felt at liberty to leave this place, to-morrow being the Monthly Meeting. If favoured with a little renewal of strength to our edification, we shall not murmur, though we feel it desirable to reach our journey's end.

12th. Sat the meetings under close exercise; we trust that our desires were honest, and the rest we must leave; but O! may the Father of mercies more and more manifest of his own wisdom and pure righteousness, in the secret of our hearts! and may we who profess the Truth, be humble, patient and faithful!

14th. Favoured at Worcester Meeting, with inward comfort and peace."

Soon after the conclusion of this journey, Mary Capper went to pay a visit to her brother Jasper, at Stoke Newington, during which she wrote as follows:—

" 1795, 1st month, 4th. 1st day.

As I rode this evening from London to Stoke Newington, it came under my consideration whether it might not be profitable to myself, or in some measure to the dear children with whom my lot is now cast, to take some written account of my daily thoughts and actions, with the most prevailing dispositions of my mind. It is under humiliating apprehensions that I enter upon this work, as I mean to be honest in the main, though I often think it a favour that we are not obliged to tell all we think; for strange is the motley throng of human thoughts!

This morning after walking to town with my Brother, Molly,* and the children, went to meeting, where our friend Thomas Scattergood was favoured, in gospel love and power, largely to minister instruction, consolation and encouragement to the devoted in heart; particularly to the young and rising generation; and I think that according to my measure, my desires were sincere and earnest that the dear children (some of whose minds I am persuaded are favoured with pious impressions,) may be rightly encouraged to hold on their way, in holy integrity.

In the afternoon, after some conflict of doubts and fears, I ventured to express a few words; whether under right influence I must leave to Him who judgeth in mercy: but for this sweet, consolatory word mercy, as a distinguishing attribute of our Creator and Redeemer, surely my heart would faint within me!

* Mary Whiting, afterwards Harding; for thirteen years the faithful and beloved nurse in J. C's family; and one to whom Mary Capper was much attached.

At the close of the day, while my Sister was reading the Scriptures, my mind was favoured with a little overflowing tenderness.

2nd day. I attended the Morning Meeting. I trust it was not an unprofitable season; it is not pleasant, but I believe it is well for us, to be sifted as wheat.

3rd day. Favoured with a renewed desire to walk in humility, simplicity and faithfulness, under which I felt affectionately united to the dear children, their beloved mother, &c.

The children went to their Grandfather's, and Elizabeth Fry, with her daughter Elizabeth, took tea here, I thought their company pleasant. In the evening my Brother read some chapters of the Bible to us, and my mind was comforted. In humble gratitude I may note that, during the greater part of this day, I have been, through adorable mercy favoured, with a secret hope of preservation, and desire after it; of myself nothing; but in mercy, not consumed!

4th day. Without much hesitation, left my bed soon after six. Had a gentle reproof from my niece Rebecca, for being too long in dressing; she seemed to think I had lost some time, which I might have employed in improving myself with her, in the French language; we read together before breakfast. Went to town; it was Monthly Meeting. Desirous that I may be favoured to distinguish the voice of the true Shepherd from the voice of the stranger, and that I may be made humble, willing and obedient.

5th day. In the Scripture reading and solemn pause, my mind was comforted. My Brother was so kind as to read us a little account of the method, pursued by himself and my Sister, in the instruction and education of their children. With some parts my mind was much affected, even to tears; and a language arose in my heart, O! that all parents were thus solidly concerned for the good of their offspring! As I look toward my other near and dear relatives who stand in this important station, and toward those who are unmarried, my desire is that genuine

religion, in its true spirit and power, may so work upon their minds as to open their understandings in the way that is right, and that will lead to peace, when the world, and all its gaudy, busy scenes, shall vanish as a dream.

6th day. Dear Rebecca shewed some disposition to self-will and ill-humour at her studies this morning; in the evening, in some tenderness of spirit, I mingled my tears with hers, I trust to our mutual comfort, and renewed encouragement to strive against the evil propensities of our nature, and to wrestle for the everlasting blessing. Experienced sweet reviving hope and faith, while my Brother read a portion of the prophecies of Habakkuk. Retired to rest in peace.

1st day, 11th. At meeting, my mind rather insensible to good, but kept alive in the secret hope and belief, that none ever sought the Lord in vain, though He is pleased at times to hide the light of his countenance from his waiting, dependent children. In simplicity, humility and faith is our safety.

3rd day. Still favoured with desires after preservation, and with some sense of my own weakness, and utter inability to help or save myself. Felt also a strong and affectionate desire for the best welfare of my near and very dear relatives.

5th day. After the usual reading, M. Whiting walked with me to Tottenham meeting. A little act of obedience to apprehended duty, in visiting a family under affliction, seems to have relieved my mind from some oppression; and the kindness of some friends was comforting to me. May the Fountain and Father of living mercies be pleased, in his own free grace, to preserve me, with all his little ones, in simplicity and in true lowliness, and in obedience to his own requirings; in condescending mercy, giving us to distinguish what is his holy will concerning us!

6th day. The first breathing of my spirit was after preservation from all evil, and that I might more fully know the Power that leads from every hurtful thing. In the afternoon the little girls and I visited some poor families, and had a degree of sweet

satisfaction in being empowered to give some relief. Great are the necessities of the poor at this day; added to the extreme severity of the weather; every article of food is at a high price; a quartern loaf is 1s. 5d.; much is done by subscription, to alleviate their sufferings, and much is wanted.

7th day. In my private cogitations, found self still alive, and that its branches shoot in all directions, and still want the pruning knife. One of the dear children a little untoward; but upon retiring to rest, after lying awhile upon the pillow, tenderness and contrition were granted. Precious are the evidences of a broken heart and contrite spirit; it is my joy to be permitted feelingly to participate.

19th. Second day. Another little girl added to my Sister's olive branches. My niece Rebecca, with her little sister Katharine, went to Plashett, with their Aunt Fry. The dear remaining children were as quiet as might be expected, but I felt myself a very poor substitute among them, and was rather uncomfortable. I endeavoured to fill my Sister's station, by attending to the little one's lessons. In the afternoon more at leisure, and enjoyed the respite; in the evening the subject of our reading was very affecting; relative to some of the grievous iniquities of the Slave Trade. O! how cruel is the human heart, when not changed by the power of God! I feel sad under the consideration.

6th day. The night was so intensely cold that I could scarcely sleep; what then must be the sufferings of the half-clothed and hungry poor!

A French lesson before breakfast; read afterwards in the Epistle to the Hebrews. The children, at their usual occupations, did not give much trouble, but my mind was anxious and not comfortable. I seemed to wish for more ability to instruct the young mind, and felt myself very ignorant in divers useful things. I thought it would be pleasant to be learned, without the trouble of learning; as in a higher concern, it is desirable to be humble, but who is there that likes to be humbled?

25th. First day. Walked to town; on our way there and back, my nephew Samuel and I called upon some poor families, and gave a little, through the bounty of a Friend in London. The long continued severity of the weather calls for consideration of the poor. The river is so frozen that the bargemen cannot follow their usual occupation. Coals are three shillings per bushel, and I am told that some of the poor buy them by the quart. Thermometer twenty-one degrees below the freezing point.

A warm desire has been raised in my heart, on my own account, that I may both be preserved from offering the sacrifice of fools, and from keeping back what may be compared to the small tithes, when they are really required at my hands. O! for a right spirit, and a discerning judgment!

28th. The meeting proved a time of conflict. Surely our spiritual enemies are lively! Still I have hope in the promises. The Redeemer of men is my Captain and my Saviour. O! may my spirit cleave unto him, then will my soul be kept from the jaws of the devourer. Elizabeth Fry took me back to Newington. In the evening my mind was not in a desirable state. I spoke to my niece Rebecca in a wrong manner; which upon cool reflection, I was made willing to acknowledge and condemn. O! the humiliations which fallen nature stands in need of.

29th. Surely our Heavenly Father deals graciously with us, when He discovers to us our insufficiency, our weakness and our dependent state! During the morning's reading and retirement, my spirit was raised in desire to follow our spiritual Joshua, that I may witness all the polluted inhabitants to be destroyed; and I wished the dear children might be fed with the sincere milk of the word, and grow thereby, so as to become valiant in resisting evil.

31st. A dawn of fresh comfort this morning, and the day passed in more tranquillity than some preceding ones. It seems probable that my Sister may soon be restored to her important station in the family. May she grow in spiritual strength!

2nd month, 1st. First day. Mild but gloomy morning. We

walked to town; the meetings were dull. If the great Lord and Master shine not in upon our souls, how is our brightness obscured! yet though he tarry, let us wait for Him. I dined with Elizabeth Bevington, and lodged with A. Christy. In the evening we had a time of retirement, in which I felt a glow of desire that the dear young people might press through every discouragement, and follow their spiritual Leader. And O, gracious Saviour! preserve and lead me also; that while I apprehend it right to speak unto others, I myself become not a castaway.

3rd day. Our usual engagements gone through with calmness. M. Whiting and I visited several poor, and relieved their wants, through the bounty of others; to our gratification and their comfort. Coals and provisions still advancing in price, and many are thrown out of work by the frost.

5th day. My nephew Samuel accompanied me to distribute to the sick and distressed; afterwards I sat in my Sister's room; she, with her infant daughter Mary, is finely. In the evening, as I was sitting by the bed-side of one of the dear children, and reflecting on the prevailing disposition of my mind during the day, I was favoured with brokenness in the recollection that hasty and impatient expressions had escaped my lips, to my own hurt and that of this dear child, who gently, and with becoming diffidence, became my instructor. Sweet and very precious is such a monitor, and my desire is that I may really profit.

6th day. 'The word of the Lord is quick and powerful;' a reprover of evil, discerning and manifesting the thoughts; and I have believed it no small favour to be made sensible of such a secret Power. This morning, the dear children not quite so well disposed for application as at some times; but who is uniformly disposed toward good? There is need of patience, both with ourselves and others.

12th. Very severely cold. At the morning reading and retirement, a little secret hope arose, that the power and mercy of

our Heavenly Father was extended toward us. My Sister went through some of the children's lessons; they also studied with their master. A liberal and guarded education, under the eye of judicious and well informed parents or teachers, appears to me no small privilege, where the young mind is preserved from imbibing false ideas, and is instructed as to the different nature of things, with a foundation of useful knowledge, instead of that superficial learning which puffs up, and does not profit. Rebecca and I visited some poor families, and had the comfort of finding them in improved circumstances.

23rd. Second day. The Morning Meeting was a time of solemnity and instruction. Dined at Joseph Smith's, with T. Scattergood and William Crotch. Called on a sick Friend and was comforted. The frost seems again broken up; dreadful have been the accounts of floods in various parts, and complicated are the distresses of many.

3rd day. My Brother far from well.

5th day. In the night he was much worse, and our distress was great, yet something of resignation was felt; my dear Brother expressed that if the time of separation was come, he had nothing to depend on but mercy; and indeed I believed that, had he then breathed his last, he would have been received into the arms of condescending Mercy. He has been very weak to-day, though in a favoured, tender frame of spirit. If we dare desire, it is for his restoration; nevertheless resignation is our lesson, and may the great Master give us ability to learn, Himself being our Teacher.

6th day. My beloved Brother is much better, and it appears likely that he may be spared a little longer, to fill the important stations of husband and father; which is no small favour. I think my spirit craves for him, as for my own soul, that we may find a Redeemer's love and mercy, to strengthen and sustain, in every succeeding combat with flesh and blood, which can never enter the kingdom of rest and peace. My purpose of

leaving this family, so as to be at my own Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham, brings me into a strait; nor have I yet fully determined.

7th day. My Brother continues to improve. In the evening we were favoured with a little quiet waiting in his chamber; wherein my mind was affected with a sense of our Heavenly Father's love, and gracious design, in handing the cup of affliction. My dear Rebecca was particularly brought near to my best feelings, and some remarks, made in our little private retirement together, affected me; surely the dear child is under the preparing, purifying Hand! May all the dear children be preserved from everything that can harm them!

3rd mo. 1st. London, First day. I have this day thought it matters little what we suffer, if it have but a tendency to stay our minds upon God. The two little girls and I rode to town; there was much snow. In the evening we had a time of retirement. It is our design to stop a day or two with my Brother and Sister in Martin's Lane, as I still think of returning to Birmingham soon.

3rd day. The weather still cold and gloomy. I attended Devonshire House Meeting; a solid opportunity. My dear little girls rather too much dissipated, to the hurt, as I thought, of their own peace, and to my dissatisfaction.

4th 3rd mo. Fourth day. We attended Gracechurch Street Monthly Meeting. Went to see my dear brother Jasper, and were comforted to find him better. I think I feel desires for our growth in the Truth, and establishment therein. In the prospect of leaving, I may add, that my visit has been some help, strength and encouragement, to my feeble mind."

Extract of a letter from Jasper Capper to Mary Capper.

"Stoke Newington, 10th of 3rd mo. 1795.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I feel inclined to write to thee, though at present, I see but

one sentence before me; which is, that since our separation, the little sittings we were favoured to have during thy visit, have returned with savour to my recollection; and some words then dropped have seemed to yield secret nourishment; particularly those recommending us not to look for great manifestations, but to keep little and low. I have been, many times of late, made prisoner under the cruel hands of Giant Despair, that is, so far as Doubting Castle; yet through mercy, not given over into his power. Now and then a dawn of hope revives my soul; and having no other refuge but mercy, through Jesus Christ, who 'came into the world to save sinners,' I endeavour to hold fast this confidence."

No further memoranda occur till the summer of next year.

"Birmingham, 1796. *6th mo. 21st.* Returned to my lodgings, after having been absent two months or more, in which time I have visited, agreeably and I hope not unprofitably to myself, some of my friends, attended the Yearly Meeting, and staid some time with my brother Jasper's family; setting my Brother and Sister at liberty to make a little excursion among their friends and relations in Wiltshire, &c.

27th. Called at Bingley, and saw our suffering friend P. Farmer, who appears near her end; long and trying has been her bodily affliction, and exemplary her patience, through the aid of that Divine power that helpeth our infirmities.

7th mo. 3rd. I have spent a few days agreeably with T. and E. Biddle. My mind is under an increasing weight of concern, in the prospect of joining some Friends, in a religious visit to the families of our monthly meeting.

7th. An Evening Meeting was held, at the request of William Savery, from America.

8th. Our conflicting friend, P. Farmer, was released. Dined at Samuel Baker's, with William Savery, with whom I felt a

sweet fellowship. Secretly and earnestly engaged in desire for preservation; and if it be meet, enlargement in thy law, O! my Heavenly Father.

13th. Laid before the Monthly Meeting my prospect of joining in a religious visit to the families of Friends.

14th. We proceeded in the visit, and are encouraged to go forward in the strength granted; not looking to ourselves. John Southall and Mary Beesley are my companions.

9th mo. 6th. Concluded the family visit. I have little to say, but have a humble hope that mercy will yet be extended to myself, a poor unworthy servant.

3rd mo. 5th, 1797. Our valued friend John Southall was removed by death. I look back with comfort to his simple, humble dedication; and I have also felt a little consolation in having accompanied him last summer in the visit to the families of this Monthly Meeting.

22nd. Our friends Ruth Fallows and John Cash sat our meeting; examples of silent retirement in spirit.

25th. Ruth Fallows left us. I wish instructively to remember her quiet example under suffering.

5th month 12th. Having heard of the death of our much valued friend Hannah Burgess, I think to set out for Leicester to-morrow, in order to be at the interment at Oakham, and to proceed to the Yearly Meeting.

13th. Reached Leicester, and was kindly helped forward by John Priestman, to Ridlington Park, a house of solemn mourning. John Cash and William and Henry Tuke, attended the burial.

London. The Yearly Meeting was well attended, and in some of its sittings, much solemnity was to be felt; to some of us it was a very humbling time, but perhaps not unprofitable. George Dillwyn, David Sands and William Savery gave a satisfactory account of a religious visit which they had paid in some parts of Germany and France. Mary Beesley left London soon

after the close of the Yearly Meeting, but my mind seemed, from the little I could feel, still bound to London. I have attended various meetings, and hope I have from time to time been instructed and strengthened to hold on; in the renewed belief that it is good to wait, and quietly to hope, and to be patient, when we are tried and sifted as wheat.

After some consideration, I thought I might be doing my Brother and Sister a kindness by staying with their family, and setting them at liberty to attend the General Meeting at Ackworth, &c. They were absent six weeks.

9th mo. 2nd. I left Stoke Newington and came to Hertford. Went to Special West's, in his little cart; found them in pretty good health, and in more comfortable outward circumstances than formerly. I believe their concern for the welfare and prosperity of Zion and her travellers, is still alive and daily cherished.

6th. A certificate was brought in to the Monthly Meeting for signature, expressive of unity with Mary Pryor, in her concern to visit some parts of America.

8th. Concluded it best to proceed homeward, having for some time had a view of accompanying Mary Beesley in a visit to some of the meetings of Friends in Worcestershire and Herefordshire; with which I had acquainted my friends. John Fry was so kind as to bring me to Luton, in Bedfordshire. I was very kindly received, entertained, and I may add comforted, at the house of Daniel Brown; their son took me to Dunstable.

11th. Came home by coach; 'tis pleasant to return in safety: for this favour I am thankful.

13th. At the Monthly Meeting, spread my prospect before my friends, with a sincere desire to have their judgment and feeling, and to submit thereunto.

25th. Quarterly Meeting at Leicester. Some monies were entrusted to Women Friends for distribution. It is a right