

true mothers among them, and agreeable young people, so that the Preparative Meeting is held to some satisfaction. We lodged at our friend Jeffrey Bevington's, and were very kindly cared for by his wife, who is not only an affectionate, attentive nurse to her infirm, afflicted husband, but also ready and willing to entertain strangers.

After partaking of the refreshment of the table, and through favour, of spiritual refreshment together, we considered it safest for us, in order to find peace, to sit with the other families of Friends.

*9th mo. 3rd.* Were at the Week-day Meeting at Shipston; sat with several families, and with some in the station of servants, not professing with us; for we sometimes feel bound, in Christian love, to speak a word of counsel, warning or encouragement, as it may arise in our hearts, to those of other denominations; well knowing that mere outward distinctions are nothing.

*5th.* We went, to the meeting at Eatington. Retired to rest under some feelings of discouragement, with many a fear lest, through us, the cause of Truth should suffer, or any honest mind be hurt.

*6th.* Visited a family and expressed what seemed to be given us, amid considerable interruptions. Sometimes the hope is raised, that although some visits of this nature may be painful, with little sense of good being present, yet, if of the Great Master's ordering, they may return into remembrance, at a future day. Before we left the house of our valuable friend J. Bevington, we felt a concern to ask his judgment on the propriety of our sitting with his servants and workpeople; after a little deliberation, it was encouraged, and the way made easy; no harm, we humbly hope, ensued, and our minds were at liberty to return to Tredington.

*7th. First day.* Sarah Lamley accompanied us to Brails, where the neighbours were invited to meet us, and a considerable

number came; we may thankfully acknowledge that something better than ourselves was felt to gather our minds into a sweet stillness; and the people were, in the ability afforded, recommended to seek the substance of religion. Went to an evening meeting, at Long Compton; on the way, took tea with a family, where to our humbling admiration, we received renewed capacity to offer counsel, in a feeling sense of secret help. The meeting was large, quiet and orderly; and may be remembered as a time of favour.

*8th.* A very stormy morning; when the rain abated we set out, with our steady friend Thomas Harris, and usual equipage; viz. a little cart and a blue blanket to keep off the wet; and we reached Chipping Norton in time for the Monthly Meeting. Dined at William Atkins', and called on some friends. A feeling of sadness covered our minds, under which it seemed best to keep quiet, and not to strain our eyes, as in the dark, to discover the cause.

*9th.* Sarah Lamley met us at Stow, where we attended a marriage; several came in, particularly some young people, and it was a serious time. The young couple had been recently received into our Society; we dined with them at the young man's father's; a humble habitation, but we were afresh convinced that there is no respect of persons with the Almighty Dispenser of good unto the souls of men.

*10th.* Came to Burford, and sat the meeting on the 11th, which did not fully relieve our minds, so we ventured to consult our friends on the propriety of inviting some of the neighbours, particularly the labouring people and servants, to meet us. We were encouraged to do what we might find to be required, and to-morrow evening was fixed for the meeting.

*12th.* Had a meeting with Friends at Witney, and returned to Burford. William Crotch and a Friend from Cirencester, on their way to Oxford, having heard of the meeting, and seeing us just as we reached the town, turned about and sat the meeting,

which was helpful and encouraging to us. The gathering was very large, and many stood without; their behaviour was very quiet and orderly, and a sweet, solemn covering crowned the whole, under which we separated.

13<sup>th</sup>. William Crotch went with us to Chipping Norton; we dined together at W. A.'s, and parted with renewed desire for the good one of another.

14<sup>th</sup>. *First day*. William Gillett kindly came from Brails, to help us forward, on horseback, to Sibford. We sat both the meetings there, and were enabled to exhort to watchfulness, and to a real engagement of heart to follow those things which make for peace. In many places, there seems too much resting in the mere profession of religion.

15<sup>th</sup>. Came to a meeting at Adderbury. Very kindly we were received at Thomas Wycherley's; both he and his wife are frequently afflicted with illness, and their minds seemed to be kept low and tender. We had a very comfortable night's rest, very sweet was the quiet we felt.

17<sup>th</sup>. We kept within doors at Banbury, on account of a tumult having arisen about the high price of provisions.

23<sup>rd</sup>. Select Quarterly Meeting at Leicester; we had the acceptable company of Elizabeth Coggeshall, who exhorted us to renewed searching of heart. The Quarterly Meeting next day, a low season.

26<sup>th</sup>. This morning, had unexpectedly to utter the language of tender exhortation, to a young man just recovering from a dangerous illness; his behaviour was serious and respectful. We afterwards learned that he is a Roman Catholic.

29<sup>th</sup>. Sarah Burgess and some men Friends accompanied us to Oakham, where we had a meeting with Friends.

30<sup>th</sup>. Came to our quiet quarters at Leicester, where we were again received with encouraging cheerfulness. Sometimes it seems as if the mind would sink too low, if it were not for the continued kindness of our friends.

10<sup>th</sup> mo. 1<sup>st</sup>. At the meeting here. Spent some hours with an old acquaintance in an enfeebled state of health; I hope the time was not unprofitably passed, though nothing more than social conversation and secret well-wishing transpired.

6<sup>th</sup>. Visited the prisoners in the County Jail, in company with some of our friends. After dining with our kind friend Sarah Heaford, we went to Daniel Woodland's at Narboro', he having kindly undertaken to help us on our way to Sutton, where we propose to have a meeting.

7<sup>th</sup>. A large and serious gathering at Sutton; the people behaved well, and we humbly hope it was not a profitless time. We trust that some instruction has been gained by us, under the various exercises in this our journey; wherein some unexpected occurrences and detentions have called afresh for dedication, and the resignation of our will. We went to Sutton and back, on horseback, being each provided with a good horse and steady rider, a sight somewhat unusual in this day; five horses, each double-mounted!

9<sup>th</sup>. Returned to Leicester, and attended the Monthly Meeting. Afterwards had a religious opportunity with some friends, in which love and tenderness were felt, as well as much sympathy with many now under affliction, from sickness, &c.

13<sup>th</sup>. Reached Birmingham; it felt very pleasant to return, with peace and thankfulness in our hearts.

18<sup>th</sup>. This day's post conveyed the mournful tidings of the death of our valued friend Joseph Beesley, at Bath. I purpose accompanying my dear Mary Beesley to Worcester, as she is now stripped of all her near connexions.

11<sup>th</sup> mo. 11<sup>th</sup>. Once more returned to my pleasant home. Public distress is great; flour and bread at a very high price.

24<sup>th</sup>. Flour is now six shillings per peck.

12<sup>th</sup> mo. 9<sup>th</sup>. At our Meeting of Ministers and Elders, we were a little encouraged by the company and communication

of our dear friends Mary Ridgway and Susanna Appleby, though the spiritual life seems low.

10th. At our Monthly Meeting our dear friend M. Ridgway, was led to lament our poor, low state, as to spiritual vigour.

17th. Felt thankful for a quiet retreat, unembarrassed with perplexing cares.

1801. 3rd mo. 8th. Ann Alexander and Martha Brewster were at our meetings, which were both silent.

9th. Spent part of the day with A. A. and M. B. at Samuel Lloyds. They seem under considerable trial, in the prospect of visiting families here. Having heard that Thomas Shillitoe has a similar view, they wait his arrival.

12th. This morning our friends commenced the visit, and sat with us. We had a solemn pause of silence, which was truly refreshing. We then were exhorted to become as children; and in nothingness of self, daily to look unto the Lord, that our own wills might become fully subjected. And surely my heart is, at this time, truly desirous that it may be so, a hard strife is at seasons witnessed there.

28th. Sarah Lamley spent part of the day here, to my help and instruction. O! the good Shepherd continues to be merciful.

30th. Thomas Shillitoe and the other friends called here, and I spent some time with them. They have now finished their arduous engagement here. Parting with those who, with meekness and patience, have laboured among us, is not joyous.

4th mo. 12th. First day. Thomas Shillitoe laboured, with earnestness, in both meetings, to direct the minds, of the young people especially, to fear God, and to take heed to the thing which is right.

5th mo. Mary Beesley and I went to the Yearly Meeting. At that for ministers and elders, Sarah Stephenson, in a weighty manner, opened her concern to visit America; and Mary Jefferies, in much humility, expressed her belief that it was her

duty to accompany her. The Women's Yearly Meeting concluded several days before the Men's; they had much important business before them. We went to Hertford, and from thence, with Special West and his wife, in their little cart. Very pleasant it was to enjoy the sweet, fresh air of the country, in peaceful simplicity, with dear, valued friends, long known and loved; and whom I do still love, their integrity not having failed, through a long course of years, and many close and bitter trials. Their latter days seem blessed with a more plentiful supply of things needful for the body than when I first became acquainted with them; and I thought I could partake of the blessings, with grateful acknowledgment to the gracious Giver of all our comforts. We staid with these friends some days, attended Hertford meeting, and came to lodge at John Fry's, where we were treated with great kindness. During a time of religious retirement in this family; a poor wanderer, from the fold of true peace, came in, and sat down with us. My dear friend Mary Beesley was led particularly to address this unhappy young man, in a very affecting manner. The call was renewedly extended to him, to return unto his Heavenly Father's house, and the stony heart was made capable of feeling, so that great tenderness was evinced.

6th mo. 25th. Arrived together, once again, at my quiet, desirable home, and found the friend of the house, Mary Hands, in a feeble state.

28th. First day. The first meeting held in silence. I renewedly believe that there is a Power altogether sufficient to instruct the waiting mind, without a word being spoken.

29th. My dear friend left me. We were favoured to separate under a renewal of tender affection one for the other, which is very precious.

8th mo. 17th. Our dear friend Mary Hands was released; her patience was remarkable to the last.

21st. Under solemn feeling, the last office was performed;

nothing like sorrowing without hope, though the silent tear was shed, to the memory of one who was most loved by those who best knew her hidden worth.

10th mo. 3rd. Mary Beesley, who came to me lately, accompanied me to Samuel Lloyd's, to see Ann Byrd and Hannah Stephenson. The long-wished for news, of a treaty of peace with France, was this day announced.

4th. A cold, wet morning, and our meeting very small; little difficulties should not keep us from assembling together. We stand in need of having our spiritual strength often renewed.

12th mo. 6th. First day. Our morning gathering larger than sometimes; to some of us it was an exercising silence, though perhaps not unprofitable. It is close work, at times, to be resigned to learn in silence.

25th. Expect to go to Worcester to-morrow; the prospect rather gloomy, it being uncertain where I may settle, as Cornelius Hands intends to give up housekeeping.

## CHAPTER VI.

MARRIAGE OF HER FRIEND MARY BEESLEY IN 1803.—REMOVAL INTO MONMOUTHSHIRE, &c.—DEATH OF JAMES LEWIS, 1810.

1802. 3rd mo. 10th. At our Monthly Meeting obtained leave to unite with Mary Beesley, and Ann Pumphrey in visiting the families of Friends at Worcester, &c.

28th. We entered on the visit.

4th mo. 4th. First day. Our valued friend Timothy Bevington, with difficulty got to the Morning Meeting, and was strengthened, when there, to deliver an instructive exhortation, in a very tender and affecting manner. His health is now so precarious that it seems doubtful whether he may again be able to meet his friends, in their religious gatherings; but his earnest desire that all may strive to enter in at the strait gate, may be profitably remembered, when his voice shall be no more heard. In the evening, refreshed and encouraged by the renewed belief, that our Heavenly Father binds the poor of the flock, the children of the family, together in sweet union of spirit.

9th. Dined at John Burlingham's; were earnestly engaged in mind, and had to express our desire, for the welfare of parents and children; four sons and five daughters being present. Returned home in the evening, after our various engagements, wearied in body, but mercifully permitted to experience a measure of that peaceful poverty, which is more precious than the increase of corn, wine or oil.

18th. First day. Our morning gathering, after a season of close inward wrestling, was favoured with a measure of that life which is the crown of all our religious assemblies.