

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.



19<sup>th</sup>. The engagement nearly accomplished, and we may say, with lowly thankfulness, that our minds have been renewed in love towards our fellow travellers in the Christian race. We endeavoured to labour faithfully, in the ability afforded; some seasons of favour were granted, in which we not only felt "good will to men," but could also ascribe "Glory to God in the highest!"

24<sup>th</sup>. This afternoon died our valued friend and nursing father in the Church, Timothy Bevington.

5<sup>th</sup> mo. 10<sup>th</sup>. I returned to Birmingham, still finding accommodation at my agreeable lodgings.

After attending the Yearly Meeting, and spending some time with my dear connexions near London, I came to Worcester, with the view of proceeding in our religious visit.

6<sup>th</sup> mo. 30<sup>th</sup>. We came to Alcester, and sat in the families.

7<sup>th</sup> mo. 1<sup>st</sup>. Before we left, we sat in one family, in which the visit was not so comfortably accomplished as we could have desired; in consequence of a little circumstance having arisen, from which our minds suffered, and were brought into bondage. O! the great need of circumspection and watchfulness!

5<sup>th</sup>. Returned to Worcester, after sitting in the families of Evesham meeting; we met with some painful things. Unless the great Master be heard and obeyed, the servants seem unable to lend a hand of help.

6<sup>th</sup>. Our kind guide and companion, Richard Burlingham, Jun. conducted us to Ross, where we attended the Quarterly Meeting for Ministers and Elders.

7<sup>th</sup>. The Quarterly Meeting was a time of renewed mercy. Afterwards visited the families.

8<sup>th</sup> mo. 5<sup>th</sup>. Came to Bromyard. Our minds are often brought into sorrow, apprehending the pure life of religion to have gained but little ground; the cares of this life, with other deceitful things, seem to choke the good seed. O! for ourselves and others, that we may increase in faith and obedience,

with a willingness to suffer, when the cause of Truth suffers; or when called upon, to step forward in the performance of any duty.

8<sup>th</sup>. *First day*. A considerable number of the inhabitants came, by invitation to the afternoon meeting; it proved an open time for communication, and we were thankful, afterwards, to feel at liberty to return home. We reached Mary Beesley's in the evening; and through condescending favour, experienced a sweet, peaceful, stillness; so that we could say it amply compensated for all our trials. O! the kindness and long-suffering mercy of our gracious Creator. How He allures us to serve Him! and to obey all his requirings.

For a time, we did sweetly enjoy our quiet, but our minds were soon brought into thoughtfulness. A Friend from South Wales, James Lewis, having made a proposal of marriage to Mary Beesley. The subject remains under her consideration, and brings much weight with it, being a matter of great importance.

9<sup>th</sup> mo. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Took leave of my endeared friend; endeared by often suffering together, and being helped, by that which far surpasses all the efforts of self; and which, in seasons of true humiliation, unites fellow-believers in closer bonds than those of natural affection. The fellowship of suffering is a mystery to the natural understanding of the creature, but I believe opens lessons of true wisdom to the resigned, dedicated followers of a crucified Redeemer; though we feel ourselves very children in this living way, cast up for the ransomed to walk in.

I again came to John Dearman's, to have the oversight of the little flock, in the absence of their parents. J. D. is at Buxton, in a languid state of health. This afternoon had the affecting account of the death of Charlotte Phelps, at the house of her father, Sampson Lloyd. She was a beautiful young creature, married last eleventh month; her husband never had the satisfaction of taking her home.

7<sup>th</sup>. The remains were interred; many were present, and a



solid meeting was afterwards held. Deborah Darby, Christiana Hustler and her daughter, were with us.

9<sup>th</sup>. I had the privilege of accompanying Deborah Darby in her consoling, encouraging visits to several sick and tried friends. This service, when rightly engaged in, has often appeared to me to be the sweetest portion of the Christian's commission; to comfort the mourners, and to direct the feeble-minded where to look for a renewal of strength.

15<sup>th</sup>. In meeting, my faith was renewed that they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; and although experience confirms the truth, that in this world, we shall have trouble, still peace is yet to be found in the Lord.

17<sup>th</sup>. I account it a favour to be again permitted to return to my old, quiet apartments, at C. Hands's, after an absence of several months, in the course of which time I have seen many changes, and distressing occurrences, with perplexities and dismay. Ah! I have thought, without a humble hope, through faith and obedience, of inheriting the promises, what a vast, howling wilderness is this world! how tossed and troubled on every side! but the simple, obedient children of the one Lord, are not long left in a state of sorrowful disquietude; some sweet, calming influence is graciously permitted, to revive the drooping faith, and to fix the hopes on a better and more enduring portion.

9<sup>th</sup> mo. 19<sup>th</sup>. *First day*. Our meetings unusually large. We had the company of Thomas Speakman, Edward Simkins, Mary Beesley and Joseph G. and Mary Bevan; some of whom ministered to our instruction and encouragement.

10<sup>th</sup> mo. 14<sup>th</sup>. Went, with James Lewis, to his house at Trostant, near Pontypool; the house is under repair, and the roads being very dirty, with gloomy weather, conspire to render the situation, in its present state, rather unpleasant. The company and assistance of Mary Pumphrey were particularly acceptable to me. Some substantial privileges are to be found, yet

many things are wanting, for neatness and convenience, according to our ideas. There is a good new meeting-house, very near; the number of Friends is but small; yet sometimes, both in and out of meetings, I have thought there was that to be felt which strengthens to put our trust in the mercies of a gracious Creator, whose care is over all his creatures, however remotely situated; and this consideration sweetly cheers the solitary scene, and supports through the trials of each succeeding day.

11<sup>th</sup> mo. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mary Pumphrey and I took an affectionate leave of the family, both master and servants having manifested great kindness to us.

12<sup>th</sup> mo. 8<sup>th</sup>. At our Monthly Meeting I obtained leave to unite with my friend Mary Beesley in some religious service at Warwick, &c.

13<sup>th</sup>. We went together to Tredington, where we had the satisfaction of finding our valuable friend Sarah Lamley restored in good health, to her family, after an absence of several months, on a religious visit to Friends in and about London, accompanied by Ann Ashby. It was very pleasant to find S. L. serene and peaceful.

In the course of this engagement, we held meetings at Shipston and Easington, where we visited the widow Martha Bevington, and were refreshed by observing her calm resignation. We attended Warwick meeting, and had the inhabitants invited to one, which proved a large and solemn gathering. We also sat with about sixty workpeople and children in the cotton mill, and we visited the prisoners in the Jail. After attending the Quarterly Meeting we came to Birmingham.

1803. 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 9<sup>th</sup>. *First day*. A sweet, inward silence prevailed, both in and out of meeting, for the greater part of this day.

12<sup>th</sup>. Our Monthly Meeting. A measure of true retirement of spirit is yet graciously granted, in which I feel refreshed, and encouraged to persevere, through trying times.



14<sup>th</sup>. In feeling of very tender affection, wrote to my brother Jasper, from whom I have received a kind letter.

16<sup>th</sup>. *First day*. Deborah Darby is here on religious service; she appears much worn down in body, but animated for the cause of religion. Mary Lloyd is her companion.

19<sup>th</sup>. Received an account, while at Worcester, of the death of the wife of my dear brother John Capper."

"TO SARAH LYNES.

Worcester, 2<sup>nd</sup> mo. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1803.

DEAR SARAH,

Day after day thou hast been brought to my remembrance, with very tender love; and a favour I esteem it to be capable of this one mark of discipleship; I am thankful that sometimes I can believe that I have fellowship with the living; and as I apprehend, in some measure of this I now salute thee. Since my coming here, I have had the satisfaction to peruse thy letter to Ann Pumphrey; it was very sweet. I oft remember thee, and it is exceedingly pleasant to my mind; I may say to our minds, including Mary Beesley and our dear Ann Pumphrey, for we often speak of thee together. Thy being excused from some painful exposures,\* though possibly it may be but for a season, that thou mayst recover strength, seems to us a present privilege; although thou hast found, and doubtless, in faithful dedication ever wilt find, help sufficient for the day; yet nature shrinks at such a bitter cup, and we cannot but fear the things we may suffer; at least until nature is overcome by Grace.

Thou hast perhaps heard from Ann Pumphrey or her husband; they both look rather care-worn; yet dear Ann's

\* Alluding to Sarah Lynes having before had publicly to address the market people in many places.

precious gift sometimes breaks through all, in renewed brightness. But, my dear friend! is not this a day wherein the true ministers have rather to mourn in silence than to proclaim glad tidings! It seems much the case here. Great changes are likely to take place; that of our dear Mary Beesley, thou wilt believe, comes close to me. Very sincere has been her desire to move rightly. It is proposed to solemnize the marriage in the 5<sup>th</sup> month.

In assured affection,

M. C.

1803. 3<sup>rd</sup> mo. 6<sup>th</sup>. *First day*. We had the company at meeting, of our aged, honourable friend, Mary Ridgway, and her companion Susanna Appleby. Mary Ridgway was enabled to bear testimony to the excellence of Gospel Truth.

24<sup>th</sup>. Mary Beesley and I went to Warwick, and visited a young man in the Jail, then returned to Birmingham, and the poor young man's mother supped with us at Richard Cadbury's. Mary Beesley had to address her in a very solemn manner.

25<sup>th</sup>. We came to Worcester.

28<sup>th</sup>. Mary Beesley had a letter from Hannah Evans, of Warwick, informing us that the young man had been sentenced to five months imprisonment, instead of losing his life, as he expected.

29<sup>th</sup>. Mary Beesley received a very interesting letter from the prisoner, expressive of his thankfulness for the unexpected mercy. The business of this day was gone through under a very precious calm; my dear friends declared their intention of marriage; also Edmund Darby and Lucy Burlingham.

4<sup>th</sup> mo. 10<sup>th</sup>. In a large assembly, much favoured with solemn quiet, my much loved friend entered into the engagement of marriage with James Lewis, under a sense of Divine approbation. She was afterwards enabled, in a very calm manner, to address the assembly. Edmund Darby, of Coalbrookdale,



and his friend, entered into a similar engagement, in the same place. All things were conducted with much order and seriousness. We had the company of David Sands, John Abbott, and Deborah Darby.

13<sup>th</sup>. At meeting we had the company of Sarah Lynes, and it was a time of favour, wherein our minds experienced some preparation for setting out to attend the Yearly Meeting.

15<sup>th</sup>. *First day*. Attended the meeting at Wycombe, the number of Friends but small. We did not sit among them without feeling, and we ventured to express our solicitude that we might all become what we ought to be, and not deceive ourselves or others. The afternoon meeting was rather remarkable, and I think may be remembered at a future day. Came on to Uxbridge, to our kind friends Ann Crowley and Sisters.

16<sup>th</sup>. Reached London in time for the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders. There was mercifully, a renewed sense of awful solemnity; and some communications dropped like dew upon the tender grass, to the reviving of the drooping mind. Our friend Ann Alexander informed us that a concern had long been weightily on her mind, to pay a religious visit in some parts of America, &c. which concern was united with.

17<sup>th</sup>. Thomas Shillitoe, in a very humble manner, opened a concern to make a religious visit to Holland, Germany, &c. It was agreed to take up the consideration at a future sitting, and the dear friend appeared to leave the result, with much calmness.

26<sup>th</sup>. The business which has come before the Women's Meeting, has been solidly attended to, and some very instructive counsel given. We separated, after having experienced, in silence, that which satisfies the waiting, dependent soul.

27<sup>th</sup>. The concern of Thomas Shillitoe was again brought forward, and he was liberated for his journey on the Continent. Robert Fowler brought in the certificates of our late friend Sarah Stephenson, and of her companion Mary Jefferies;

the latter, in allusion to the death of our much valued friend during their travels in America, acknowledged the gracious support which had been granted her, under the trial.

John Hall returned his certificate for visiting America, which he had been enabled to do, to his own relief. After a silent pause, we separated in tenderness of spirit.

6<sup>th</sup> mo. 1<sup>st</sup>. Came to Isleworth, where we visited Sarah Lynes.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Reached Worcester.

21<sup>st</sup>. It was not without some inward struggle that we left Worcester; having proved our friends, and found them kind, it seemed trying to go and dwell among strangers, in almost a strange place.

23<sup>rd</sup>. Reached Trosnant. The house in tolerable order, though the workmen have not finished.

7<sup>th</sup> mo. 1<sup>st</sup>. Mary Lewis has some serious thoughts of attending the Quarterly Meetings for Herefordshire and Worcestershire at Stourbridge. The consideration seems important, not only on account of the distance, but of leaving the family, after being so short a time at home.

3<sup>rd</sup>. *First day*. Some of the neighbours came in and sat our meeting very seriously; there was a very quiet covering over us, which seemed to stay the mind. In the evening the family met together, and a little refreshment of spirit was felt. After farther deliberation it was concluded that Mary Lewis and I should go to the Quarterly Meeting.

9<sup>th</sup>. We were favoured to return in safety and in peace.

13<sup>th</sup>. The Monthly Meeting held here, was attended by nearly all its members; five men, five women and a lad!

22<sup>nd</sup>. Our endeared friends Deborah Darby and Rebecca Byrd arrived on a religious visit.

24<sup>th</sup>. *First day*. The inhabitants were invited to our meeting in the evening. The Baptist Teacher, a kind neighbour, had proposed giving notice to his congregation, and it was a large gathering. At first it was favoured with solemnity; but



as the people were unaccustomed to silent waiting, several withdrew after something had been expressed, so that the concluding part of the meeting was not so precious as often is the case, when we meet and separate under the sweet, uniting influence of a silent sense of the love of God, raising in our breasts, love to Him and one unto another. It renewedly appeared to me, as I sat in this gathering, a very serious thing to be rightly and truly interested for the salvation of souls.

*8th mo. 2nd.* Sarah Beesley came. This evening the few Ministers and Elders met; no meeting of this kind has been held here of late; the revival of this practice felt to me very satisfactory.

*3rd.* The Monthly Meeting was held here; nine women and six men. Mary Lewis spread before them a prospect of making a religious visit in Hampshire, Devonshire and Somersetshire. My mind was not a little affected with the consideration of accompanying her, but I felt very fearful, and reluctant to say anything on the subject.

*6th.* This morning, after much solicitude to do right, I ventured to address a few lines to my own Monthly Meeting.

*10th.* James Lewis is in much pain from an accident, which has wounded his leg; no skilful surgeon being within reach, we feel perplexed.

*14th.* We sent for a doctor from Newport; his opinion is relieving, though the case is likely to be tedious.

*20th.* I was informed that the few lines which I sent were presented to the Monthly Meeting, but not recorded, as the meeting was very small. This is satisfactory, under our present circumstances, which are trying to us all. The prospect of leaving home is rendered very uncertain, by James Lewis's illness. Mary Sterry and her companion arrived.

*27th.* As James Lewis seems gradually to mend, I think of returning to Birmingham for a time.

*9th mo. 2nd.* Arrived at Birmingham, and was very kindly received at Richard Cadbury's.

*5th.* It is pleasant to be kindly received by my friends, but I feel the privation of accommodation, that I could call my own; yet I know not that I could adopt any plan of settlement at present; and my earnest desire is to be so engaged, whether in one place or another, as to find peace, at the conclusion of time.

*14th.* Our Monthly Meeting granted me a certificate for the proposed journey; also addressed to Friends in Monmouthshire, where I wish to pass some time. My mind is now more settled in a quiet hope that we may not have done wrong, however the present prospect may terminate.

*16th.* Had the gratification of spending a few hours with Sarah Grubb, late Lynes, now married to John Grubb, of Ireland, where she is going to reside.

*10th mo. 3rd.* Went to Worcester.

*4th.* Proceeded to Leominster, where I met James and Mary Lewis, to my satisfaction.

*6th.* We had a large public meeting at Ludlow.

*10th.* Visited the families of Friends in Leominster, &c. and came this day to Ross.

1804. *3rd mo. 5th.* I had a protracted confinement, by a dangerous illness, at the house of our kind friend Thomas Pritchard, of Ross. I seemed nigh unto death; but was affectionately cared for by Dr. Lewis, Sarah Waring, Mary Lewis, and my sister Tibbatts. I was, at length, once more raised up, and came with my dear friend Mary Lewis to Trosnant, where I have received every kindness and attention, and am restored to a good degree of strength, so that I purpose going to the Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham.

*12th.* Arrived at Samuel Lloyd's.

*14th.* At the Monthly Meeting, a sweet covering spread over my mind, under which I was led to consider my late suffering



and weak state as a merciful dispensation, wherein I had been tenderly dealt with; and whereby I was in measure fitted more fully to feel with my fellow-creatures.

18th. *First day.* My mind was strengthened: and my lips were opened, to encourage the youth among us to seek after the knowledge of God, and his power revealed in the inward parts.

21st. A letter from London brings the long-expected information of the death of my poor brother-in-law John Tibbatts.

26th. Mary Lewis came here, from Coalbrookdale, where she had been to visit our valued friend Deborah Darby, who is in affliction, and in a precarious state of health.

4th mo. 2nd. We came to Worcester.

3rd. To our agreeable surprise, our dear friend Deborah Darby, came here, with Susanna Appleby; their company was very refreshing. I have again been unwell, and my voice has much failed me; but, with thankfulness, I may remark that my mind is kept quiet and contented. Susanna Appleby gave us an account of the sweet and peaceful close of our beloved friend Mary Ridgway.

9th. We arrived at Trosnant, and had the satisfaction to find James Lewis well; I yet remain nearly mute.

10th. My mind is tendered, under a lively sense of my heavenly Father's mercies, of which I largely partake. Such tender friends! such care and abundant accommodations, in a time of long-continued weakness, far exceed what I have any right to expect, or could have contrived for myself.

17th. My dear friend Mary Lewis has been prevailed on to leave me, and to set out, with her husband, for the half year's meeting at Brecon; they travel in company with Joseph Clark and his wife, and Ann Metford. These friends have been a few days with us, I believe to mutual satisfaction; their little visits to me, in my chamber, were much so to me. My voice has not yet returned.

20th. Mary Lewis came back; and Joseph Cloud and R. Gilkes arrived.

29th. Our friends were at the meeting in the morning; in the afternoon, in condescension to my weak state, Friends met in our parlour. Joseph Cloud was led to speak very clearly upon the one essential baptism which now saves. Although my powers of utterance are yet sealed up, my heart was tendered and my spirit contrited; and I could secretly assent to what was declared of the power whereby the soul is redeemed from sin.

30th. Our friend Joseph Cloud, having made one of our little family-circle for some time, it felt like parting from a beloved relation, on his taking leave this morning for London.

5th mo. 13th. *First day.* I went to meeting, for the first time, since I left Birmingham; my health being improved, though I can only speak in a whisper. Dr. Lewis recommends a change of air and electricity. I consider it a great favour that I can be calm and cheerful; my situation, with my kind, affectionate friends here, being all that I can wish.

6th mo. 10th. I have almost recovered my voice in the last two days.

9th mo. 25th. Mary Lewis and I went to Warwick.

28th. Came to William Fowler's, Alder Mills; took tea with the aged Mother, a very valuable friend, who lives surrounded by her children and grandchildren; a lovely train of the latter, twenty-six in number.

29th. We breakfasted at Joseph Fowler's, and afterwards all the families were collected together, and we endeavoured to feel after that holy Power which can direct aright. Reached Birmingham, and had the satisfaction to meet James Lewis, whose company was truly acceptable.

10th mo. 2nd. James and Mary Lewis went home; I believe we mutually felt the separation, after so long a season of uniting intercourse; but it is no small favour to part under the sweet influence of heart-tendering affection; in unity of spirit and