

peace of mind; no friendship of the world is like this! which I trust will yet bind us together, though outwardly apart. My allotment is still uncertain; the kindness of my friends supplies me with present accommodation.

7th. First day. The morning meeting was large, and I thought favoured with the overshadowing of that invisible Power which would gather the mind from the lo! heres, and lo! theres, and stay the thoughts and wandering imaginations, bringing all into captivity. I was thankful to feel this, but a fear possessed my mind, in respect of some, that there was too great an anxiety after worldly possessions. It is possible to pursue lawful things too eagerly; so as to be unfitted for higher and more noble attainments. It is a good thing, and becoming our Christian profession, to be content with such outward gain as may enable us to procure things convenient for us, without the appearance of grandeur or superfluity.

8th. Heard of the death of our valued friend Richard Dearman, of Coalbrookdale; his son and wife went there last Seventh day, and did not find him more than usually indisposed, but the next morning he was found a corpse in his bed!

18th. Set out for London.

21st. First day. My Brother and Sister, &c. met me in town; my dear niece Rebecca looks well, but thoughtful, on the near approach of her marriage.

24th. The marriage company met. A very solemn feeling was experienced in the meeting, and our friend Mary Pryor spoke in a sweet, feeling, and encouraging manner. The day was passed pleasantly at Stoke Newington.

31st. Went to meeting, with my mind in a low state, yet favoured with a degree of resignation, and inwardly desiring to be more fully what my gracious Creator would have me to be. My brother John and Joseph Gurney Bevan dined with us. Spent some hours with a sick friend, who encouraged and instructed me, when I was younger in years, and distressed in

mind. I believe it was mutually pleasant to meet, and recall to mind the mercies of our Heavenly Father toward us.

11th mo. 8th. Mary Harding, who once lived in this family, and was ever affectionately kind to me, spent the day with us, which brought past days into pleasant remembrance.

19th. Had a letter from my dear friend Mary Lewis, with an affecting account of her husband's declining health, so that I am in a strait what to do.

12th mo. 16th. First day. As I continue to receive distressing intelligence from Trosnant, I intend to go to my dear friends in their troubles; at least to partake, if I cannot alleviate.

19th. Accompanied my brother William to visit some of our old acquaintance, whom it was pleasant to find comfortably settled, and serious in their lives and conversation.

20th. Snow and cold deter me from undertaking my journey.

1805. 1st mo. 9th. William Jackson was at the Monthly Meeting, and was engaged to set forth, in a heart-tendering manner, the glory, honour and peace awaiting every faithful soul.

17th. Called at John Eliot's, took leave of several of my friends, and feel rather mournful. My sister Anne Capper, my brother William, &c. spent the evening with us.

18th. We parted under more than usually tender feelings.

19th. Came to Thomas Pritchard's, Ross, and found, to my surprise, that James and Mary Lewis had arrived at Wm. Dew's.

27th. First day. At both meetings. In the evening, the family came together to hear the Scriptures. These are often times of refreshment and instruction to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

29th. We left our kind friend Thomas Pritchard and family under feelings of tender and serious solicitude for their welfare. We rode pleasantly to Usk. Found all well at Trosnant.

2nd mo. 3rd. First day. The meetings were held in silence, but some of our minds were secretly engaged in desire that our ways might be ordered of the Lord. In the evening, when

gathered to read the Scriptures, during our silent waiting on God, a feeling of awful seriousness spread over us, and tendered our spirits, so that we all wept; and in brokenness, it was acknowledged that there surely is encouragement to believe, and under all trials humbly to trust, in the Lord. It was a time of renewed favour, and ability was granted to return vocal thanks to the Giver of all our mercies.

16th. We came to Mellingriffith, Glamorganshire, on a visit to John Harford and his Sister. The ride is through a pleasant, romantic country, and the house is delightfully situated, on rising ground, with the River Taff running, with a fine serpentine sweep, for nearly twenty miles, along the valley below.

17th. *First day.* The little gathering was owned by a sense that the Divine Presence is not confined to the many.

20th. Mary Lewis went, with J. and E. Harford, about twenty miles, to seek out one or two poor wanderers, and to endeavour to draw them within the fold, that they may find rest unto their souls.

22nd. We returned to Trosnant.

3rd mo. 6th. A solemn stillness overspread us, at our small meeting. In seasons of inward instruction, the mind often earnestly desires that all professors of Christianity would embrace every opportunity of waiting for that wisdom which is pure and comes from above. They who will be taught of the Lord must wait upon Him.

22nd. Came to Worcester.

24th. *First day.* I was at both meetings. Sarah Beesley kindly accommodates me, with lodging, &c. I have gratefully to acknowledge the repeated kindness of Friends toward me, wherever my lot has been cast; and this I mention as one of the many favours granted by a merciful Lord, whom it is my heart's desire to obey; also to serve his cause upon earth, with the best ability which I have, though it be but small; yet a little faith, and faithfulness with it, is a precious thing.

25th. Came to Birmingham, where I found comfortable accommodations, with my own goods in nice order, prepared for me, at Thomas Shorthouse's, Great Charles Street; also kind friends ready to receive me, and to provide for me all things needful, upon reasonable terms. Can I be too grateful, under a sense of the blessings of which I am permitted to partake! How long I may be stationary I know not; but I only desire to be here, or anywhere, just so long as is best for me; and I did not leave Pontipool without mature deliberation.

28th. I walked to see a Friend who has been very ill. He expressed his intention, if restored to health, never more to pursue business with his former ardour, so as to leave no time for more important concerns. A poor youth dined with us, who seems nearly gone in a decline. I hope he was sensible of his true condition.*

4th mo. 10th. At our Monthly Meeting at Tamworth, it was the exercise of my mind, that the lawful cares and concerns of the present life may not be unlawfully pursued. I dined at John Fowler's, Alder Mills, who is just recovering from a paralytic seizure; a man in the prime of life, with a young family, thus warned to be prepared for eternity!

14th. *First day.* The afternoon meeting more lively than the morning. 'The life is the light of men,' and the crown of our religious assemblies.

21st. *First day.* Our morning meeting was very fully attended, and there was a sense of mercy being continued to us, with some renewed ability to minister; and to point out the difference between the dispensations of the Law and the Gospel; with a heart-felt desire that we might be so wise as to avail ourselves of the glorious privileges of Grace and Truth, brought to light by Jesus Christ.

22nd. Deborah Darby and Rebecca Byrd came to Samuel

*This young man died soon after; I understood that his last words were, 'All is lost, but Jesus!'

Lloyd's. I called on them, and found them under a weighty concern to visit the families of Friends in this place.

5th mo. 4th. Received the visit of our dear friends, which was particularly reviving and consolatory to me, having been in a low state.

8th. Felt encouraged, at our Monthly Meeting, to request leave to unite with Mary Lewis in some religious service, on our return from the approaching Yearly Meeting. Our dear friends, who have been labouring among us, imparted sweet counsel, and Deborah Darby was enabled mightily to petition for the different descriptions present.

12th. First day. This morning we had the company and labours of Rachel Fowler. Christ crucified, a suffering, dying Saviour, was preached, as being incomprehensible to the natural man, and still a stumbling-block to the uncircumcised in heart, and foolishness to the seemingly wise reasoner; but unto them that believe, the power of God unto salvation. The afternoon meeting was held in a profitable silence.

London, 19th. At Gracechurch Street Meeting, I experienced that soul satisfying silence which no language can describe.

20th. Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders. Much impressive counsel was handed to us.

22nd. The Women's Yearly Meeting. A large and settled gathering.

25th. We received an instructive visit from William Jackson, and some other Men Friends. Much was said to recommend retrenchment, which was summed up, in a few words, by J. G. Bevan, before they left the meeting, as follows:—'Friends! the way is narrow; contraction, not expansion, is the watchword! Much concurring advice was afterwards expressed by Women Friends; perhaps there has rarely been a time when more solicitude has been manifested for the help and preservation of our youth; that they may believe in Jesus, and bow to his cross, in

the subjection of their own will, and in a life of self-denial; contrary to the false liberty which seeks to lay waste all Christian discipline.

26th. First day. At Gracechurch Street Meeting, an impressive exhortation went forth to the rich, that they trust not in uncertain possessions, neither be high-minded, but trust in the living God. At Ratcliff in the evening, Christ crucified was set forth as the Redeemer of man.

30th. After vocal supplication and a solemn pause, the concluding minute of the Women's Meeting was read, and we separated.

31st. The Meeting of Ministers and Elders met, granted a returning certificate to William Jackson; and having concluded its affairs, separated under a covering of that silence which precludes expression.

Arrived at Birmingham on the 24th of 6th mo.

30th. First day. Our meetings both silent; I thought that something was to be felt, excelling words; my own mind was bowed in sweet, inward stillness; with a precious, renewed sense that the spirit of the Lord teaches, in the secret of the soul, more powerfully than any vocal sound, communicated to the outward ear.

7th mo. 1st. A large meeting at the interment of John Hawker. This day week he told me that he was in no pain; only waiting the Lord's time.

3rd. Some of the Yearly Meeting's Committee at our Monthly Meeting. A very interesting conference took place, which probably will not soon be forgotten.

11th mo. 12th. Reached Trosnant.

24th. First day. The meetings silent; yet not without a sense that the Father of Spirits instructs his children Himself.

26th. James Lewis having long had a desire to take a journey into Brecknock and Radnorshire, and his wife not being well

enough to go, I set out with him. The roads were in fine order; the sun shone gloriously, and the country looked beautiful, though disrobed of its summer mantle.

28th. We accomplished our purpose of visiting our long-afflicted friend, Job Thomas; who, many years ago, had a fall from his horse, whereby he was so greatly injured that he has since been in an affectingly crippled state. The distance from our inn at Llandovery is about six miles; we forded the Towy, and reached our friend's house about ten o'clock in the morning; his wife received us with hearty demonstrations of pleasure, though she can speak but little English. We were soon introduced to her husband, who is an affecting object; having no use of any of his limbs, and his body being much wasted by long-continued, and as he said often inexpressible pains, endured for nine years. Truly it is marvellous how the poor frame has been sustained, and the mind favoured with a daily renewal of faith, to believe that an Almighty hand is still underneath.

30th. Came to Joan Bowen's.

12th mo. 1st. *First day.* At meeting, that substantial good which refreshes the waiting mind, was measurably spread over us, under which my faith was strengthened in the persuasion that our gracious heavenly Father is nigh unto all those who diligently seek him, however they may be placed, even if in lonely, dreary spots, separated from the cheering society of their fellow-believers. A little snow fell.

2nd. A bright frosty morning. The snow had nearly vanished, and the surrounding hills, mostly covered with smooth green turf, with the sheep grazing on them in large flocks, formed a sweet scene of simplicity. We walked out to make a call, when a company of sportsmen and dogs appeared, eagerly scouting about, to hunt a poor hare from its retreat. This seemed like a breach of that sweet harmony and peace into which the creation might be brought, were the hearts of men thoroughly redeemed.

We had some difficult walking before we reached John Owen's house; he and his wife received us kindly; they have lately joined our Society.

4th. We set out for home, after taking a tender leave of our friends, who have been affectionately kind to us; and the secret exercise of my mind has been, that nothing in my conduct should stumble or discourage the simple and honest-hearted, from earnestly seeking, and following on to know, the perfect way of God's salvation. Our dear friend Joan Bowen seems as a tender Mother, in this dreary part of the heritage; and she has been wonderfully supported in her lonely situation.

6th. We were favoured to reach home well; and a pleasant meeting it was.

8th. *First day.* Our little gathering was, I thought, particularly favoured with solemnity. The spirit of supplication, as vocally testified through Mary Lewis, was very sweetly vouchsafed; and it proved a time of renewal of faith and of hope. The afternoon meeting was held in silence and seriousness.

19th. Received intelligence of the alarming illness of dear Ann Pumphrey.

21st. An affecting letter informs us that she was not likely to live long, but sweetly enabled to resign all. Dear Ann, we loved her much, and believe that, through many tribulations, she has been fitted for an entrance into rest, holding fast her integrity to the end.

23rd. This morning brought the mournful intelligence of dear Ann Pumphrey's death, on the twenty-first. Mary Lewis set out with me.

24th. We reached Worcester, and were kindly received by our friend Elizabeth Whitehead. I called at the house of mourning, and found a group of weeping friends, though there seems abundant cause to rejoice for the deceased, her triumph over death being glorious, for the sting was taken away.

25th. A solid meeting at the interment.

31st. At the Select Quarterly Meeting; now but a little band. Last First-day morning, soon after he sat down in meeting, R Hudson, of Stourbridge, was very awfully summoned away by death. The concluding events of this year are very affecting. We had, at this small meeting, the acceptable company of our valued friend Deborah Darby.

1806. 1st mo. 1st. The Quarterly Meeting was a solemn time, and we were afresh counselled to serve the Lord with full purpose of heart.

2nd. We accompanied Deborah Darby to visit the prisoners in the County Jail; it was an affecting season.

6th. We were favoured to reach Trosnant safely.

22nd. I thought I suffered loss in our religious gathering this morning, from having been engaged in writing until the very time of going to the meeting.

26th. First day. Much snow, and small meetings. Our evening reading and silent waiting attended with brokenness of spirit.

3rd mo. 14th. Preparing to leave my friends for a time; separation always seems a serious thing. Mary Lewis thinks of accompanying me to Birmingham.

19th. We came to Thomas Pritchard's, Ross.

20th. As we were about to leave, we were much affected by hearing, from Imm Trusted, that his eldest son, a blooming youth of seventeen, had died after an illness of only two days. This solemn event caused us to ponder how far it might be best for us to proceed; which however we concluded to do, after a time of waiting, in solidity and tenderness.

22nd. I was received with much kindness at my agreeable home in Birmingham, and have abundant cause for gratitude.

25th. Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders; the committee and many strangers present. A very heart-searching time.

30th. First day. Thomas Bigg, from Swansea, was at our meetings; his deportment, and his weighty communications in few words, were encouraging and strengthening to us.

4th mo. 1st. My beloved friend Mary Lewis having left me, I feel low and stripped; we often suffer when together, and when separated, an affectionate union seems to bind us in a tender fellowship.

8th. Some weight of inward distress has, at various times, pressed upon my mind, relating to some individuals, engaged in a trade which seems to me connected with a source manifestly inconsistent with the principle of purity. I have been in some measure, relieved by one individual opening the subject, on his own account. I have also, after serious deliberation, sought and found a suitable opportunity of speaking, in simplicity and in great tenderness, to a young man just entering upon a branch of business which seems to me very objectionable, and contrary to our Christian principle. I was treated with much civility, and heard with attention; but alas! interest and false reasoning are strong barriers.

London, 5th mo. 19th. Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders. Solemnity was mercifully spread over us as a canopy, and vocal prayer was offered. Our aged friend John Kendall earnestly recommended the reading of the Scriptures daily in families; not to satisfy ourselves with perusing them privately, as individuals, but to collect the servants, &c. that all may partake. In the evening the precious gift of prayer was again vocally exercised, and we parted in solemn quiet.

21st. The Women's Yearly Meeting opened. After a solemn pause, prayer was offered, before the business commenced. Much stillness prevailed.

26th. Some memorials of deceased friends were read, and some lively testimonies were borne to the efficacy of that Grace which carries the humble dependent Christian believer safely through life, and which is his support in death.

27th. Several Epistles addressed to distant Yearly Meetings were read; many seasonable remarks were made, and after much deliberation and some alterations, the epistles were ordered

to receive date and signature. It was profitable patiently and attentively to observe the mutual condescension, in so large a gathering, to the expressed judgment one of another.

30th. Our meeting separated after a very solemn pause. On Seventh day evening the Meeting of Ministers and Elders held the concluding sitting; a favoured time, which ended in a stillness that excluded and exceeded all words.

I was afterwards confined, for many weeks, with great weakness of body and the loss of my voice."

During this time of prostration, she wrote as follows, to her affectionate friend Elizabeth Cadbury.

"Stoke Newington, 7th mo. 1806.

DEAR FRIEND,

Very grateful has been thy kind sympathy. My long detention in town, with my weak, low state, has been trying; and the continued loss of my voice sometimes brings my mind into a deep and awful consideration, how far I have at any time abused or misused the privilege of speech. My low times, I trust, are not altogether unprofitable, and at seasons I am favoured with much quietness and resignation; with a thankful disposition of mind, tenderly grateful for the unmerited favours received, and particularly, the kindness manifested toward me, in these times of reduction. At my brother John's I have been nursed with much affection, and wanted for nothing that liberality could devise. Dr. Sims attended me daily, and I am now greatly restored and gaining strength. Yesterday I came here for change of air; the family is, at present, large; but as there is a spacious house, I can always retire to a quiet room. To-day they are gone to Plashett. I am a poor cipher among them; but in contemplating my weakness, I esteem it no small favour

that I am excused from much active duty, in the busy scenes of life; though I think I have learned to feel tenderly for those who are called into the arduous, important station of mothers and heads of families. O! how these must sometimes be sensible of their cares and burdens, their responsibility, and their insufficiency, without divine aid. How often must the heart of these be moved within them; and how frequent their secret supplication at the throne of mercy! The soul-sustaining Grace of our heavenly Father cheers and helps such, to take courage, and humbly to seek for daily supplies of pure Wisdom, that they may order their ways aright.

Accept my affectionate good will, flowing to you and your tender children.

MARY CAPPER."

"When I was sufficiently restored to travel, Mary Harding accompanied me to Trosnant, where I was, as usual, well cared for, and am stronger, though yet subject to fluctuations. These I also observe in my dear friends. James Lewis is in a very debilitated state; but we have some seasons of sweet consolation, and spiritual refreshment; and are encouraged not to faint in time of trouble."

The two succeeding letters contain some account of the illness and death of Mary Knowles.

JASPER CAPPER TO HIS SISTER MARY CAPPER.

"Stoke Newington, 1st mo. 22nd, 1807.

MY DEAR SISTER MARY,

I have been, during a portion of this day, employed in lending perhaps the last little help, it may ever be in my power to

render, to our dear friend Mary Knowles. To-day she was too ill to be seen by me; but not many weeks since, I passed a short time with her, which seemed to revive all that tender affection that we felt for each other in years past, and which, it was pleasant to feel all the intervening billows, of a troubled and troublesome world, had not been able to overwhelm or quench. Yesterday, my dear wife was with her; she is sensible of there being but a step between her and death. The prospect is awful; but she appears tender and resigned, and has been greatly comforted by a visit from John Eliot and Robert Howard. Our kind sister Capper is indeed her good neighbour; I might almost say, nurse; for she has been at hand and ready to afford her personal aid, as well as her valuable company.

The attention of Mary Knowles's son has been very commendable.

Thy affectionate brother,
JASPER CAPPER."

ANNE CAPPER TO MARY CAPPER.

"Paradise Row, 2nd mo. 9th, 1807.

MY DEAR SISTER,

Doubtless thou hast heard of the death of our poor dear Mary Knowles. She was closely tried, until near her end, by not being able to feel the presence of Him, whom she sought ability to pray to and to worship; and upon whom she very frequently called for forgiveness. O! how lightly she esteemed all her accomplishments; 'what,' as she said, 'the world calls accomplishments.' She said to my Sister and me, 'I repent in dust and ashes!' I saw her the day before her departure, when she appeared very desirous to feel an assurance of acceptance. Turning toward me, and taking my hand, she said, 'I commend

you all to God. Possess Him, possess Him, if you can, whatever becomes of me! I hope I shall not be a cast-away for ever! I believe I shall not.' She was quiet when I left her. Early in the morning the nurse heard her say, 'Lord help me to pray; I cannot of myself;' these were her last words. I trust she found forgiveness and everlasting mercy, for Jesus sake."

"1807. 4th mo. We attended the General Meeting at Brecon, which was a time of instruction. I afterwards accompanied John Harford and his Sisters, on a visit to Job Thomas; we found him in a state of more bodily ease than sometimes, and remarkably animated and instructive in conversation; we were some hours very pleasantly with him. Since this time it has pleased the gracious Disposer of life and death to release him from an afflicted body. The remembrance of our visit is sweet. From his house we went to Swansea, where I passed a little time very satisfactorily with Thomas and Mary Bigg; also at Neath. After a sojourn at Trosnant, I came to Birmingham, in the ninth month.

10th mo. 14th. I informed the Monthly Meeting that I expect to winter in Monmouthshire. This I mentioned for my own satisfaction, as I have ever been desirous, not to act contrary to the judgment of my friends."

JOSEPH GURNEY BEVAN TO MARY CAPPER.

"Catherine Hill, near Worcester, 10th mo. 21st, 1807.

DEAR MARY,

We finished our visit to this Quarterly Meeting yesterday evening. As to myself, I am leaving this little piece of service nearly as poor as I entered on it, so that thy letter, which I