

we be more, and yet more, favoured with joy and peace in believing, is the prayer of thy Sister,

MARY CAPPER."

To R. AND E. C.

"Worcester, 4th mo. 27th, 1818.

MY VERY DEAR FRIENDS,

I don't know how I can sufficiently prize the privilege of having your kind regard, and the love of your dear children, which is as a cordial in my advancing days. I think I shall return on sixth day; I am aware that I shall then have but a very short time to rest before my journey to London, should my health continue equal to the undertaking.

Dear Jesse is, I hope, better; I believe he has learned from the best of teachers, the Spirit of Christ manifested in his heart, that it is good for us to suffer cheerfully, when pain or affliction is brought upon us. Please to express my tender love to him, and tell him that I remember, when I was young, that I was often sick, and my high spirits were brought low; and now I am increased in age, I am very sensible that these dispensations were blessings to me; as they gradually led me to think upon my Creator, and that there is a heaven where purified spirits live for ever. Dear Jesse, I believe, often thinks of this, and herein I trust we have sweet fellowship one with the other, though we do not often express it in words, and we may be personally separated; but there is a precious union of spirits, sweeter to my mind than worldly possessions.

MARY CAPPER."

"5th mo. 18th. Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders. Some

of the old standard bearers still remain. Wm. Tuke, lively and zealous for good order and discipline. Wm. Grover, Wm. Allen, and Dykes Alexander at the table. Hannah Field, in a very humble, simple manner, informed us that she believed the time was drawing near for her return to her native land; she spoke very modestly of her labours, but said, that for the encouragement of others, she could thankfully acknowledge, that she had been helped and sustained in all her difficulties and trials; with tenderness of spirit, she also mentioned the affectionate regard and kindness which she had everywhere received.

19th. A particular solemnity seemed to spread over us, when William Rickman, of Rochester, in a humble, affecting manner, laid before us a concern for visiting some parts of North America, for which service he was liberated, after weighty deliberation.

20th. The Women's Yearly Meeting, gathered in remarkable stillness. The meeting at large is much helped by the business being conducted with propriety, and so as to be clearly heard; a prevailing quietness contributing greatly to the advantage of the whole. A memorial was read concerning Special West; it was very interesting to observe how heavenly goodness followed him through life, and crowned him in death.

22nd. A very large gathering, and again favoured with a settled stillness. We are greatly privileged with a clerk and assistants, fully competent to their important office. A testimony concerning Martha Routh was read. Much excellent counsel was given.

24th. First day. At Gracechurch Street Meeting, the christian doctrine of true self-denial was remarkably held up to view; viz. 'Art thou slothful? deny thyself! Art thou covetous? deny thyself! Art thou hasty in thy temper, and prone to speak what may pain others, and wound thy own soul? Deny thyself!' &c.

25th. A very impressive testimony was read, respecting Rebecca

Bevan. After having endeavoured to fill the stations of child, wife and mother, with scrupulous propriety, she had no anchor of hope but in the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, in the love and righteousness of her Redeemer; and here her faith was ultimately both strong and animating; so that we, who loved her much, have abundant cause to rejoice in the belief, that all is well with her. She was thirty-four years old. As she attended the last Yearly Meeting, the circumstance of her early death seemed striking to many; Hannah Field particularly alluded to the solicitude which she then expressed for the guarded education of children.

26th. A testimony concerning dear Sarah Hustler was read. Some beautiful and impressive truths were declared, and encouragement was expressed to such as were cast down.

27th. A recommendation was given to avoid providing more than is needful for the table, on First days, that servants might not be unnecessarily engaged. A desire seemed to prevail that we may all be fervent in spirit, and alive to a sense of the condescending goodness of our Heavenly Father.

29th. Our Yearly Meeting closed, under the favoured covering of a solemn silence, which no description can fully convey to those who have never known its power. No words can so fully calm and satisfy the soul!"

TO R. AND E. C.

"Stoke Newington, 7th mo. 6th, 1818.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Your continued kindness towards me, raises a very grateful feeling in my mind. I have considered myself largely indebted to dear S. her watchful attentions are not forgotten. I have moved about but little, as I yet remain weak and unequal to those exertions which I see others so actively get through.

Indolence does not seem to beset me, and I desire to move in the path appointed to me; sometimes I think it amounts to very little active service. I have spent some very pleasant time with my dear brother Jasper; some days we have been much alone. I hope our religious experience has in degree increased with our years, and that now, in our declining days, we are strongly united in a bond that cannot be broken by the power of the grave. Our hope, our confidence is anchored upon the Lord of life and glory. O! this is precious, and calls for the deepest sense, and the acknowledgment, of condescending goodness and mercy toward the children of men.

Affectionately,

MARY CAPPER."

TO THE SAME.

"London, 9th mo. 18th, 1818.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I came from Stoke Newington yesterday; my dear brother Jasper has long been a severe sufferer; I never saw him anything like so ill, nor do I recollect ever to have seen any one in such unremitting pain. You, my dear friends, well know the anxiety of watching over an endeared sufferer, when all our efforts are ineffectual to give ease; my beloved brother's mind is evidently fixed upon the Redeemer; these storms shake not the foundation, though the poor tabernacle totters with the vehemence of the blast; but the Rock of ages stands sure; what a marvellous mercy is this! My very tender love is to your dear, precious, suffering child; though it would gratify me to sit by him, and to witness the condescending goodness that keeps him in peace, while his poor mortal body continues from day to day, to be in much pain and affliction, I am satisfied that the pure Spirit, from

the Fountain of all good, often sweetly unites us when personally separated. I esteem it a great privilege thus to believe. My absence from you, dear friends, would be increasingly trying if I did not apprehend that I am desirous to be just where I think I ought to be, although very little, if any obvious benefit arises from my small services; I do not so much look at that as at the gentle pointings and openings in my own mind.

Affectionately I subscribe, your Friend,

MARY CAPPER."

"9th. mo. I have received an account of the death of dear Jesse Cadbury, who was only a child in years. He expressed that he was satisfied, he should die in the Lord, and go to that better country, where he should sing Allelujah for ever. Dear, precious child! his love to me now feels inexpressibly sweet.

Birmingham, 11th mo. 13th. I accompanied two friends on a visit to the few remaining at the Alder Mills; this pleasant spot, a few years ago, wore the appearance of an earthly paradise. Distress and separation of families, with many strippings and sorrows, have now marred the pleasant picture; and the tender sympathy of friends is cordially accepted.

18th. After our meeting, I accompanied Elizabeth Cadbury to call upon some Friends who are parents; we took the Epistle on education, issued by the last Yearly Meeting, and it was read with seriousness. Some observations were made, as an incitement to watch carefully the opening capacity of the infant mind, to receive religious instruction; and to cherish the first breath of the spirit of prayer; the gentle desire to know the Author of their days; to encourage them to think of Him, to love Him, to fear all that might offend Him.

Good impressions are often discoverable in young children, before the natural will and the bias of evil example, or strength of wrong dispositions, gains the ascendancy and precipitates them into evil actions; so that it is highly important for parents and

instructors, to endeavour, with all possible attention, to find opportunities for instructing them in the principles of the Christian religion, leading them to the Saviour, that they may receive his blessing, and be enabled to resist the tempter.

26th. Dined with the young family of our deceased friends John and Priscilla Dearman, who were both taken away in the prime of life; but there is a protecting Power extended to the orphan; such have an Almighty Father, who heareth and answereth prayer. I hope the visit was not unprofitable.

12th mo. 8th. Called on several friends with the epistle. Great openness appeared, even with thankfulness that so much care is manifested among us, and extended towards those whose situations and circumstances in life, much, if not wholly, exclude them from the privilege of attending the Yearly Meeting, and of other interesting intercourse with their friends. In the afternoon we sat with some young people, a brother and a sister, who were early left motherless; they manifested much tenderness, and their flowing tears seemed to do us good; our minds were sweetly brought under the influence of heavenly goodness.

16th. I united with S. and R. Lloyd in calling on some friends in the station of parents; the epistle on the subject of education and early religious instruction, was seriously read to them; they were also recommended to introduce into their families, a publication by Henry Tuke, setting forth the principles of the Christian Religion, as professed among us; with Lindley Murray's Compendium, on the same important subject. The Book of Extracts of the Yearly Meetings' minutes, much elucidates our discipline, and brings before us beautiful advice, that has been issued by successive Yearly Meetings, for the help of the body; this, with many other excellent publications, were recommended to be read in families. We found that most parents could acknowledge their need of encouragement, in their endeavours to watch over themselves and their dear children; lest they should faint in their minds, or grow weary, or negligent in watchfulness

and prayer. Our visits seemed to be accepted with feelings of unfeigned good will, like those which prompted them. That which unites sojourners here in one desire to obtain the blessing of the promised land, was, in degree, felt from house to house.

TO KATHARINE CAPPER.

“Worcester, 1st mo. 18th, 1819.

It was very kind of thy Father, in his almost solitary sitting, when his health and spirits were so much affected, to turn his thoughts in this tendered frame towards me; his free communication is truly gratifying. I am often alone, and then, what I consider mental intercourse with my beloved relatives is sweet; the confirmation that it is at times mutual is encouraging. Thy beloved Brother's visit, I doubt not, was gratifying; I think I should have participated with you in the chaste joy of seeing dear relations walking in the Truth. Real gratitude for such favours is not the produce of our native soil; the happy culture of Divine Grace brings first the blade; and so, if not untimely nipt, comes the ripened crop; but the husbandman, in nature's field, has long patience, and he is not dismayed at every dark and gloomy day.

MARY CAPPER.”

“Birmingham, 5th mo. 1st, 1819.

MY DEAR BROTHER JASPER, &c.

To be hasty in feeling disappointments, and not prompt to acknowledge gratifications, will not, I hope, be laid upon me. This very morning I received a fourfold kindness, making ample

compensation for my disappointed anticipations. Wrong, you did me none, so to forgive there is nothing; and in the present instance, I may consider myself a gainer, by thy pen being called into action, to tell me that you love me, &c. It is more to me than a library of books! My dear Sister, the comparatively transient pain, which is past, is more than re-paid by present feelings; arising from a spring afresh discovering itself from beneath an accidental covering of some scattered fragments. 'Tis enough! the stream remains undiminished, and I am now in my own comfortable apartments, alone, without interruption enjoying your kind communication.

How manifold are my consolations! I would not change my imperfect sense of the mercy and the favours conferred daily upon me, for the possession of worldly wealth and power. With reverence, not with boasting, I write; for I am sure it is of the Lord's mercy.

My beloved Brother and Sister! it may possibly be our experience in days to come, that, while others in stronger health, are more actively and conspicuously engaged in promoting the right thing, and in beholding the manifestations of the Lord's power in the earth, we may have to taste of the pure water that flows softly, in the low valley, where there is freshness and greenness, and where the longing soul is satisfied, even though separated from Christian friends, gathered together to help one another. The great Helper of these, also 'setteth the solitary in families.'

I have to contemplate many distresses around me, in the present day of commercial troubles. The gracious Creator of man has surely some wise, benevolent purpose, in this chastisement; his humble children and dependent servants will submit with reverence, and crave for patience of soul, with wisdom to direct their steps. My dear Nephew and Niece! I did not know the power that I seem to have possessed, to cause such a muster of your forces in your four-fold epistle. There is strength in love, which does as much execution as silver trumpets and battering

rams. In most cordial, sweet, affection towards every one of you, including the lovely children, I subscribe your strongly attached Sister and Aunt,

MARY CAPPER."

TO JOHN AND SARAH GRUBB.

"Birmingham, 10th mo. 1819.

MY ENDEARED FRIENDS,

No human language can, I believe, fully set forth, that quickening, living virtue, which unites the heart, soul and spirit of those who love the Lord Jesus, and cherish his redeeming Power in the soul. Surely I was favoured to feel something of its precious influence in being with you; and since my return home, I have often thought of you, with the same impression of your deeply hidden, and more openly manifested trials and engagements. Your life, spiritual and natural, with all that you are, and all that you have, is the Lord's; let Him do what seemeth Him good! A little while and time shall be no longer! Be of good cheer, my much-loved friends! press on, meekly and steadily, without over much solicitude; trust the whole rational creation, and your own souls, as quietly as you can, or may obtain faith to do, into the hands of a faithful Creator. He worketh wonders in his unfathomable mercy.

In recurring to dear J. G.'s impressive exercise of spirit, as I was at the time, so have I since been, led to trace something like the deep and mournful travails of Isaac Penington, when he expresses himself thus; 'O! how I have prayed for the lost world! for all the souls of mankind! how hath my soul bowed in unutterable breathings of spirit before God, and could not be silenced, until He quieted, or satisfied my spirit, of the righteousness and excellency of his will, and bid me leave it to Him!'

It would be precious, if so ordered, that you found your family well, whether you are permitted to rest and enjoy your domestic comforts for a shorter or a longer time. May Israel's Shepherd protect your tender lambs, and bless them with docile spirits; that they may be kept within his safe enclosure, and come to know Him for themselves, as the good Shepherd, who careth for the lambs, or the little ones, who desire to love Him, and to obey his voice. To your dear Mother, please to express my tender love; advancing age has its trying weakness; but O! the sustaining comfort of looking to a Saviour's love; through whom, even in our weak estate, we have access to God.

Farewell, my dear Christian friends! accept the love of your attached friend,

MARY CAPPER."

TO HANNAH EVANS, OF WARWICK.

"MY DEAR FRIEND,

It is a reviving cordial to the Christian traveller, when we can feel union of spirit by the way, each having an appointed path to tread, and pressing toward the same mark; yet the heart, surrounded by its fellows, often feels alone; and none can fill this void, or satisfy the soul's desire, but that Almighty Power in whom we live, and move, and have our being. It will perhaps be matter of surprise, though I hope not irreconcilable to thy best feelings, that my mind has been seriously impressed, for some time past, with a view of a visit of a religious nature, to the families of Friends at Coventry; to some in other places not in profession with us, and more particularly to the County Jail and House of Correction, at Warwick; so impressive has been this prospect, that I concluded it best to consult a few friends, who encouraged me to lay it before our Monthly Meeting. A certificate is ordered; this must detain me till our next Monthly

Meeting, unless, without infringing upon any rule of good order, I might go forward to Coventry, while the weather is somewhat mild. I wait the decision with quiet submission. I think I have no self choice, in the time or the thing.

Now, my dear friend, I claim thy help and sympathy. Long as I have been engaged in this way, this is the first movement I have made alone; and I seem like a very child, in want of help and direction. Let me hear from thee soon."

TO THE SAME.

"11th mo. 24th, 1819.

DEAR FRIEND,

How precious is it to feel the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace! Although there may be, and there are, in our present state, seasons, not a few, when dark and cloudy days obstruct our vision, surely I may, with serious, contrite feeling, say, that condescending mercy has graciously joined me to a people, in whose religious principles my soul finds full satisfaction; and language cannot set forth the precious fellowship, that in some favoured times, solaces my poor spirit, in the company of those who are spiritually alive, even in these trying days, when we are indeed a mixed people, and the pure life is often, to our apprehension, trodden down. O! the sense of this is surely a sign that we are not spiritually dead, nor living at ease in the midst of the desolation that surrounds us. Our humble trust is still in the Lord, though unbelief abounds in the nation.

I am satisfied and confirmed by thy judgment, and strengthened by thy sympathy, to wait the full time of the meeting's approbation. I believe it is, in most, if not in all cases, safest and best, to avoid giving occasion of offence or remark. I have not a decided sight, whether I had best move with or without a

companion; this I trust will rightly open in due time. I feel satisfied the delay is no hurt to me; and in all things, there is instruction.

In dear affection,

MARY CAPPER."

FROM HANNAH EVANS TO MARY CAPPER.

"11th mo. 27th, 1819.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I received thine, and am pleased my last met thy approbation. In respect to thy having a companion, I think that is a very weighty consideration, except any Friend should feel a similar engagement of mind, and you could, in true gospel fellowship unite; then it might be helpful, for I believe there is strength in unity; if not, in my simple opinion, it will be best to go without any constant, nominal companion; for I do believe, that in the important work of visiting families, especially, except it is one who is rightly brought under the weight of the service, it is better to go alone. And be not discouraged, my dear friend, at the prospect of having no outward companion, for I have no doubt but He who putteth thee forth will go before thee, and encamp round about thee, and that is enough.

Well! thou hast my free sentiments, which thou must place to the account of true friendship; I trust I am deeply interested in that noble cause which thou art labouring to promote; and that it may please thy Divine Master to 'send thee help from his sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion,' was the petition of my spirit this morning, before I left my pillow."

FROM MARY CAPPER TO KATHARINE CAPPER.

"Dale End, 11th mo. 29th, 1819.

MY DEAR NIECE, &c.

The communications handed to me, one day last week, have not failed to help and cheer me. There is strength in unity; and very precious is that secret Power that joins the spiritually living, in one hope of salvation.

Thy dear Father's tender interest and kind concern for me, is truly welcome to what I esteem some of my best feelings; the approbation of a mind, humbled on a bed of languor, is likely to be genuine, and is strengthening to that in my heart which I hope is pure and lowly, only desiring to do the will of my heavenly Father. I feel little and childlike, and a sweet tenderness of spirit keeps me calm; like what I can imagine to be subjection to a Father's will. My dear love is to my Sister; her exertions and patience are admirable; you all have much anxiety and fatigue; so it seems that, through diverse dispensations, we are led, by the same Hand, in the path of subjection. I hope we shall often think of one another, when duties, differing in kind, call for resignation and endurance."

MARY CAPPER TO HANNAH EVANS.

"12th mo. 7th, 1819.

DEAR FRIEND,

Very cordial is thy letter! I think I feel grateful for such free, sisterly kindness, and thankful for the confirmation that the secret movements of my heart have a spring, better and higher than self-will or self-contrivance; indeed I think my views are

simply to do what is required at my hands, ere my natural day is ended; my strength is small, but I dare not dwell on that, though it is discouraging. My heart's desire is that patience, humility and dedication may be perfected, in the way that my Lord sees meet. The time for my liberation approaches quickly. I have been a little engaged about home, so as to leave free from debt.

I think of coming first to Warwick; though the concern there is of less extent, yet it is important, and in its near approach, very weighty. I like to anticipate being under thy roof, in simplicity, quietness, and above all in Christian sympathy; and how very few feelingly know what this is. O! how precious to the poor exercised mind! I have not heard of any one to accompany me; but that I leave, and subscribe,

MARY CAPPER."

M. C. TO THE FAMILY AT STOKE NEWINGTON.

"Warwick, 12th mo. 18th, 1819.

MY DEAR, LOVED RELATIVES,

I am desirous to relieve your affectionate solicitude by informing you, that I am cared for with all possible tenderness; and my weak body has borne exposure to cold and fatigue without much suffering. How shall I fully set forth that condescending, merciful regard which has clothed my mind with stability, and kept me close to that Power, by which I believe I was moved to leave my own comfortable dwelling, in order to do whatever might be developed for me, as a dutiful child.

I came, in simple obedience to apprehended Christian duty, to Warwick, on the 9th, and was affectionately received by Hannah Evans, whose mind seemed prepared to feel with me. William Whitehead, a kind, valuable Elder, of this meeting, entered into