

understood the labourers, particularly those now engaged in harvest work. It is cause for thankfulness, that these, who literally gain their living by the sweat of the brow, have a desire to know, and to feel that mercy, that goodness, and that power, whereby we are brought to an experimental knowledge of sanctification and salvation, as testified of in the holy Scriptures, and unto which the Spirit of Truth bears witness in our hearts. We dismissed the poor old man with some tracts, and parted in mutual good will. O! it is precious when a savour of good is felt; be the outward appearance ever so mean and lowly.

*22nd. First day.* Had a meeting at Radford, where we were kindly and freely accommodated in a noble old mansion, now occupied by persons who attend our meetings. About one hundred and fifty people assembled, and great stillness prevailed. Our hearts were thankful for such renewed favours. I crave continual preservation, and that every act of dedication may be sanctified, and all within me kept from presumption, and from whatever is contrary to that which alone is our sanctification.

These public gatherings are very trying to my nature, and often reduce me to a low state, and cause me to search, and to re-search, who hath required them; but in my ponderings on my bed, I have renewedly believed that I must not draw back, whatever it might cost me; my peace seems at stake, and all else I must leave.

*23rd.* We took tea at J. Greaves's, at Barford; they very kindly permitted a large room in their house to be fitted up for the reception of those invited to sit down with us, in order to wait for, and to feel after, the fresh manifestation of that heavenly Power which alone can do our souls effectual good. We had a large assemblage; the order and the quiet were admirable, as the heat was oppressive. If Jesus was in any measure exalted, and had dominion in the heart, his glorious name be praised! but the reduction which I feel is not to be described.

*25th.* Much discouraged by the illness of my dear friend and

helper, Hannah Evans, as it does not seem probable that she can accompany me to a meeting appointed at Leamington.

After a time of inward breathing for help, a strong cry or prayer was raised for entire resignation, and a lowly calm was graciously granted. In our little gathering at meeting, this morning, the petition of my heart seemed answered; a sweet, indescribable stillness clothing my spirit, as a token of assurance that I should not be made ashamed of my hope. It was a close trial to leave my dear friend behind; however, a kind feeling female companion was found; we took some refreshment with a kind friend, who is now at Leamington, with her daughters, for their health. Their appearance, their serious countenances, with their expressions of regard, also their company and that of several others, were a comfort, help and strength to me. The gathering was large, and a peculiar solemnity spread over us, during a considerable time of silence. Supplication was then offered, I hope reverently and feelingly, after which ability was given to speak of faith in Christ, as a renovating principle, designed to work a change in the heart, to which the Scriptures testify; the Spirit by which they were penned, opening them to our understanding, that we may come unto Him of whom the prophets and the apostles did write, &c.

*29th. First day.* My dear friend is mostly confined to bed, my voice is again suspended, and my bodily weakness is great; yet in marvellous mercy, we are kept in quiet contentment, and even, at times, can be cheerful; though we are something like a hospital of infirm, deaf, lame, and temporarily dumb; for Hannah Evans's nephew is here, and is unwell; and her sister is very deaf.

*31st.* Last night was nearly sleepless, from an apprehension that I could not be easy without proposing another meeting at Leamington. I think I do not feel so much an unwillingness to submit to such a requiring, as a fear of mistaking, any apprehension of my own for a higher impression.



8th mo. 7th. My dear friend continues so unwell that she has consented to have medical aid. All religious prospects seem veiled for the present.

8th. I was at the little meeting; I thought we sat in low places; these searching times are doubtless designed for our good, that we may become grounded in that faith and confidence which is not easily shaken.

10th. I accompanied an acquaintance from London, to inspect the County Jail; the strangers were highly pleased with the cleanliness and excellent order of the establishment. But few are now in confinement there; one poor man is in, for stabbing another, so that he died. It seems to have been an act of passion, not malice, and the poor culprit excited our compassion, by the deep traces of sorrow in his countenance, though he said little. We sat down with him, and I believe did enter a little into his distress; it was affecting to witness, but less so than the careless manner of some, who appeared unconscious of the misery consequent on sin. Escape from confinement, too often seems the main object with these poor creatures.

12th. First day. I was at both meetings, where we were favoured with some renewed extension of heavenly good; also in our evening reading and retirement in my dear friend's chamber; she seems to be recruiting.

14th. A thankful and contriting sense of mercies received, continues to cheer, even under the sackcloth that covers some of our spirits, when, from day to day, we are led in a way that we know not, and hidden, inexpressible conflict is our allotment, doubtless for our farther purification, being encouraged to believe that we are branches engrafted into the living vine. We know that the husbandman purgeth the fruit-bearing branch, that it may bring forth more fruit.

16th. Our dear invalid came down stairs. The mind seems to have no better anchor than resigning all unto Him who formed us, and who knows us altogether as we are. None other can

give patience, calmness and submission, to the poor conflicting spirit; this my soul does witness, in self abasement.

19th. First day. My dear friend able to go to meeting this morning, and in a feeling manner to bear testimony to that Power, which, as it is received, cherished and obeyed, keeps the soul alive in times of trouble. In the afternoon, we went with her brother Daniel Evans, to his habitation, Goodrest Lodge, which is on a large farm; in the evening, we had a meeting with a considerable number of servants, labourers, &c. which ended well.

20th. After the Scripture reading, something was expressed by way of stimulating the mind to meditate upon Scripture doctrines and records, that we may receive a right understanding of them, and guard against our own constructions or interpretations. D. Evans conveyed us to Leamington, where notice had been given of a second meeting. Many came to it who were of a serious description; and it may be, the design was answered, and the sacrifice accepted. We returned to Warwick in peace; my dear companion not having materially suffered from the exertion and the excessive heat.

22nd. At the small meeting, a precious time of refreshment, of spiritual feeding upon that which is meat indeed, and drink indeed! In the evening, a meeting was held for the servants of Friends, young persons, &c.

24th. Mournfully affected by the information, that, at the assizes, several criminals were condemned to suffer death; among them the unhappy murderer. Much feeling thoughtfulness came over us, as to the desirableness of visiting him or his companions; but after a time of deep consideration, and being satisfied that our own will was given up, though we were not disposed to proceed lightly in so important a thing, we were favoured to rest, in a calm and peaceful belief that we were excused. Yet Christian concern, with a tender breathing of spirit, that mercy



might be extended to these our unhappy fellow-creatures, was cherished in our hearts.

25th. We were kindly received, at our former quarters, at Alcester.

26th. *First day.* In the morning, several strangers were at our meeting; in the evening, in consequence of a general invitation having been given, a very serious, well-behaved company attended. It is gratefully to be acknowledged, that at this day, Christians of different names, and in various ranks of life, can cordially meet together, in our meetings for worship, in a Christian spirit, where little or nothing presents to occupy outward observation. That a large, mixed company, sometimes incommo- diously seated, should mostly be so still, so serious, during a time of silence, is admirable; and not a little consoling and helpful, to the rightly engaged and truly spiritually-minded among us."

Respecting this evening meeting, her companion and friend, Hannah Evans, thus writes, "My dear friend, Mary Capper, was greatly favoured; she was largely engaged, in gospel-love, both in testimony and supplication; it was indeed a memorable time, and brought to my remembrance ancient times, when the power of the Highest so eminently overshadowed the assemblies, to the conviction of many; and I was ready to say in my heart, surely some good will be experienced from this opportunity."

"28th. Had a meeting with some of the manufacturers of needles, who are employed here. The quiet behaviour of all was very satisfactory, and we hope the time was not unprofitably passed. Marvellous is the mercy that would gather the wanderers, and the forgetful ones, into the Shepherd's fold, and protect them from the destroyer.

29th. A favoured time at the meeting. In the afternoon came

to Evesham, and were, as usual, cordially received by Richard Burlingham and family.

9th mo. 2nd. *First day.* In the evening, we had a large gathering of labouring men, and of lads employed in nail-making.

3rd. We took tea at the next house, and had a lively remembrance of having been favoured together some time back, with a precious sense of heavenly Goodness; since this time, the family have been tried by the long illness and death of a sister, in her twenty-second year. She suffered much, from pain and weakness, and from reflecting upon mis-spent time, and talents unimproved; but she was favoured with an evidence of the extension of redeeming Love, and closed her day in brightness. Some of her remarks were read to us this evening, and a humbling sense of the mercy which follows us all our lives long, drew our minds into stillness and much sweetness. A little expression followed.

5th. Attended the meeting at Bewdley in the morning; and in the evening, had a very large one at Kidderminster; about fourteen hundred persons present, many of them employed in the carpet-manufactory. At the close of the meeting, many were anxious to shake hands with us, and blessings were pronounced upon us. In condescending mercy, the evening closed peacefully, which compensated for bodily fatigue.

6th. Exhaustion kept me late in bed; we were permitted to be quiet, and sweetly retired in the family till evening, when we attended a meeting appointed for the neighbouring poor, at Bewdley; the feeling when among them was very precious.

12th. The Quarterly Meeting at Ross was well attended; many young persons were there, whose serious countenances were cordial to their well-wishers. I believe it was a time of spiritual refreshment.

16th. *First day.* In the morning meeting, renewedly confirmed in that faith, which, if we were but humble enough to submit to its operation, would work by love to the purifying of



the heart. In the afternoon many of the neighbours sat down with us, by invitation, and I think it was a time of profit. I am satisfied that the Divine will is, that we should come to a more perfect knowledge of the exceeding riches, through Christ Jesus, which are in store for those who patiently seek, and faithfully obey, the revelation of the Spirit of life and truth, in the secret of their hearts; and who rest not in outward and visible signs, which fall short of the thing signified.

17th. A day of social enjoyment with our friends. This is very gratifying, in its right time and place; the mind being at peace, though in a lowly state, and being resigned again to suffer, according to the Divine will.

18th. We left Ross, after being enabled to express, in the family, what relieved our minds, and contributed towards our looking homeward with peaceful hearts; not in exultation; ah! no; but in humble thankfulness for the mercy and condescension that kept us from wilful disobedience, and has brought us, thus far, without condemnation. O! it is an unspeakable favour to know, and freely to acknowledge, the heavenly power that keepeth the heart from being overcome of evil.

19th. Sat with the few friends at Alcester in their meeting, which was a precious time of religious retirement, and tenderness of spirit. O! that the children of men, the world over, were brought into a willingness to wait in stillness, that they might know the power of godliness, and go on from stature to stature, increasing in holiness; that sin and transgression might in very truth be finished. We considered this meeting (in which we had sweet unity with the truly waiting, lowly spirits, who have no outward teaching to depend upon) as a gracious close to the religious engagements which we had in view, when we respectively left our habitations. Unto our heavenly Guide, our holy Teacher, our alone effectual Helper, and merciful Keeper, be all the praise!"

TO H. EVANS.

"Birmingham, 10th mo. 3rd, 1821.

MY VERY DEAR FRIEND,

That we have thought of each other, and moreover, with the best ability that we have, have prayed for each other, is an assurance consoling to my feelings; thus our separations are measurably sweetened, and our hearts encouraged to believe firmly, and to watch constantly; so that, whether together or apart, our confidence in Him who is our Rock, may be sure and steadfast. On entering my parlour, it seemed lonely, but peaceful, and this is what our souls thirst after. I hope we have both felt thankful for the favour of being led along in that path of dedication which opened before us, and for being brought back to our habitations without any sense of condemnation. My spirit was much tendered, and my heart inexpressibly affected with the consideration of these mercies, as I sat among my friends at meeting this morning. O! the heart contriting sense of heavenly goodness is no cunningly devised fable, but a blessed reality, sometimes granted to the poor, the humble, the obedient mind. A taste of the precious favour is sufficient to encourage the believing soul still to press onward, and not to tarry in the dark, dreary valley of perplexing doubts and fears. Farewell, my precious friend! my heart salutes thee.

MARY CAPPER."



TO THE SAME..

"11th mo. 15th, 1821.

MY VERY DEAR FRIEND,

The first thing that arises to communicate is, suffer not my length of silence, at any time, to cause a crooked thought to perplex or distress thee. 'Fervent prayer and firm believing,' are far better occupations, in times of doubt and uncertainty. Thou knowest we love each other, or this freedom would not be comely.

I receive very affecting accounts of the increased weakness and protracted sufferings of my dear sister Anne Capper; at the same time it is cause of gratitude, that her faith and her prospects of glory are so lively, and her rational powers so strong. I think much of her."

Her sympathy for this beloved sister, was soon to be exchanged for thankful rejoicing for her deliverance. Anne Capper peacefully breathed her last, on the 19th of this month.\* Upon this occasion Mary Capper wrote to the family as follows:

"Warwick, 11th mo. 21st. 1821.

MY PRECIOUS RELATIVES,

The account of the release of my dear Sister reached me this morning. Very calm and lowly was the clothing of my spirit, with an assurance that those who have passed through many tribulations, and who have, through faith, endured to the end, cease from their labours, and enter into their Master's rest, pure and undefiled! Ah! my Brother; ah! my Sister; how often have we conversed on subjects connected with this incomprehensible theme! My heart retraces the longing, thirsting desires of

\* See an account of her in "Piety Promoted," 11th Part.

our souls, even while clouds and fears and distresses intervened. The veil is now rent, or drawn aside, to those who are gone from works to rewards; to us who remain, surely it is a stripping season; we must endure a little longer, I hope in patience.

A bright, instructive example has been set before you, dear children, of what the Lord does, for those who seek Him and obey Him.

Farewell, affectionately,

MARY CAPPER."

TO H. EVANS.

"Severn House, 12th mo. 3rd, 1821.

MY DEAREST FRIEND,

I feel a reverential thankfulness, that in thy present tried, low state, heavenly mercy so evidently sustains thee through all. May we cherish the blessed hope that heavenly goodness will be with us all our life long! Nothing short of this can keep the soul in patience, and give resignation, when all visible things speak, as it were, desolation and breaking up. What a stay to the poor mind to have an immutable foundation; even the sure mercies of God in Christ Jesus! A life of ease, and enjoyment of earthly things, is in no wise desirable to the soul that has had a taste of the pure, sanctified joys of redeeming love. Hold fast thy lowly confidence, my precious friend; and may the great Restorer of all righteousness be with us, at all times and in all places! Do not exert thyself to write; I do not desire it. I am well satisfied that we have closely-attached hearts, and I trust we are both travelling on towards the end of all sin and sorrow; no



more to feel sickness, cloud or doubt, or even animating hope; but to enjoy light, life, and purity for ever!

MARY CAPPER."

TO THE SAME.

"Birmingham, 1st. mo. 31st, 1822.

My very dear friend, and fellow-traveller towards a land of promised rest; where human frailty, sickness, sorrow, and perplexing things, arising from ourselves or others, will no more offend. Let us press on; not as having yet attained, but looking forward, with strong faith in that invincible Power, whereby all our spiritual enemies may be subdued; yea, Satan trodden under our feet. Peradventure this may not be shortly, but surely, in due time; this my heart takes courage in believing; and the more we press after the pure river of life, the more we shall drink of its refreshing streams; nevertheless there is a time to be athirst, in order that we may know how to estimate that which ministers refreshment and strength. Sound faith and love, patience and perseverance, are the cardinal points of a Christian traveller, after boxing the compass from side to side!"

TO THE SAME.

"Birmingham, 2nd mo. 19th, 1822.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I cherish the gladdening hope that thou wilt be here ere long, and am thinking of having a cleansing from the external defilement of smoke, &c. that no outward appearance may affright thee.

I think my soul longs for inward washing, purification, and entire redemption from all that defiles the inner temple of the

heart, that the best of friends may dwell there. This entire sanctification through the Holy Spirit, how wonderful, how important! yet how neglected by many! and how slow in its progress when we think we are earnestly desiring it! Day by day, it seems in my view a marvellous work; and though at times I am cast down, I am not in despair, for I know in whom I have believed; although for a season He seems to hide Himself from our view, and then our hearts are sad; yet, are we not kept from presumptuous sins, meek and lowly? O! my precious friend, surely with some measure of experience, we can say, it is the Lord's doing; for our souls have been sore vexed. Thus I believe, in our different allotments, the Father of mercies, God only-wise, permits his children to be exercised and disciplined. To be humbled, and to keep humble, is not the work of human prudence. My dear love is to you all, as fellow-travellers, pressing after the mark. Doubtless we often tenderly sympathize with each other; we have all equal need to watch and pray continually; though there is a difference in circumstances, situations and tempers; nevertheless all is summed up in this, a Saviour or I die! a Redeemer, or I perish!

MARY CAPPER."

TO THE SAME.

"Key Hill, 3rd mo. 12th, 1822.

MY AFFECTIONATE FRIEND,

I have only been out once since I entered this hospitable dwelling, but my cough is much relieved. I think of returning home to-morrow; our select Monthly Meeting is to be in the evening; a poor little few! but what can we do better than desire to keep our places in humility and faithfulness? the Power that has raised the few labourers can raise up and send more, how and when He



sees meet. I believe it is safer to look to the Fountain than to the streams; yet, as the streams flow pure, and unite, they may form a broad river. Thy tender love and precious sympathy, suggest something like this, of an encouraging, cheering nature to my exercised spirit. I know something of depression that seems to weigh me down; my heart breathes a desire that we may yet be kept from falling, and finally be made conquerors, through a Saviour's redeeming, all-vanquishing power.

In tender love,

MARY CAPPER."

1822. 6th mo. 12th. After secret prayer for right direction, and that a plain path might be opened before me, I ventured to inform my friends at the Monthly Meeting, that I had a view of some religious services within the limits of our Quarterly Meeting. In reverence, my spirit was bowed, and I believe there was a fellowship of feeling, and a desire to liberate me to pursue the path of apprehended requiring.

I think my heart's desire is that all my steps may be ordered by that Power which alone can keep me, so that the evil one harm me not, and that no harm be done by me.

I passed some days quietly, in my own comfortable apartments, where I have all the accommodation I desire, and which I hope I willingly leave, when called upon so to do. I visited some poor neighbours, gave away tracts, wrote letters, and arranged all, so as to leave with calm satisfaction.

24th. Lodged at Sarah Gillett's, at Shipstone.

25th. My dear friend, Hannah Evans, from Warwick, joined me, and we went to the select meeting. Our number is small, nevertheless we may gratefully acknowledge, that through Divine mercy, we maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; though we often sit as in the valley of humiliation, and as in

solitary places. The reports given by our friends who had been appointed to attend the Yearly Meeting, though expressed in few words, were very satisfactory and animating; somewhat comparable to the odour of precious ointment, descending to the outer skirts.

26th. At the Quarterly Meeting, we had line upon line, and precept upon precept. In the evening, we came to Sarah Lamley's very pleasant dwelling at Tredington.

27th. W. Lamley kindly conveyed us to Warwick, where, once more, I was favoured with a peaceful feeling, under the roof of my affectionate friend. It is a peculiar favour to be united in spirit, while we feel our own entire dependance, at all times, upon an invincible, though to the natural eye, invisible Power; this is more precious, and more to be desired, than any other gratification we can have in being together."

The following was written, about this time, to her nieces, who had recently lost their last remaining parent.

"6th mo. 1822.

I feel tenderly for you, my endeared nieces, as being yet comparatively in the morning of your Christian pilgrimage, and natural day; be thankful that you can believe, there is a secret gracious Power that keeps us from hardness of heart, and works in us and for us that sanctification which comes by the revealed love of God, in the manifestation of Jesus the Redeemer, through the Holy spirit. Keep lowly and watchful; that your steps may be rightly ordered, and the end will then be peace. Temptations gradually lose much of their power. Merciful kindness places the poor dependent believer, after a time of probation, in a state of comparative quiet, wherein the fulfilment of the will of a faithful Creator is his paramount desire. I wish thus to express myself, with real humility and caution; nevertheless this is my