

present view of Christian advancement; and happy are they who hold on their way, through every successive stage, and persevere through every trial.

I passed through some exercise, in the prospect of leaving my quiet habitation, to be engaged for an uncertain length of time; but necessity seems laid upon me; the rest I must leave.

I hope your visit to Sunderland will be mutually beneficial and comforting. I have twice read the very interesting testimony respecting your precious Mother; and though it appears long, I do not know what part could well have been omitted.

What a life of extensive usefulness! What unfeigned love, and what activity, to serve her fellow-probationers, under every name and circumstance! Above all, what an exemplification of that which the Spirit of Christ Jesus can work in the human heart! subduing, sanctifying every thought and imagination; giving the victory over all, with a full sense and acknowledgment, that not unto us, but unto his Name belongeth the glory!

O! the humility, the wonderful patience, granted to your precious parents! May I reverently pray that our end may be like theirs! or, in the language of your redeemed mother, simply petition, 'Thy will be done!' Here I desire to stay my mind, and be at peace.

Once more, my endeared relatives, may it be well with you in life, and in the hour of death, fervently desires your Aunt,

MARY CAPPER."

"7th mo. 3rd. Monthly Meeting. The meeting for worship was to me a time of deep secret feeling. My dear friend Hannah Evans obtained leave to unite with me in my engagements.

4th. We visited two females and their brother, who are in the county prison for debt; he is in a very suffering state, from a disease which is increased by confinement; they have been in

prison more than two years, and have little hope of liberation. We pitied them much; especially as one brother has already died within the walls.

5th. We again entered the prison doors, not unfeelingly, nor in a light mind; we first had a private interview with a poor unhappy man, committed for killing his own son. He said it was done in a fit of unguarded passion; he appeared sorrowful, and spoke of his guilt with mournful self-condemnation; also with particular feeling, of his aged mother, who lived with him, wishing me to call on her. It was truly affecting, and tears of sympathy flowed. Wm. Whitehead and Esther Tatnall were with us; the poor man was grateful for the visit. We afterwards sat with the women; it was a time of serious feeling, and of solemn supplication.

7th. First day. We held two meetings for worship, at Harboro', in a meeting house belonging to Friends; both gatherings filled the house. The clergyman of the parish said that he would give notice; and at the close of the morning meeting, his two very agreeable looking daughters came up to us, and invited us to dine at their father's, saying he would be pleased with our company. This is worthy of grateful remark, as manifesting the diminution of prejudice; and I think we should be thankful for every increase of Christian good-will, and in true lowliness of heart, render the praise where alone it is due.

Unprofitable indeed is the labour of the servant, unless the Lord grant his blessing. May we watch and pray continually, lest, while we seem zealous for the good of others, we neglect our own hearts, and evil find an easy dwelling there! My spirit is often humbled under a sense of the possibility of thus falling, even after my heart may have been enlarged in love to my fellow-creatures, and my lips opened, in some measure to set forth the love of our heavenly Father, and to invite sinners to repent, and to accept salvation. Much lowliness, and oft-times fear, has clothed my spirit.

8th. A calm day, under the roof of my dear friend. We have in contemplation another visit to the jail.

9th. Wm. Whitehead accompanied us to the prison, where we always gain easy admission. We sat with the men and boys in the chapel, about one hundred and fifty in number; it was affecting to see so many lads; some of them scarcely eleven years old, who had been guilty of theft. Poor S. D., committed for the murder of his son, still excites our compassion, by his mournful countenance. We have reason to think that our visit was satisfactory. The improvement in the discipline of the prisoners is very great; there is wonderful order, obedience, and cleanliness. The women and lads are employed, and many of the men knit, or stitch patten ties, &c. We left them with the heart-felt desire that their future days may be their best days; that, in repentance and amendment of life, they may know the way of peace.

10th. Our little meeting was a time of sweet contrition; with a precious, consoling belief, that the Lord is on the side of those who wait upon Him, and who can truly say that they have none whom they desire in comparison of Him. We afterwards called upon a friend in trouble."

To R. AND E. C.

"Warwick, 7th mo. 10th, 1822.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

It seems long since we parted. My chief aim and desire is, to fill up whatever may be required in the allotment assigned. I seem low and dependent every way; my health, my powers, depend upon renewed strength and mercy every day. We have had some heart-tendering opportunities in the county jail. The worthy, kind, and seriously-minded mistress is particularly prompt to promote whatever may tend to her own information, or to the

good of the great household. She may be considered a blessing in her important station; she carries authority in her solid, yet gentle manners and countenance; and seems to be loved as well as obeyed.

MARY CAPPER."

"11th. We were conveyed a little way into the country, to see some persons who have separated themselves from the religious Society of Friends and joined the Unitarians, and who are bringing up a large family in this way. Much Christian solicitude has been manifested by divers Friends, towards them; the parents more especially, as being responsible for the instruction of the children. Little good seems, at present, to result from the care repeatedly extended, as respects the ground and foundation of faith. There seems to be a subtlety in argument, and in reference to certain Scripture testimonies, which, as yet, fortifies the heart; and if we are right who have strong consolation in believing on Jesus, as a Redeemer who shed his blood, a ransom for sinners, a propitiation for the sin of the world, our Mediator and Advocate with the Father, then there surely must be a veil over the spiritual understanding of these seceders; and nothing short of heavenly Power can convince and convert them. To pray for one another, with the best ability that we have, is a duty ever to be cultivated.

13th. Called on a poor old woman, who has for some years been in outward darkness; her placid countenance and lively sense of mercies received, in the midst of privations and sufferings, seemed to do us good, and to confirm our belief, that the Fountain of pure light and of consolation is revealed, without partiality, in the seeking, humble heart. This belief is precious and cheering.

14th. *First day*. Wm. Whitehead kindly accompanied us nine miles to Berkswell, where friends have a meeting-house. Very few of our own society met us; it would have been pleasant

if more had inclined to come, to countenance and hold up the hands of those who are concerned to labour for the spread of religion. The house was crowded, and many stood without; notwithstanding the heat and the pressure, their behaviour was becoming; every serious mind may be encouraged, and thankfully acknowledge that there is an evident improvement in the manners of the people generally, particularly observable when invited to sit in our meetings, where there is little to attract outward observation. Their stillness and sobriety are instructive to those who are engaged, in Christian love, to visit them. This opportunity was, I believe, favoured with that condescending mercy that is both ancient and new.

The meeting at Warwick was postponed till evening, and was attended by a considerable number of the inhabitants. I hope it was a profitable time of religious fellowship; in the solemn feeling that, with our Heavenly Father, high and low, rich and poor, are equally the objects of his tender regard, and matchless love. How marvellously does the Almighty Father remove every narrow prejudice, cause discouragement to vanish, and from time to time open the understanding in things belonging to the soul's salvation; drawing aside the veil of human ignorance, and sometimes opening the lips to set forth a little of what the Lord of life and glory hath done, and in his faithfulness will do, for those who truly seek to know and to obey Him! I thought, as far as it concerned myself, that I was sweetly compensated for exertion and fatigue.

15th. A day of rest; with little interruption, save what often occurs in the necessary attention to the common concerns of life; and these concerns may frequently be numbered among the things which may tend to the furtherance of our growth in Christian experience.

16th. We came to J. B. Lowe's, at Easington; a retired spot!

18th. An instructive time at meeting. Sat awhile in serious retirement with W. B. in his almost solitary dwelling. We have

some ground to believe that these visits from house to house, with a feeling desire after that which is of more value than temporal prosperity and ease, are mutually profitable; bringing into view, and into deep consideration, the state of our own hearts, and how we stand, in the all-seeing eye of a faithful Creator.

19th. Visited a poor widow in affliction; her calm resignation was striking; also her confidence that her heart will be sustained in peace through all; and that, if bread and water only be her lot, she shall be content, and commend her family to the Lord. Surely this is the blessed effect of the power of religion on the mind! We called on Wm. White, a friend far advanced in age; he lives in great simplicity, with a grandson who works as a shoemaker; without female aid, the house is comfortable, neat and orderly. The grandfather is provider and head cook, and they appear to eat their bread in quietness, and to be cheerful. It was very pleasant to see a youth, of really pleasing person and manners, contented to follow a humble occupation, in a retired village, and to live in a very lowly way, with his aged grandfather.

20th. After a day of retirement in spirit, and of secret prayer for renewed direction, and continued help in our Christian movements, I thought we were favoured, in sitting in the evening with J. L. and his wife, with a sweet and encouraging sense, that the stream of heavenly life flows soft and sure, to the refreshment of the retired, waiting soul; though we may again and again thirst and be weary.

21st. *First day.* In the morning, sat the small meeting. The pure Fountain of life is open for the few, as freely as for the larger number. In the afternoon, many serious persons came, by invitation, to sit down with us. We were favoured to meet and to separate in much stillness; the meeting closed with prayer.

23rd. Sat with the only two families, at Tredington, who profess with us, and were favoured to feel that contriving Power

which is ancient and new. Some part of this day was agreeably and profitably spent in reading some very interesting writings of Friends, and their sufferings for the testimony of a good conscience, and the promotion of universal righteousness, in the time when Friends were first gathered to be a people, conscientiously separating from established forms, and with upright hearts, seeking to possess the substance typified in the shadows of good things to come.

24th. At Meeting at Shipston, and had a family sitting, wherein we were unexpectedly favoured with a more than common sense of the extension of heavenly love; for which condescension to our low estate, humble thanksgiving was rendered.

25th. After breakfast and reading, we had a profitable pause; some encouragement was given to dedicate a portion of the morning to retirement, prior to entering into the occupations of the day. For men of business this is especially necessary, in order to keep the mind calm through the perplexities which may occur; without such a stay the mind is in great danger of being estranged from God and godliness.

26th. Called on several; one large family where the mother was deceased. It was pleasant to see the young people seriously disposed; encouragement flowed toward them, to keep out of the mixtures, to be content in a plain way of living, and to seek the Lord's blessing, which is the best riches.

27th. A day of close engagement. After dinner we went to Stow; and on to Morton, to call on a poor woman who was born and educated in our society, but who married out of it. Friends had visited her frequently, and kindly cared for her. When we entered the little cottage, our surprise was great to find that the poor woman had breathed her last about midnight; and that on third day (this being seventh), her husband, on coming out of his garden, where he had been digging potatoes, fell from his chair and expired, without speaking. It was an impressive

scene, to behold a husband and wife thus lying lifeless in one chamber; they were about seventy-seven years of age, and had lived harmoniously together about fifty years. We sat down with a few of the kind neighbours, who had waited upon this feeble pair. The little religious opportunity was consoling; for a calm belief seemed to clothe my spirit, that, as their lowly hearts had been united in life, so, in death, their spirits were not separated.

28th. *First day*. Went to Meeting at Stow. An invitation was given to the townspeople to sit down with us at four o'clock. It proved a crowded company, but very orderly, considering the heat, thunder and rain. It was an instructive time. After meeting, my feelings were closely tried, in having to give up my dear companion, who was obliged to return home; however, we desired properly to submit. I felt lonely, though my mind was favoured with quietness; and this wonderfully sustains, through whatever comes upon us.

29th. Took an opportunity of expressing some tender counsel and encouragement, to the elder daughter of the family where I am staying; her peculiar circumstances call for sympathy. Those who dwell at ease, and are surrounded with accommodations, little know the difficulties that many large families have to encounter. Attended a very large meeting, at Stow, on the occasion of the burial, in one grave, of the poor man and his wife, who died at Morton. Vocal labour seemed called for. It was a time of no small fatigue; but this is the thing least to be considered, if the blessed Name be exalted.

8th mo. 4th. Went to Armscot, where a Friend's Meeting is annually held; it was large. My mind was in a tried state, though mercifully kept patient; and I was thankful for the labours of some dear friends, who had to speak of the efficacy of the grace of God, revealed in the heart to cleanse from all sin, when believed in, cherished, and obeyed; and purifying from evil thoughts, words and works. Christ died to save

us from our sins, and not in them. O, the importance of every heart coming to know Jesus, in his spiritual appearance, sitting as a Refiner with fire and as a Fuller with soap! It is mournful that many religious professors seem to remain at ease, in a nominal profession; with but little of that sense of sin, in all its deceitfulness, which is discovered by the shining of the true Light in the heart. Many seem content to be thought moral and respectable; but this falls far short of coming unto Him whose gracious consoling invitation stands on Scripture record, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden!" with the precious promise, that they shall find rest. All other rest is polluted.

As I was bereft of my companion, dear Sarah Lamley kindly joined me, in sitting down to enter into feeling with a man and his wife who came from a distance; the poor woman married out of our religious Society, wherein she had her birth and education. By this step she and others who have come under my notice, have brought upon themselves many distresses which they might have been spared. We had another sitting with persons similarly circumstanced, having a large family to bring up. We endeavoured to impress upon them the necessity of seeking the Divine blessing, and that the parents should encourage one another to live a religious life, and to be conscientiously diligent in attending some place of public worship.

6th. At Radway, I again met my kind and endeared companion, to our mutual comfort. The Monthly Meeting was held here, and afresh, we had to acknowledge the mercy manifested toward the children of men, and toward our little religious band, though scattered up and down, here a few and there a few, with many deviations from rectitude. Mercy is still graciously extended towards us, as a separate people, and still preserves faithful standard-bearers, both in advanced age and among the rising youth, even in some solitary situations. We have

sweet, clean, comfortable accommodation at the cottage of H. Summerfield, a wonderfully active, kind friend, in very advanced age, who has, for many years, gained a comfortable income by her industry.

7th. Attended the Meeting, paid several family visits. There is much outward simplicity in this little group of cottagers, and in their rustic manners; something to be learned, and yet something wanting; viz. more earnestness, in many, to experience the work of sanctification.

8th. A pleasing young friend procured a little cart, to convey us about three miles, to the village of Tyso, where we arrived safely, after jumbling over very rough roads. We sat in one family, and then called on another, consisting of a man, his wife and three children, in a poor habitation. We thought ourselves well repaid for our exertions, for there seemed to be peace in the dwelling, and heavenly kindness near us. These are precious feelings, and I think we are made thankful for such favours, extended to ourselves and others.

10th. Had a very comforting time with dear Hannah Palmer, in her eighty-ninth year; her natural and spiritual faculties lively. It was inexpressibly sweet and refreshing to feel an undoubted evidence, that there was no cloud in her way; nothing to separate the soul from God; no distrust or unbelief; but confidence that, by the new and living Way, Christ Jesus, there was, and is, free access to the Father. Marvellous mercy! the work of redeeming love! We took tea with a widow who has many trials; the little circle of friends, in this retired, quiet spot, are not without their distresses. It is well to visit such in their own dwellings; and possibly some good may arise from passing a few days among them. This evening we had a precious little sitting with a poor man, at the close of his hard day's labour, in the harvest-field; his spirit was so tendered that the floor was wet with his tears. Ah! these are times of special favour.

11th. At Meeting in the morning we found the necessity of deep labour, and of diligent watchfulness, in order to experience the arisings of the fresh spring of life. In the evening we had a crowded meeting of the villagers.

12th. We left our very kind, aged friend, H. Summerfield, with affectionate feelings, and in a grateful sense, that merciful condescension had been with us, under the humble roof of this dear friend, whose earthly pilgrimage seems to be drawing to its close.

13th. We were conducted to Campden, where we were cordially received at the comfortable habitation of Mary Bevington. She is a widow, in weak health and advanced life, yet freely disposed to entertain and to help those who, she believes, are bound to promote the cause of righteousness. As our time here was likely to be short, it seemed to impress our minds, that some steps should be promptly taken for having an evening meeting with the inhabitants; this our kind friend quickly promoted; the Town Hall was proposed, easily obtained, and a carpenter set to work; so that a neat and commodious room was soon fitted up. It was a large meeting, but very still; and we had cause to be thankful for the help received, enabling us to do what seemed required."

Mary Capper's humble-minded companion, Hannah Evans, having left a few memoranda respecting this religious engagement, and particularly mentioning this meeting at Campden, the following remarks are extracted therefrom, as showing how these labours were appreciated by those who witnessed them.

"Although I kept no journal, while I accompanied my endeared friend Mary Capper, in her religious visits to friends in the South Monthly Meeting of our county, yet I can now, after the close of the work, say, that my heart was often clothed with thankfulness, and I am at this time humbled under a

sense of the weakness and poverty which I often felt when sitting by this dedicated servant; yet I trust I was not an idle spectator, but enabled secretly to unite with my dear friend in the important work, with earnest desire that I might be enabled to be a helpmeet, and bear part of the burden. I did often thankfully believe that she was greatly favoured, and instructed to divide the word aright; particularly so in a public meeting held in the Town Hall at Campden; where the Most High was graciously pleased to honour us with his presence. My beloved friend was engaged, for nearly an hour and a half, in a beautiful testimony; during which time I seemed, in an uncommon manner, to be in the enjoyment of heavenly Goodness, so that I thought it something resembled a Pisgah sight of the holy land of rest and peace, in a way rarely known by me. The people behaved with great solidity, and I thought the opportunity was cause for thankfulness."

To return to Mary Capper's diary;

"8th mo. 14th. We had a time of lowly reverence of spirit, with the dear, humble-minded friend, under whose roof we have been kindly entertained and refreshed; soon after we took our leave, apprehending it may prove a final farewell.

15th. We came to Long Compton, and were but a small company at meeting; but we had afresh to experience that the spirit of the contrite ones is, from time to time, revived; so that it remains to be a blessed thing to be of the Lord's poor.

16th. We visited an aged, infirm couple, in a very poor dwelling; we may observe, that when individuals among us lightly esteem their privileges, and turn their backs upon them, in the early period of life, their advancing years are often marked with distress, and the want of those comforts which they might have had; nevertheless, in this case, we had to admire the enduring mercy, extended even to old age; the cheering rays of light and of saving love, breaking in upon

them, as in the eleventh hour, in their poor desolate dwelling; this is marvellous love indeed! We afterwards visited another of these poor forlorn ones, in his old age. He lives with a daughter-in-law, who has a large family, and who seemed to have her hands and her mind full of cares and encumbrances. She looked rather shy upon us at first; but after a little free discourse, and some little acts of kindness, the clouds began to dissipate, and I felt a flow of tenderness toward her; viewing her as encumbered with many things, and possibly unacquainted with "that good part," needful for keeping the spirit calm, and all things in subjection. After a time, she was informed, that the object of our visit was, to sit down quietly with her father-in-law, who was present; and she was invited to sit with us, which she readily did, with several of her children. The free and unchanging love of our heavenly Father broke in upon us. Wonderful is his mercy and goodness! The dear children were quiet, and the poor woman melted into tears. We left her under much feeling, and upon our telling her, that there was likely to be a meeting for the inhabitants on First day evening, she said she should be glad to attend. Thus can the precious love of God soften obdurate hearts! In the afternoon, we had a time of sweet retirement with James Bissel, in his humble dwelling, where he has lived in solitary widowhood upwards of twenty years; he is eighty years old, and his children have settled at a distance. It is admirable to witness the peaceful content, the comfort, neatness and order, of some of these solitary ones; and how little suffices for nature's real wants, where the mind has happily found the true anchor.

17th. I feel both weak and low; but through adorable mercy, I still go on, from day to day, in bowedness of spirit, I trust, so as to bring no condemnation, nor grieve the pure mind in any. If this be the case, I may be content, and render thanksgiving.

18th. *First day.* In the evening we had a very full

gathering; there was seriousness and stillness, but there did not seem to be the prevalence of that Power which contrites the heart, nor the openness to receive its influence, that we have known in some places. The cause we desire to leave, except as it induces a close heart-searching for ourselves; this secret work is, I am aware, needful; both when at home, and still more so, when moving from place to place, as we are at present engaged in doing.

22nd. We came to Brails; both of us poorly, and low in mind; yet not without a cheering hope, that by and bye, it may fare better with us, and that we may be comforted with a little of that comfort, wherewith we have sometimes been enabled to comfort others.

23rd. We met, a large family party, at breakfast. One of the little boys is about to leave home for school; we had a sweet time of feeling, with him and his brother who remains at home in delicate health; their hearts seemed tendered at the thoughts of separation, and it was like soothing oil, to participate in the sense of their brotherly love.

W. Gillet and sons have a manufactory in this village which employs many poor people; some of them came yesterday, at the request of the young bride, to take tea at the house. They were all neatly dressed. After their repast, we heard some young girls read in the Testament. J. G. has a school-room fitted up, where he teaches these poor children to read and write; we saw some verses of their composition, which were to be admired for their simplicity and originality; they chiefly related to the beauty of nature's scenes around them; the birds, fields, &c. There seemed something peculiarly pleasant, in the thought of these poor children being encouraged to observe objects around, and to cultivate and improve their minds. We were told, their essays were put into a certain place, to be examined by their master, who opens the budget once a month. This afternoon we visited a poor weaver, who