

has come to meetings for some time; we went to his habitation, which we find the most satisfactory way, when it can with propriety be so; we found his wife in a very declining state of health, and in a feeling frame of mind; an infant was asleep in the cradle, and there was a little girl, about seven years old, who manifested susceptibility of mind, by her tears, as we sat in solemn stillness; this was very precious to us, as the effect of that Power which standeth not in words. Vocal prayer was reverently offered, and we believe the visit was acceptable.

In the evening, in retirement in this family, we were refreshed together, in drawing nigh to the true Source of help. As our minds are stayed here, all our wants are made known; and our pure desires are answered in due season, in the measure best suited to our growth and establishment in the Wisdom that comes from above. I trust these steppings among our friends are made mutually profitable.

25th. *First day.* Our minds were, I believe, afresh humbled with the prospect of the day opening before us; quiet resignation is the best preparation for whatever may be brought upon us. After breakfast and the Scripture reading, I was constrained to express something, by way of stimulating to good order in sitting down to meals; that we may be favoured, in our short pauses at such times, to participate also in renewed refreshment of spirit. Paying but a slight regard to these moments, allowed, in a family for individual, secret breathing to the Fountain of all our rich supplies, temporal and spiritual, is attended with great loss. There is a danger of the lamp of life, in a spiritual sense becoming dim, and even being extinguished, by the cares of this life. The deep work of regeneration, redemption, and entire sanctification is not sufficiently the object of Christian professors.—The meeting in the morning was small; in the evening there was a very large attendance, and the meeting

closed under a reviving hope that mercy and goodness were over us.

26th. Once more came to Shipston, as it seems that the close of our engagements here away is drawing nigh. I think we simply desire to depart in peace; to be willing to invite some of the inhabitants to sit with us to-morrow in our meeting-house, looks like the way to a peaceful release. This fresh act of dedication requires fresh submission.

27th. The company of our kind friends from Brails, and of dear Sarah Lamley, was truly cheering. The house was pretty full, but want of punctuality in coming, interrupted that stillness which we consider a needful preparation for the spiritual refreshment which comes from the presence of the Lord.

I believe this meeting was thought satisfactory, yet in several of the last which have been held, my mind has not been so entirely relieved as on some former occasions. I desire humility and patience under the trial, as I am not conscious of wilful omission, or of presumptuously engaging in service, without the fresh constraint.

28th. After a night of close searching of heart, with a desire for right discernment and entire resignation, I concluded to propose to my dear companion, if she could see it right, that we should stay over First-day, and have another meeting. Disappointing as this was to us, I was encouraged to believe, that I should be helped through this proving time. The thing was mentioned to a few friends, and no obstacles arising, my heart was partly eased of a painful oppression, and we had a comfortable time at the meeting this morning. Afterwards we came to Sarah Lamley's, at Tredington; a nice resting place!

29th. These kind friends being freely disposed thereto, we had a meeting this evening in their house, which has been licensed for the purpose. A good sized room and large passage,

were nicely fitted up with seats, and accommodated about one hundred persons. It proved a satisfactory time.

31st. We have been favoured with two days of rest, both of mind and body, in this rightly regulated family, where the circumspect conduct of the mother seems to spread over, and influence the household. Our time was pleasantly, and not unprofitably, passed in reading, writing, and walking in the garden and fruitful orchard; also in a stroll in the village, which is a poor scattered place, with very few good houses.

9th mo. 1st. *First day.* We were conveyed to Shipston in Sarah Lamley's carriage; the first meeting was a time of some rather remarkable counsel being expressed, especially to the young men, relative to the subtlety of the human heart. Nothing short of living under the all-regulating power of the Holy Spirit, manifested within us, can keep from evil. In the afternoon a very large meeting of the inhabitants gathered, and sat becomingly with us. It was a time of some openness, and I trust ended well.

2nd. Arrived at Warwick, with peaceful and thankful hearts, and in renewed confidence that all will be well that is ordered of our gracious Lord.

4th. The meeting was comforting. In a close retrospect of our late religious movements, I hope I have been afresh instructed, and confirmed in the belief, that the Lord teacheth his servants to profit; secretly instructing, gently reproving, and sealing his counsel with an evidence that no other teacher can impart. W. T. a solid and agreeable friend, a minister, who is at Leamington for his health, spent the day with us.

11th. Our little gathering was favoured with the fresh extension of our Heavenly Father's regard. W. T. is still here; his solid, waiting frame of spirit was helpful, and the exercise of his gift in the ministry, truly acceptable. He dined with us, and we then went to the prison. It was distressing to see so many fresh faces and wretched objects. Many have

come for a short term of imprisonment; some waiting orders for transportation. Very trying to the keepers of the jail is this class of prisoners; they are less subordinate than the others, and their manners and language more licentious. Alas! alas! poor unhappy men! We sat down with them, and prayer was offered for them; but we know that no efforts can avail, unless the Lord of life touch the hard heart. The poor man is acquitted of the intentional murder of his son, and is only to remain a few months in confinement; but we have reason to fear that he has not a right view of this mercy."

TO ONE OF HER NIECES.

"9th mo. 12th, 1822.

I have no discouraging language to hold forth; very marvellous in my view is the mercy that redeemed my life from destruction, and withholdeth not his goodness in my old age.

Prize your privileges, my beloved relatives! nurtured in the pure principles of gospel Truth, the unsophisticated religion of Jesus! My heart, my understanding, my every faculty is satisfied with the pure principles professed by the Society, in their first powerful promulgation, and as I now believe them to be, held by the honest, simple and pure in heart, and the faithful in word and deed, among us. To be united to such a society; to know the Foundation and living Corner Stone! ah! my soul, what is there comparable to this! not the increase of corn, wine or oil, or of any worldly possessions! With these views, my precious relatives, I do, at times, feel a gentle constraint to leave my own home comforts, which I highly value, and to go from place to place, and from family to family, with a heartfelt desire, so far as ability is given, to stir up the pure mind, which is liable, you know, to be oppressed; hardly rising at times above visible objects. Alas! how few come clean out of selfishness, and of

the spirit and defilements of the world! Far am I from writing thus, as having overcome, but my heart's strong desire is to press on; not looking too much at discouraging things, past, present, or to come; but with a steady faith to put my trust in that Power which can subdue all that stands in the opposition. O! how does the Lord instruct us to live above perishing things, even his goodly gifts. How are we led along, as we can bear it! Thus, in all things, we may gather instruction; leaving such as we understand not to a future day.

MARY CAPPER."

"9th mo. 22nd. First day. With the unfeigned desire to be kept in my right place, I signified my wish to have some of the neighbours invited to the afternoon meeting. In the morning several came, and I thought a very precious sense of everlasting love was spread over us, and gathered our spirits into that serious calm, wherein the voice of the true Shepherd is distinguished from the voice of the stranger; a blessed preparation for each heart to receive heavenly instruction immediately opened therein; or, if so permitted, through the medium of words fitly spoken. The afternoon meeting was largely attended, and afforded me some relief.

23rd, We once more entered the prison, and sat down with the women, most of them newly committed. I felt particularly interested for a poor old woman, who seems likely to be executed for coining, and who seems scarcely aware of her awful situation. When we were last among the women, something impressive was felt and expressed, to a poor old female, who was confined for life. She has since died, we hear, in a favoured state of mind.

25th. Our Quarterly Meeting. It was to me a time of tenderness of spirit, and shedding of tears, not of sorrow, but of precious feeling, under the ministry of a friend from London, travelling with certificate.

30th. I left Warwick, and my dear, affectionate and truly sympathizing helper and companion, in the work whereunto I believe we were both of us bound; though her labour was frequently in silence, an important help it was, and my heart was made thankful for it. It is doubtless allowable to feel the separation, and to be sad for a season; yet in our several allotments, lowly peace will be found. I arrived at my own comfortable apartments, after an absence of more than three months. The mercies and comforts shed around me are very many, and I desire preservation from evil, and that I may render praise and thanksgiving to the Father of Mercies. Now and ever be his glorious Name magnified!

In the tenth month I visited the families at Stourbridge and Dudley, and had large public gatherings in both places, I believe to satisfaction.

11th mo. 13th. Delivered up my certificate. The retrospect of an engagement so important, and in the latter part without a companion, seems to contrite my spirit, and again to raise the grateful acknowledgment, that in marvellous condescension, strength is given to those who have no might of their own."

TO ONE OF HER NIECES.

"12th mo. 30th, 1822.

I do not forget thee, my beloved niece, as one desirous to be and to do just what thy Heavenly Father would have thee. Conflict, doubt and fear may assail, even after being favoured with an evidence of the uprightness of our intentions. This is no new path. Do not bewilder thyself, but try to be content with a little ray of light. I commend thee, with my own spirit, to the gracious care and guidance of the great Shepherd of the sheep! I am gratified by Mary Hanbury's love and remem-

brance. She has no small share in the desires of my heart, that the children in our Heavenly Father's family may be kept from all that can hurt or destroy; so that the holy plant may rise into excellency and dominion.

In much affection, thy aunt,

MARY CAPPER."

## CHAPTER X.

SERVICES IN AND ABOUT LONDON, IN THE YEARS 1823 AND 1824.—LETTERS, ETC.

To K. C.

"Birmingham, 2nd mo. 10th, 1823.

MY DEAR NIECE,

No change of circumstances will, I hope, be permitted to interrupt what I esteem a precious union of spirit; however imperfect it is, I do hope it arises from a spring unpolluted. It is a relief to my mind, that thy important decision feels satisfactory, and that calmness seems given as an evidence of right movement. In all our steppings, this token of higher approbation than our best friends can give, is truly desirable. I feel affectionately disposed to receive thy friend as one I could love for his own sake, because I believe there is a good work making progress in his heart. O! the condescending Power that begins and carries forward sanctification and redemption; perfecting the Divine image in the soul. Mayst thou, my precious niece, be favoured with a faithful helpmate on thy heavenward journey! May you freely dedicate your talents to every service unto which you may be called! whether separately or unitedly. Close heart provings strengthen the bond of true union. I love those who can calmly endure tribulation or conflict, best known to their own hearts.

MARY CAPPER."