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.* 10*th*, 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."

4th mo. 9th, 1823. Mentioned at our Monthly Meeting at Stourbridge, a prospect of attending the Yearly Meeting, and of some religious service in and about the city of London. A certificate of unity was granted.

"*4th mo.* 17*th*, 1823.

DEAR M. S.

I have been concerned to hear of the sickness of thy dear children and servants; this trouble, I trust, is passed over; leaving the mind farther prepared by experience to encounter the next. In vain do we look to live at ease, in a world of fluctuations and trials; neither religion nor the nature of visible things, teaches any such doctrine. The religion of Jesus, as promulgated in the Gospel, urges the necessity of daily bearing the cross of Christ, by which we are kept in lowliness of mind, subjection and patience, looking unto Him who bare our infirmities, and our chastisement was upon Him. Please refer to this text; it does not occur correctly to me, though the precious savour cheers my heart. I have been under a considerable weight and depression of spirits at the prospect, under I apprehend religious constraint, of attending the Yearly Meeting, with a view to some other engagements. I believe none can fully enter into the preparatory low dippings, the humiliating self-abasement, the searchings of heart at such times needful, but those who, in some sort, have gone through the like siftings, &c. to fit them for inviting and encouraging their fellow-believers to lay hold of eternal life and be steadfast unto the end. Every fresh dedication is a fresh act of faith; no former experience will avail for present requirings. For my own part, I find as much fear and difficulty in decision and in speaking at this day as in the earlier periods of my life.

May it be well with thee, is the affectionate desire of thy friend and fellow-probationer,

MARY CAPPER."

TO R. AND E. C.

"Warwick, *4th mo.* 25*th*, 1823.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I think it will gratify your affectionate solicitude to have information of my safe arrival thus far, and that, through condescending mercies, which are new every day, I am favoured with a calm, lowly frame of mind, not painfully solicitous as to how I may be disposed of. In the simplicity of a dependent child, my heart has craved entire submission and dedication. Here seems to be my strength, my peace, and my safety; and here I strive to dwell from day to day.

I have left many very dear, tried friends among you, unto whom I am bound in Christian fellowship. All have their secret bitters, their provings, humiliations and distresses. Their hidden way is known to Him who sees in secret, and never forsakes his poor suppliant children. Though our outward path differs, there is a deep sense that tribulation marks the way to the kingdom; it is tribulation that worketh experience, patience and hope; and thus it differs widely from worldly sorrow. Jesus died for sinners; to heal their wounds; to seal their redemption!

Farewell, my dear friends; may your peace be sure;

Your friend,

MARY CAPPER."

5th mo. 7th. The Monthly Meeting at Warwick was a time of precious union of spirit; a sweet sense of Divine love was felt among us, in which there is true fellowship.

9*th*. I left my dear friends under a degree of depression, in the prospect of a long separation."

This visit to London and its neighbourhood was attended with many trials to her affectionate feelings, in the blank occasioned by the death of her brothers, and of many dear friends, with whom she had been accustomed to take sweet counsel, and who had been removed from this fluctuating scene, since her former visit; so that it was evident that she often felt as one stripped and alone; yet the desire to cherish a thankful spirit, enabled her often to be cheerful; and the watchful frame of her mind was instructive to those where she sojourned, as she endeavoured, from place to place, to do her Master's will.

"5*th mo*. 19*th*. Reached London on the 14th, and found my dear eldest brother in a weak state. Passed some days with him, and am now, with my nieces, who are in sorrow, on account of the death of their much loved friend Mary Hanbury, the only child of William Allen.

29*th*. After the business of the Yearly Meeting was satisfactorily concluded, a very impressive pause ensued, for a considerable time; we seemed reluctant to separate, so precious was the bond of union and of cordial affection, as one family. O! that a growing union or fellowship, in the Holy Head, may be our individual experience; then will there be a harmonious labour, in our various allotments, to promote the good of the whole.

7*th mo*. 14*th*. Attended the Morning Meeting. A diary of Robert Searle was partly read: it is the Christian experience of a poor man, in the station of a servant. The recital of his conflicts, under the influence of Divine grace in the soul, much affected, and I hope, both instructed and encouraged me; seeing the fight of faith is to be maintained, through trials and provings, however our circumstances may vary.

In the afternoon came to Peckham; here I find an interesting family of children; the more familiar we are with such, the more we become sensible how much depends upon a patient, watchful care over them.

17*th*. My niece and I took tea with Margaret Hagen, a kind friend, in the decline of life. Her house is beautifully situated in a garden; the calm scene was gratifying, but a secret sense of spiritual refreshment was more sweet and encouraging to my soul than all that the visible world can give. I imperfectly expressed some of my feelings, and we separated pleasantly.

20*th*. *First day*. The meetings were more refreshing seasons than I have of late experienced. I dined at Mary Dudley's, she, dear woman! is confined by weakness, and appears to be near the close of her labours and exercises, which have been many.

22*nd*. Called upon two young women, sisters; I thought there was a consoling evidence of heavenly and protecting goodness, while sitting with these dear young women, and I was thankful that I had had courage to follow the gentle pointing to call.

23*rd*. After the usual morning Scripture reading, I had to express my desire for the growth of the root and fruit of holiness in this family. I also took an affectionate and serious leave of the servants, in a manner unexpectedly impressive to myself, and I believe not quite unprofitable to them; so that I may say, that after many days of humiliation and some secret distress, not discovered by outward sackcloth, my weak faith revives a little. In reverence I note it, as a fresh token of mercy.

24*th*. We went to meeting; the retrospect is comfortable. What a privilege it is to retire from the noise and hurry of the busy city, in order to meet, whether few or many, in religious fellowship; reverently waiting on the unchangeable Source of mercy, not being soon weary in mind.

8*th mo*. 2*nd*. Accompanied Charlotte Dudley to call on a friend; in a time of religious retirement, renewed desires were

felt after that heavenly power which alone can do us good, and direct us aright.

4*th*. Came to T. B.'s, at Camberwell. This visit gave me the opportunity of tenderly feeling with a faithful, female servant, who has lived with T. B. for twelve years, and who is about to leave, from a sense of gratitude to a brother, now in trouble, who was like a father to her in early life. The prospect of poverty and distress does not deter this affectionate sister from leaving comparative ease and plenty, to assist her brother in the day of trial. We had a sweet time together, with a fellow-servant, who seemed of a tender spirit.

11*th*. Attended the Morning Meeting, with my niece. In the afternoon, prepared to leave her dwelling, as the household is about to undergo a change; these vicissitudes are very impressive, and may be instructive.

13*th*. A very large gathering in Gracechurch-street meeting-house, on the occasion of the marriage of my niece. It was a time of solemnity and quiet. Comfort and counsel were ministered, and prayer was offered for help, and wisdom to direct, in all our various stations and duties through life. I went to Tottenham in the evening.

14*th*. Went to meeting with my nephew and his children. My mind was deeply affected with a sense, that Christian believers must know a breaking down, ere they can experience a building up, in the heavenly power, on Christ, the chief Corner Stone, elect and precious. All other foundations must be razed; not one stone left!

15*th*. I feel much at home here, being left free to pursue my way, as seems best; my dear niece having considerable domestic occupation, and now, in early life, filling up, as far as she can, I think, the vacant place of her precious mother.

19*th*. After rather a restless night, comforted with the thought, which arose with much sweetness, that the kingdom of heaven, wherein dwelleth righteousness, will make amends for all.

A variety of new publications, on many subjects, not uninteresting, and it may be, instructive, are in circulation in most families. It seems, as far as my observation goes, that these novelties induce much transient reading, if it may be so described; but I doubt whether abiding profit, in the useful and substantial culture of the mind, is thus obtained.

21*st*. Observed vacant seats at meeting; yet it is pleasant to see that there are some, especially young men, who do leave their lawful concerns and attend week-day meetings. This dedication will not surely be time lost, or vainly spent!

24*th*. *First day*. Both meetings remarkably favoured, as times of waiting for spiritual refreshment, and witnessing the living Spring measurably to flow.

27*th*. Took tea with a young couple, and was gratified with the visit. It is very pleasant to observe young persons entering upon the important duties of life with seriousness and discretion.

9*th mo*. 5*th*. Deborah Stacey kindly called with me, upon a few friends in their comparatively poor habitations. It seems right, and in my view, instructive, that those who abound in ease and outward accommodation, should visit the poor, and cheerfully give, out of their fulness, a little of the good things that they possess.

11*th*. The Monthly Meeting. A day of some exercise of mind, and considerable weakness of body. What should we do; where should we find a calm, lowly resignedness of heart and of will, if the Father of Spirits helped us not?

My certificate was read, and I informed Friends how I had been engaged; that my movements are not in the usual course of a general visit to families, but chiefly among the poor, the lonely and the afflicted; and that I have in view, a meeting for servants, before I leave this place.

13*th*. This day mostly spent in serene quietness, intermingled with social converse. These are, in my estimation, some of the sweet favours bestowed upon intelligent beings; freedom of

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spirit, with mutual cordiality, is truly gratifying and often profitable.

14*th*. *First day*. The morning meeting was a time of sweet solemnity to me, in silence; and in this I believe spiritual strength is renewed, and a pure offering made, which is accepted.

19*th*. Dined with Hannah Kilham, who is preparing to sail for Africa. The meeting, for servants in the families of Friends was held in the evening, and was, I believe, satisfactory.

20*th*. Mary Harding accompanied me to Winchmore Hill, through a beautiful country, luxuriant in gardens, fruits, trees, shrubs and flowers, which the grateful mind may thankfully admire. In our way we made a call at Palmer's Green, where we met with refreshment acceptable to the weak body, and a yet more sweet and precious revival, in the fresh arising of that which strengthens the life of the soul. How incomprehensible to the careless, unwatchful, worldly spirit, is this unity, which is to be felt in the bond of peace! We were very kindly received under the roof of John Catchpool, with that plain, simple cordiality which gratifies what I esteem as some of my best feelings.

9*th mo*. 22*nd*. A day of unusual fatigue and exercise! L. C. accompanied me, in their convenient little carriage, about ten miles, and we made seven calls. In this round, we met with a variety of character and of outward circumstances; some scenes almost of poverty and distress, brought on through want of care, industry and prudence. Thus, when we will mix our own cup in life, we increase the bitters!

23*rd*. Called on a tender-spirited, pious man, not professing with our Society; he is afflicted with bodily weakness, though in the meridian of life; his wife and daughter were with us, and we had a sweet little season of favour together; in oneness of faith and of spirit, I believe. O, how precious is this! strangers to one another, dwelling far apart on earth, brought to acknowledge together the wonderful power of our God!

24*th*. A very small number give up their time, on these

working days, to assemble for worship. The meeting was to me, and I believe to the few present, a very precious time of fellowship with the faithful and simple-hearted, the world over; also of very tender compassion for those who rob their own souls of that chaste joy, of that lovely, gentle spirit of peace, which flows from the celestial Spring. Returned to Tottenham.

25*th*. Called on a widow and her son; it was a time of renewed favour; condescending Mercy, which continues to be ancient and new, tendered our hearts; and this, as I apprehend, is the daily bread that we are taught to pray for.

27*th*. A favoured morning at Wm. Forster's. After the Scripture reading we were sensible of an impressive silence. Dear Hannah Kilham, who is now on the point of leaving her native country and dearest connexions, for service in a strange land, and among strangers, expressed, in a very feeling and humble manner, that nothing short of confidence in her God could sustain her, in so painful and arduous an undertaking; and that gratitude clothed her heart toward those who had aided and encouraged her, whatever may be the result. We were all tendered and comforted together.

28*th*. *First day*. In the morning meeting, I found relief, in the expression of my firm belief in Christ crucified, as the Reconciler of fallen man to the favour of God; that in Him, our glorified Saviour, we have redemption, and acceptance with the Father; and that there is no other foundation than this which is already laid, &c.

29*th and* 30*th*. Attended the Quarterly Meeting. Some were absent, on account of the death of Mary Dudley; thus are we stripped, from time to time! Came to Clapham."

To H. Evans.

"Clapham, 10*th mo.* 6*th*, 1823.

My dear Friend,

The love manifested in thy letter was never more acceptable. My almost continual prayer is, that our faith may not fail, even when blind and not discerning the Hand that guides. To be kept quiet, and still looking to the only sure Helper, stript and wholly dependent is a safe though humiliating state. There are times when we desire no other, than to be kept in our right allotments, however trying to our nature. Ah! we know, in our measure, that a glance of Divine approbation, a ray of a Saviour's love, makes up for all privations; for all that we can suffer, in this our pilgrimage. This is not our rest; we seek one to come; full, complete in Jesus, the resurrection, the life eternal, the light, where darkness cannot enter! As I awoke this morning, very low and weak, my mind in some perplexity as to my next steppings, and how I am to creep through the approaching winter, the name of Jesus seemed to arise with uncommon sweetness, and to bring with it a calm, in which I desire to keep still, without attempting to "wake my Beloved, until He please." It is consoling that I feel assured thou understandest this, and a great deal more than this, without my being more explicit.

In tender love subscribes thy friend,

Mary Capper."

"10*th mo.* 6*th.* Dined with Thomas Brewster; a friend in whose house I stayed a few weeks, many years back, at Woodbridge, when his sister Hannah, afterwards Alexander,

lived with him. His own family is now grown up. I felt constrained to refer to days past, and to commemorate the mercy that I trust has kept us, through many changes and many trials, on Christ, our hope of salvation; the Rock that standeth sure, in the midst of floods and storms! May we, with reverent gratitude, take courage and press on; not as having yet attained, but reaching forward to the mark!

8*th.* At Gracechurch Monthly Meeting, my mind was much tried; we know not, at all times, the cause of secret trials and siftings. I do desire an increase of patient endurance. I expressed a little, but I know not why it is, I rarely obtain relief in meetings; yet I am not conscious of wilful omission or commission. I desire instruction day by day, that I may not err, nor hurt the right spirit in any; nor wound it in myself. O! it is a great thing to be kept in a humble and discerning mind.

9*th.* Hannah Messer read to us a remarkable account of a female, in a low station, at Yarmouth, who devotes some of her time to reading the Scriptures, and instructing the prisoners, &c. It is wonderful how much this individual has been enabled to do, in the reformation of those who have come under her care. She gains her own living by industrious labour, devoting one day in the week to her benevolent engagements.

12*th.* *First day.* Wandsworth. I cherish the belief that our religious meetings, whether consisting of few or many, and whether times of silent exercise, of suffering humiliation, or of secret rejoicing, are to the sincere, times of pure instruction. In the afternoon meeting, I thought a little life arose among us, toward the close; we must ever bear in mind that this best good must be patiently waited for. From time to time, obstructions may arise; nevertheless if we faint not, there surely will be a rich reward.

15*th.* At Croydon Meeting. A large proportion of young persons. An earnest solicitude is felt, that by this class in every denomination of Christian professors, Christ crucified for the sin

of the world, may be believed in, and received in every heart, as a Saviour and a Redeemer; by the shedding of whose blood we are washed; and by whom, as the new and living Way, we have access to the Father. Dined with the widow of Frederic Smith; she seems to be waiting, in humility and faith, to be soon united to those, who, having passed through great tribulation, and had their garments washed white in the blood of the Lamb, are surrounding the Throne, with palms in their hands.—Returned to Wandsworth.

16*th*. At meeting, on taking my seat, my spirit was clothed with solemnity, and if I may so say, entered into deep, secret exercise, on account of those who walk in a tribulated path, much unnoticed; it may be, unknown. This spiritual baptism seems to me, too little experienced, in these days of comparative ease, and dwelling as in ceiled houses, with gratification in outward display. But there are an afflicted few, with whom my heart seems to unite; and so I think it was this day, both in and out of meeting.

18*th*. Had a little friendly communication with the dear young people at Ann Masters's, also more privately with some of them, before taking leave; which I did under a sense of their kindness, and a desire to withhold nothing that I ought to make known to them. I believe that friendship would be truly valuable, and our mutual intercourse instructive, did we speak to, rather than of, one another.

19*th*. *First day*. At Southwark meeting. O! how I did desire that we might not be a superficial people, nor be satisfied with a nominal religion, but that we might, in sincerity, humility and earnestness, seek and find Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified Saviour of the world; the Redeemer and the Mediator, by whom alone we can draw near to the Father. Oh! this important truth; how it presses upon my spirit, in meetings and in many companies. I fear it is not sufficiently pondered in the heart.

22*nd*. At the Peel Monthly Meeting. The meeting for worship was, I thought, favoured with an encouraging evidence, that mercy is not withdrawn from us, as a Society; that the humble and dependent are, from time to time, spiritually strengthened. I mentioned my prospect of visiting families. My mind was favoured with freedom from anxiety as to the future.

26*th*. *First day*. Dined in a family who profess with us, but no way opened for a religious visit; it was therefore perhaps the best I could do to be quiet; though I felt sad, and mourned over that indifference and dissipation which stifle the good that might arise. In the evening, I was iu a very different family; there was ability to express, and openness to receive, what arose as counsel, caution or encouragement; and we were comforted together.

11*th mo*. 2*nd*. *First day*. Christ rejected was the awful subject of contemplation; and in unison with something similar spoken by an exercised minister, the matter was farther enlarged upon, with the sincere desire that it might impress every mind.

3*rd*. A favoured time in a poor family; in the fresh sense of heavenly kindness being manifested without partiality, both to rich and poor. It was a time of prayer and contrition of heart.

4*th*. Though unwell, I thought it best to pursue the plan laid out; as I would rather suffer inconvenience than give trouble, or disappoint those who expect a call. Having to go a considerable distance to a poor family, and the wind being very boisterous, I was conveyed there. The mother and children were in waiting, and the father, a labouring man, soon came from his work. It is instructive thus to visit those who labour for their bread, and are honest, frugal and diligent. There seems a blessing upon these; and among them is granted a nearer access in prayer, than with those who live at ease, in their sumptuous dwellings.