

suffer for Him, we shall in due time reign or triumph over his enemies and ours.

I accompanied a religious neighbour this day, to visit the poor women in the House of Correction; about twenty sat down with us. I was affected at the youthful appearance of some; their indiscretion, with its consequences, was set before them, and supplication offered on their behalf. We afterwards went to the town gaol; I only saw the women, and I thought they were not past feeling. We returned from this little visit of christian charity, not dissatisfied. There is a committee of females who visit these houses of confinement, to read the Scriptures, &c.

30<sup>th</sup>. At the Monthly Meeting, I was engaged to set forth what had appeared to me comparable to bonds and fetters, keeping the pure Spirit from arising into dominion. My spirits remain oppressed, and lowliness of mind is my portion; though I feel no condemnation, which I consider a special favour. All I ask is a peaceful acquittal, in having endeavoured to do what I could; the effect I would humbly leave, even when sadness may be my portion.

31<sup>st</sup>. Took leave of this kind family, from whose servants, as well as themselves, I have received much attention. Mary Armitage accompanied me to Mansfield, where I was kindly received.

6<sup>th</sup> mo. 2<sup>nd</sup>. One of my young friends accompanied me to the almshouses; six occupied by Friends, and six by females not of our society. 'A place for everything, and everything in its place' seems here exemplified; and that but little room is actually needful, where there is good order. All was neat and clean; and I thought I could live, content and thankful, in such a spot, with the love of God, and a sense of his mercy in Christ Jesus.

4<sup>th</sup>. First day. In the meetings, painful apprehensions arose that some were not humble enough; that they had notions and ways of their own choosing; disputations and

cavils about Scripture doctrines, and the simple testimonies of experienced christians, who declare the Truth as it is in Jesus. When thus tried, it is well to wait till discernment is granted, so as to divide the word aright. I hope seasonable caution and counsel were feelingly delivered. I took tea with a dear old Friend, and we had a sweet refreshing time together. The spirit of prayer seemed to be poured forth; now that I am retired to my chamber, the close of the evening, in the outward, appears beautiful; the setting sun is bright, and all around is calm; nature is clothed in tints of glory and loveliness. O! for such a final close, spiritually, when the soul shall quit these changing scenes.

6<sup>th</sup>. The Monthly Meeting was a time of favour; we should learn to be humble and patient in times of distress, for such times are occasionally brought upon the Christian.

7<sup>th</sup>. Had the gratification of seeing my nephew and niece Backhouse, on their way from the Yearly Meeting, with their daughters, the interview was precious though short.

8<sup>th</sup>. Took tea with one of the Friends at the almshouses; these little, neat, quiet dwellings and humble inhabitants, seem peculiarly suited to my present frame of spirit. Godliness with contentment truly is great gain. Most of the inmates appear to prize their happy lot, and to live in peace and good will, assisting one another, as need requires, in sickness, &c. I called on two infirm, afflicted women, not members of our society; one of them had kept her bed for two years. This dear old disciple spoke, with tenderness of spirit, of mercies in the midst of long continued helplessness and pain, and said she would not exchange her situation with the young, the healthy, and the thoughtless; her firm belief was, that when the right time came, her Lord would take her unto Himself. Another poor woman appeared patient under much suffering, and expressed her desire to be resigned to her good Master's will, He being very merciful, and comforting her. This confirmed me in the belief that the God

of consolation is with the poor, in their solitary dwellings. This charitable institution is a noble instance of liberality; having been built and endowed by a townswoman, who had accumulated property by keeping an inn, and having often entertained Quakers at her house, she generously provided for some of the poor among them; she likewise appointed members of our Society as Trustees.

13th. Sat with this interesting family. A caution to avoid disputation on Scripture doctrines was affectionately expressed. This caution has arisen in my mind from place to place, and I have no reason to think that my plain admonitions have given offence; whatever may be the notions which prevail, or may in future prevail, this must be left to a superior controlling Power.

14th. I think I have endeavored to fill up my little services here, and that I may be favoured to depart in peace; a reward sufficient to satisfy.

15th. My kind friends conveyed me to Chesterfield, and left me under the kind care of A. Storrs.

18th. *First day.* Scarcely twenty at meeting. It is consoling to have the gracious promise fulfilled that, where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, they witness Him to be in the midst, as their Teacher.

20th. The Quarterly Meeting fully attended, and much seriousness prevailed. After parting with our friends, I felt desirous of proceeding with the family-visit, and I went to dine with two valuable friends, William and Rachel Brantingham, who are in the station of Elders. We took tea at their married daughter's. I hope there are good desires in their hearts; with the young, there must be time for the bud, the blossom and the fruit. With watchfulness and prayer the work will go forward.

22nd. The few who did not neglect the usual meeting were

refreshed; to me it was comparable to a cordial drop of Gilead's balm; a short but precious time!

23rd. Had an opportunity of communicating some caution and encouragement, from my own experience, to a young man who has joined our Society. After we have tasted that the Lord is gracious, the injunction remains, Watch and pray!—I was favoured with ability, this evening, vocally to ask for preservation from all that can harm, in declining years, when weakness and infirmity may increase. I asked not from a sense of desert or worthiness, but that fatherly compassion and mercy might crown our last days.

25th. *First day.* William and Martha Smith, who arrived yesterday, expressed their grateful sense that heavenly Goodness was near, in our little gathering, this morning. In the afternoon, we had the company of a considerable number of serious persons, who had been invited to sit with us. Strength was given to point out the difference between mere profession with the lip and tongue, and that conversion or change of heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit revealed in the soul. It is not enough to confess that Christ died for sinners; we must receive Him, and own Him by obedience, as a Saviour, a Redeemer from sin, and a Leader into all righteousness.

27th. Arrived at the house of Joseph Wooley, a pleasant situation at the extremity of the extensive village of Blyth.

28th. A long dry season, and a fervid sun, seem to cause considerable languor in animal and vegetable nature. I walked into the village, and sat down with a widow and her son, in a cool, retired room. I felt comforted in the time of waiting on the Lord together; and again I am confirmed in the belief, that it is good for us thus to visit one another, under the gently constraining influence of Christian love, something like iron sharpening iron.

30<sup>th</sup>. Mary Dudley mentions, in her journal, a medical man who behaved with great kindness; he sent a post-chaise four miles for us, and received us very hospitably at Bawtry. On my intimating a desire to sit down with the family, every arrangement was willingly made. Servants and inmates came, and all seemed serious. The landlady of the Crown, who gratefully remembered Mary Dudley, also joined us; and I believe the sweet influence of our Heavenly Father's love was felt among us. It is this alone that can do us any abiding good! it is the fresh sense of this that comforts my heart, renews my faith, and encourages me to hold on my way.

7<sup>th</sup> mo. 1<sup>st</sup>. A day of some rest, grateful to body and mind. My lot is in a kind, amiable family; the daily care of little children, and the well-regulated exertions of parents, may evidently be so ordered as to harmonise a whole family, and to cultivate that watchful frame of spirit which manifests our dependence on a superior Power to teach and guide us; a Power that keeps us from evil, and promotes a sweet union and affectionate accordance, when met in families or social companies.

2<sup>nd</sup>. First day. In the evening, the neighbours having been invited, a large number came. I was particularly impressed with the serious countenances of the men, who mostly seemed of the class of labourers. Help was given to declare our belief in the doctrines and testimonies of Holy Scripture, concerning the birth, crucifixion, and resurrection of the promised Messiah, the Saviour, and the propitiation for the sins of the world, the sent of the Father, to redeem those who believe in Him, and who, through his grace, forsake their sins. The gathering separated seriously, and thus, once more, my spirit was relieved.

4<sup>th</sup>. At the Monthly Meeting it was a satisfaction to see the

discipline of the Society conducted with so much good order, where there were so few.

6<sup>th</sup>. At Meeting, at Chesterfield, I thought a sweet refreshing silence did us good.

7<sup>th</sup>. William and Rachel Brantingham accompanied me to Ebenezer Bowman's, at One Ash, a remarkably secluded spot, surrounded by the diversified wonders of nature; the hills, the dales, and the caverns afford ample scope for entertainment and instruction; this is in what is called the Peak country. Although other views occupy my mind, I cannot but see and admire the beauties of nature.

8<sup>th</sup>. Another day brings fresh desire to proceed in my engagement. Some of the more remote places, and difficult of access, seem to remain, and my strength is small; but I hope for renewed help.

9<sup>th</sup>. First day. Attended the Meeting at Mony-ash. The villagers having been invited to come in the evening, the meeting-house was filled with a quiet company. I felt thankful in believing that there was a right sense of that which alone can do our immortal spirits good,—the love of God in Christ.

10<sup>th</sup>. The friends here are very tenderly considerate and kind. In the afternoon, Ebenezer Bowman conveyed me to Bakewell.

11<sup>th</sup>. Friends rose early, and we set out, some on horseback, and others in carriages, to attend the Monthly Meeting, held at the Bridge Inn, Matlock, about eight miles off; the road is fine and the country beautiful. I thought the meeting was a time of encouragement, and of tender feeling with one another, in our different allotments. If I am but kept in reverence and godly fear, filling up my appointed duties, doing neither more nor less than is required, and acting under Divine teaching and power, it is enough; this is the daily concern of my heart, at home and abroad.

We were somewhat disturbed by a noisy, indecorous party of young people; and as they sat with the door open, I just stepped in and civilly asked if they would give me leave to offer a few tracts. They were civil in return, answering, 'Yes! surely;' but they appeared young and thoughtless. I spoke a few words seriously to them, to which they listened with attention, and they were afterwards more quiet in their behaviour. On our leaving the inn, I observed some of them reading; possibly a little hint dropped, even to the giddy, under feelings of tender compassion, may not be altogether lost.

12th. Visited a humble cottage, where a Friend keeps a little school for the village children, some miles from Bakewell. This Friend has made a large collection of the spars and minerals which abound in the neighbourhood, and he kindly gave me some specimens. I left this little solitary family with the conviction that heavenly kindness is spread abroad, in a way not to be circumscribed by our limited apprehension. Came to One Ash, in what seemed to me a boisterous blast, but what is here considered a refreshing breeze. Very diversified are our local situations and our habits. There is instruction in all.

13th. Two female Friends, travelling with certificates, arrived late, with their guides; an addition of four, besides their horses.

15th. After the Scripture reading this morning, a reviving sense of mercy and goodness being near, shed a precious feeling over us, to which L. S. bore her testimony. I ventured to inform E. Bowman that a tender feeling toward the servants employed both in in-door and out-door business, induced me to inquire if it would be easy to collect them, which I left under his consideration. A poor woman walked five miles, in order to have an opportunity of sitting in religious retirement with us.

16th. *First day.* This morning the servants were collected, and we sat down about fourteen in number. The universal love of our heavenly Father, who created all for glory, and is calling

to virtue, revealing the Spirit of Christ, as a light, and a leader out of darkness and ignorance, was spoken of. After attending meeting, on my preparing to leave this kind family, I was peculiarly comforted, cheered and encouraged, by E. Bowman and his wife proposing to accompany and convey me, from place to place, through their borders.—We travelled slowly along together, making divers visits, till we came to Thomas Howitt's, at Heanor.

21st. The chapter in the Scriptures which was read in the morning, was succeeded by a solemn pause, during which the truths that we had heard seemed to open a view of the awful effects of disobedience, hardness of heart, and unbelief, from whence proceed all imaginable wickedness and deeds of darkness; turning from this dismaying scene to where Light, Life and Mercy shine, and are followed by acts of obedience, how cheering, how consoling is the hope set before us! We came on to Derby, having visited the scattered families of Friends, upon the way from One Ash, in their solitary dwellings.

22nd. A day of weakness, but, I cherish the hope that all which may seem against us, may work together for the furtherance of our faith, &c. Just now, I seem entirely ignorant as to my future movements, though I can see no way of escape without going into the families of Friends here.

24th. I have an affectionate invitation from Susan Greaves,\* of Stanton; also one from S. F. Church, teacher in the Moravian Congregation at Ockbrook. I feel grateful for this Christian attention, and disposed to accede to their wishes; but other engagements are now in view. Came to Castle Donington.

25th. Several friends came from Nottingham to the Monthly Meeting. I believe it was mutually gratifying to see each other; and it was a yet greater favour to experience the renewed evidence

\* The "Miss S. Biddulph" mentioned in the Wilmington Diary.

of a Redeemer's love, by which the lowly-minded were refreshed and comforted, on their pilgrimage to the promised land.

29<sup>th</sup>. I may thankfully say, I have been helped every way, as occasion required; and I consider as a peculiar favour, the calmness which clothes my mind. There is much instruction in the various dealings of our heavenly Father, in order to convince us of our sinfulness, and of our need of redemption through the atoning sacrifice. How variously and how wonderfully, the work of repentance and faith is begun and carried on, if not wilfully rejected, even in the heart of the poor, the solitary, and the unlearned in this world's wisdom! Up and down, where I have been, sickness, affliction and trouble seem to have been the means of spiritual instruction, by loosening the strong bond of natural attachment to earthly things.

8<sup>th</sup> mo. 2<sup>nd</sup>. In a solid meeting for worship, I took a Christian farewell of my friends, in much tenderness. In the evening, came about six miles, to a place where I was cordially received, into a large family of children and grandchildren.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Accompanied my friend to the village, to make calls on the sick and poor. I thought, as we sat to wait upon the Lord with a poor cottager, that there was a heart-humbling sense of heavenly kindness, as a token of acceptance of this almost solitary, and in the view of high professors, this despicable way of seeking the Lord.

4<sup>th</sup>. The morning chiefly occupied in private retirement, and serious conversation. This was succeeded by some trial; there being a large mixed company at dinner. It was rather a thoughtless assemblage; and although not designedly indecorous, mirth and levity became irksome to some of us. I ventured, with deference to the master of the house, to ask leave to make a few observations, and a becoming quietness ensued. I

then expressed my ideas of rational cheerfulness, and of a grateful participation of the bounties liberally bestowed for our bodily refreshment, which no human skill could produce, seeing that no man can cause a grain of wheat to grow and fructify; shall we then eat and drink, and forget the Power that supplies our need! Something of this sort was said, and listened to with a degree of attention; and possibly it may recur at a future day. I felt much for my kind friend, whose situation appeared to me very trying. In the evening we went together to the village and sat down in a cottage; many came in and behaved quietly, and I felt an openness for expressing something on the faith and practice of our Society. We parted in cordial good will.

5<sup>th</sup>. After an opportunity of religious retirement with my dear friend and some of the servants, I took my leave and returned to Derby.

6<sup>th</sup>. *First day*. Some strangers were at the meetings. Our simple manner of worship having nothing of external attraction, and reverent waiting on the Lord in silence being little understood, those who come among us from curiosity, or in order to hear, are likely to be disappointed.

7<sup>th</sup>. Commenced visiting the families.

10<sup>th</sup>. I felt very low, and unfit to minister to others; but in sitting with a poor, working man this evening, the liveliness and tenderness of his spirit were a help and comfort to me. The day closed in a thankful calm.

14<sup>th</sup>. *First day*. Sat with a pious poor man from the country; there are several of this class who attend our meetings, and I think they help to keep alive the sacred flame of devotion among us.

16<sup>th</sup>. Went six miles to visit the Moravian settlement at Ockbrook. S. F. Church is connected with our family through my aunt Chase; he and his wife were truly kind, and I felt a secret unity of spirit with them, which is beyond names and forms. We

separated in love, and a sweetness, best known to Christian believers, as being one in heart, seeking the Lord Jesus.

17th. The meeting at Derby proved a time of solemn parting; my heart was contrited in a view of the steps that I had been led to take. Goodness and mercy have kept me staid upon my best Helper, eternal in the heavens; and my spirit bows, in reverence and thankfulness, as with my mouth in the dust; believing that it is of the Lord that no condemnation disturbs my lowly peace.

20th. *First day.* Loughborough. The neighbours being invited, a large number came to meeting in the evening. I was surprised at the extension of condescending mercy, in opening gospel doctrine, and Scripture testimony, respecting the consolations which are in Jesus, his redeeming love, and his atoning sacrifice, as well as his light, life and power, now revealed in the hearts of the children of men, to turn them from darkness unto light, to create a clean heart and renew a right spirit within them. This is the religion we profess; if we walk inconsistently, unmindful of prayer and watchfulness, condemnation must rest upon us.

21st. Took tea with a poor family; I believe the life of pure religion binds them together; and we were refreshed in the sense hereof, though they are among the lowly ones, having little of this world's goods.

22nd. Received the affecting account of the death of dear Mary Lloyd, formerly Dearman. A short time ago, she was young and lovely, gentle and engaging. Her spirit, I consolingly hope, is now clothed with purity, and admitted into the kingdom of rest, to join the redeemed. Occupied in visiting several poor families, some of whom occasionally attend our meetings; among them is a tenderness of spirit worth cherishing. I wish this care may ever be observed among us, as a people professing good-will to all.

26th. The time being come when I apprehended myself at

liberty to leave this place, I proceeded to Leicester. It is not easy to set forth the thankfulness of my mind in being thus brought in safety, and without a painful feeling of wilful omission or commission, throughout my many weary steppings, and my long absence from home. Though in a weak state of body, my mind seems to be resigned to enter into farther exercises, if such be the will of Him whose servant I desire to be; His will being my sanctification.

29th. Entered on a visit to the families at Leicester. I am well aware that there is no advantage in dwelling with or upon my own weakness, or surely I feel unfit again to enter on such an arduous duty; but the welfare of my Christian fellow-travellers is more important than my own ease, my health or my natural life, if I may only be enabled to hand a little help.

31st. We read that our Lord and Saviour often withdrew from the multitude and prayed; and that He condescended to teach his disciples how to pray. Why is it,—how is it, that we live so little in the spirit of prayer?

9th mo. 3rd. *First day.* A day of much exertion. In the morning meeting there was an earnest pleading with those of our religious Society, that the light, the life, and the power of godliness might shine, with increasing brightness, among us; that our upright, conscientious dealing, in all our concerns, our consistency and genuine plainness, throughout our life and manners, might shew forth to others that we were taught in the school of Christ. In the afternoon, many of the neighbours sat with us, when the universality of the mercy and love of our Almighty Father was feebly set forth.

11th. Preparing to leave my kind friends here, with the intention of holding a meeting, at Hinckley. I was favoured with an opportunity for freely communicating, to a young medical man, some impressions on my mind, which appeared to be well received; this was an unexpected relief, and confirmed me in the

persuasion that it is well to wait, in the patient belief, that for every right thing, there is a right time.

12<sup>th</sup>. Favoured with quietness, in looking towards my departure hence; and before leaving had an opportunity of religious retirement with the servants, to my satisfaction. I feel for servants.

13<sup>th</sup>. Ann Heaford kindly accompanied me to the Crown, at Hinckley. She has long been acquainted with the landlady of this large, well regulated establishment, who seemed to consider it a privilege to spend part of the evening with us.

14<sup>th</sup>. We also had her company at our Scripture reading, after breakfast, to our comfort. Some sober people attended the meeting, and our religious principles, as founded on the gospel tidings of life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, were in measure set forth. After parting from my friends in tenderness of spirit, I came to Coventry, having accomplished my engagement."

Thus closed the labours of this devoted servant, as far as regards travelling in the work of the ministry; and here also ends her own diary; but, as long as she was able to pen an occasional memorandum, and to correspond with her friends, the effusions of her heart and pen gave undoubted proof of her growth in grace, while the genuine fruits of the Spirit were abundantly brought forth in her consistent, humble, daily walk.

The reader is now presented with such extracts from her letters, &c., as appear best calculated to demonstrate her progress in that path which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The first extract is from a letter to one of her nieces, written before she reached her home, from the journey the particulars of which have just been given.

"Warwick, 9<sup>th</sup> mo. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1826.

Thou mayst surely think that I have lingered on my way, when thou seest this date; but I believe I may venture to say,

I could not make haste. My attention was turned to the poor, and almost unknown ones, in solitary dwellings and lonely cottages. O! how condescending Goodness shines, at times, like the enlivening sun, upon the penitent, humble, hidden Christian believer! The retrospect of such times as these, during my journey, is consoling and encouraging; and now, at the close of this engagement, reverence, tenderness and lowliness of mind, are the sweet reward of this little dedication. It is enough! I ask no more.

MARY CAPPER."