

found, and who will, by and bye, come forth, and shine as the children of Him who is Light, and in whom is no darkness at all. Yea, I believe that it shall yet be the inquiry relative to such as abide in the Truth, 'Who is this that looketh forth as the morning, clear as the sun, fair as the moon, and terrible as an army with banners?' Ah! my long-loved friend, I am persuaded that thou dost know what thou professest, and that the possession of the Truth as it is in Jesus, has been thy primary concern, in the different stages of life; thou hast now, at times, the certain evidence of having been kept from following 'cunningly devised fables;' and I humbly trust that the saying of Him who enabled thee to separate thyself unto Him, will be realized to thee, 'Lo! I am with you alway; even to the end of the world!'

Amen, saith thy ever affectionate friend,

SARAH GRUBB."

To J. AND S. GRUBB.

"Birmingham, 7th mo. 5th, 1833.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I seem constrained to acknowledge the receipt of your interesting communication. My feeble faith still holds out, that the Lord's own works will praise Him. O! He has done wonders, in generations that were before our days; that passed through the sea and through the cloud, and the Rock followed them, which Rock is Christ, revealed in the soul, believed and cherished, as a Leader and Teacher, made known to the simple, faithful humbled heart. Happy, they who cherish this belief, and truly desire to know the Lord to be their Teacher; for He leadeth

gently along; He careth for the lambs, and He feedeth his own sheep, in pastures convenient for their growth; the herbage may be mingled with bitters, but this may prove a strengthening portion. To you, my much-loved friends, I need not scribble thus; but allow me to say, do not be over much cast down; 'tis the child-like hint of simple child-like love. It is among the Lord's merciful dealings, that this poor tabernacle has stood the wear and tear of seventy-seven years, without violent disease, though often shattered and reduced. Through all, redeeming love and mercy lifts up a standard against the enemies of the soul, and my spirits are mostly cheerful. All the sacrifices made in obedience to gentle requirings, in the early part of my spiritual warfare of faith, O! they have been abundantly repaid; yea, seven fold! though it was to the giving up of father, mother and my father's house; with even the man I loved! I record not this to boast; O! no, but, if it might be so, I would encourage a rising generation to obey the 'still small voice' manifested within, the Word nigh in the heart.

Accept my love,

Affectionately,

MARY CAPPER."

To K. B.

"7th mo. 9th, 1833.

I was gratified with the short visit of my nephew and niece; their appearance and manners indicating that they are learners in the school of Christ, the good old way. O! it comforteth me. I think I am not quite ignorantly prejudiced against intellectual progress; but I am jealous lest any should depart from under the yoke and cross of Christ; for what would then

be the final event! I long for Christian believers, in and out of our own Society, to be more spiritually minded, bound together in true unity, and in the peaceable fellowship of the gospel, in the holy Head. Every sacrifice of self-love and self-will, of the unsanctified part in us, will have an abundant reward.

MARY CAPPER."

To M. S.

"Birmingham, 10th mo. 14th, 1833.

MY PARTIAL FRIEND,

I am not what I was, previous to the late severe attack, nor do I anticipate full restoration; surely my views rise upward, I hope not presumptuously, but with entire trust, reverent, humble confidence, in redeeming Mercy, in the atoning sacrifice for sin, whereby the believing heart cries, Abba! my reconciled Father! Ah! my beloved friends, what is there so consoling? And it is sweet to love our fellow-pilgrims through this our wilderness journey; but how far beyond our present feeble conceptions is the view, that when unclothed of these mortal bodies, we shall be translated to the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and join the church triumphant!

MARY CAPPER."

To S. L. Jr.

"Birmingham, 3rd mo. 20th, 1834.

DEAR SARAH,

You are all often in my thoughts, with the recollection of events and of years passed by, as one of the first interesting

'Quaker' families, with whom I was familiar. I have a lively remembrance of early impressions, and my spirit longs, at this day, for a more prevailing sense of what I then felt; but dear S. we must be willing to walk by faith and not by sight, that patience may have her perfect work. I have satisfactory information from Worcester; dear Candia and Sarah Burlingham submit with Christian resignation to their loss of a dear sister. Maria was meek and lowly; a patient, silent sufferer from early years; the close exceedingly sudden, and so calm as to be almost unperceived. I was particularly interested in the long confinement of Dr. ——. I believe his views of salvation in Jesus were correct; but O! how a death-bed view, with eternity before us, shews the wood, hay and stubble which must be consumed by fire—the fiery baptism of the Holy Ghost!

MARY CAPPER."

To ———.

"4th mo. 18th, 1834.

I do very tenderly sympathise with your deeply-tried relative, but there is one unfailing remedy, viz. resignation to whatever a God of mercy and compassion pleases to lay upon us. Surely it is unavailing to struggle with ourselves about sins that we cannot blot out. We should rather bear the condemnation, and sit at the footstool of Mercy, with our mouths in the dust. O! this entire, this silent resignation; I believe the evil spirit opposes it, and self-will opposes it, because it proceeds from simple, pure naked faith in the redeeming power of Jesus, the Friend and Saviour of sinners, who gave his precious life a ransom for us, to deliver us from sin. Here the vilest sinner may take refuge, and be safe."

MARY CAPPER."

TO J. AND S. GRUBB.

"Birmingham, 5th mo. 18th, 1834.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Be not dismayed; the spiritual Head of his own church worketh, and will work, in a way that human wisdom and foresight knoweth not; He will bring his own glorious work to pass, though He leads his faithful servants in a way they know not. You, dear friends, are again entering the field of Christian warfare; bear in mind you are one year nearer the end that crowns all, than you were twelve months gone by. Let not go the right shield, and the battle axe. Everlasting mercy and help is on the side of the humble and devoted, though they have to pass through many tribulations.

As far as condescending favour has led me to discern the work of Divine Grace in the soul, the internal evidences of Christ revealed as the true Light, the Life, the Way to God the Father, O! I dare not enter into doubtful disputation. Often in the day my prayer is to be kept lowly, simple, dependent as a helpless child. My old age, now in my eightieth year, is calm, with abundant cause to be content; yea, very thankful, for innumerable blessings. I lack no earthly accommodation.

Ye dear labourers who have yet to bear the heat and burden of the day, surely your rest will be glorious! This is the view rising before me.

Affectionately,

MARY CAPPER."

S. GRUBB TO M. CAPPER.

"London, 5th mo. 27th, 1834.

DEAR AND PRECIOUS FRIEND,

Thy lively communication has done me good; how sweet is the sympathy of a mind regulated by the pure principle of Divine Grace placed in our hearts! Few letters that come to my hand are fraught with so much encouragement as thine; so genuine is the desire breathed in thy expressions for our preservation every way, and that the good cause may prosper in and through us; and so evident is it that He who was thy morning light is now thy evening song; as well as that He remains to be like dew, which keeps thee fresh and fruitful still. Yes! thy address to my dear husband and me, seems to invite us forward in the race set before us, while we often feel far from either swift or strong. Sometimes I can only wade through difficulty and much impediment; yet, so far, my poor mind can acknowledge, that they who wait upon the Lord renew their strength; that herein ability is received to mount upward too, at seasons, even with wings as eagles; to run and not be weary; to walk and not utterly faint. The present is a time peculiarly calculated to depress; for yet, within the borders of our religious society, we find there is, too generally, a sliding from that situation in which Infinite Wisdom and Power placed our early predecessors; when their light shone as from a hill, and men seeing their good works, were induced to glorify our heavenly Father.

I could say much more in a plaintive strain, but forbear. Let me watch well over my own heart! Besides there is room, amidst all our occasions of sadness, to be humbly thankful that the Sure Foundation is kept to, by a living remnant; and also that a little firm faith is vouchsafed, that the ancient testimonies of the

immutable Truth will continue to be upheld by at least a few ; and the standard raised in its own dignity and simplicity. That which has stood the test of ages will yet stand through all, being truth and righteousness unfailingly, and it requires not the torch of human reason to search it out.

Thy affectionate friend,

SARAH GRUBB."

TO JAMES BACKHOUSE, then in Australia.

"Birmingham, 5th mo. 30th, 1834.

MY VALUED FRIEND J. B.

I have sometimes been privileged to see extracts from thy letters to thy dear relatives, &c.

The Good Shepherd knoweth the right time and place, when and how, to feed the scattered flock. He goeth before, and leadeth the blind in a way they knew not, but of his own preparing.

All this, and much more, is well known to thee ; I may add to you, dear dedicated servants ! I am personally a stranger to thy companion G. W. Walker, but I feel no separation in the best desires of my heart, that the universal Father of mankind, to whom we are reconciled through faith in Jesus Christ, the atonement for sin, the Saviour of the poor contrite sinner, who has no other hope of salvation, may continue to bless you. May He increase our true faith, so that we may avoid all doubts and vain wranglings ; simple obedience seems to me much wanting among religious professors.

It is very gratifying that thou rememberest me in the bond of Christian affection ; often, very often, do I think of thee,

especially in my solitary sitting, in my own apartment. When I call to mind thy report of your favoured retirements, I seem in some imperfect measure, gathered, by the One, eternal Power, to the same footstool of Mercy where you are so eminently favoured and comforted,—brought, as it were, into the bosom of your own dear absent friends,—pouring forth the spirit of prayer, renewing your spiritual confidence, and afresh resigning all ! This is the Lord's doing, and He is greatly to be praised.

I cannot but smile, my Christian brother, when thou designates me 'The ancient friend ;' though it is true I have lived days and years not a few (fourscore years !), yet, believe me, I feel myself a very child ; having to learn a new lesson every day, and to be thankful if the evening bring no condemnation for wilful omission, or any other cause ; also that the morning light again arises with renewed mercies.

My health, though never robust, is sufficient for the exertions required ; my spirits cheerful ; all my wants supplied, and crowned with calm content. What can a Christian, drawing to the close of time, desire more ; save to press forward, to the mark for the prize at the end of the race !

Accept the simple, sincere love of

MARY CAPPER,

in Old England ; loved, though not faultless."

To M. S.

"Birmingham, 6th mo. 22nd, 1834.

Thy affectionate partiality will peruse what is now sent with indulgence. I have not made any particular remark respecting joining the Society unto which I at this day consider it an unspeakable

favour to be united. The religious principles professed by us, in their purity, as set forth in the Scriptures, which testify of Jesus, born of a virgin, as foretold, to bruise the head of the serpent, yea, manifested in the flesh, and dying to redeem the fallen race of Adam, and to cast up a new and holy way of access to God the Father—these principles have been, and are still from time to time, so far opened to my spiritual understanding, that my heart is at rest. As to the result of what conviction has wrought in my life and manners, since united in your favoured fellowship, my familiar friends must testify. I can only add, that I am bound in gratitude to acknowledge the gentle hand of Mercy that has guided me hitherto, and joined me in strong affection to the Society, and satisfied my seeking mind as to the genuine gospel principles of salvation.

MARY CAPPER."

It is probably the following series of reflections to which Mary Capper alludes in the foregoing letter; as they bear date about this time.

"Birmingham, 6th mo. 1834.

After a considerable lapse of time, now in the eightieth year of my age, yet a sojourner and a pilgrim, pressing forward as not having attained all that my soul longeth after, I have this testimony to bear. Being lively, active and volatile in my early years, I account it not one of the least of many mercies that my natural frame was feeble, and that sometimes I was much reduced by sickness. At these seasons, O! marvellous mercy! I was favoured with much tenderness of spirit, and shed secret, soothing, precious tears, in an indescribable sense that God was very good, and that He saw me; and I think I did breathe the prayer that I might not be left to my own guidance. When sin and sinfulness were set before me, in the times of my folly, and

I felt not the sweet, gentle balm of our Heavenly Father's favour, I did inwardly mourn, and did ignorantly, if not sinfully, wish that I had never been born. For many years, under a variety of outward changes or events, the secret, progressive work (may I not say, the genuine power of pure religion) was preparing the way for clearer views respecting the soul's salvation. In these babe-like days, whatever I found to obstruct daily prayer—lowly supplication at the throne of mercy, seemed in my view sinful, and must be overcome. Verily I have found it, and I do still find it, a wrestling warfare! The new birth is a marvellous work; a complete spiritual creation, with all things new, is not wrought by the reasoning powers of the natural man. God the Father reveals the Son in us, as the Light, the Life and the Way; and gives us power to believe in Him also as the atoning sacrifice for sin, whereby we have access to a reconciled God and universal Father. This spiritual view of salvation, as set forth in the Scriptures, and abundantly testified by the faithful of former generations,—this atoning sacrifice, this way of redemption, (begun, carried on and perfected for me and in me,) is the rock and ground of my christian faith, and of my hope of acceptance, when this mortal shall put on immortality. My simple, yet reverent testimony is to the marvellous love of God, in Christ Jesus, as the guide of youth, and the staff of lengthened years, to those who acknowledge Him in all their ways. My heart rests in the belief that these will not be left to perish through ignorance. Obedience is the test of our sincerity. Acknowledge God in all thy ways, and He will direct thy steps aright, from youth to old age.

MARY CAPPER."

To K. B.

Birmingham, 8th mo. 27th, 1834.

MY MUCH LOVED NIECE AND RELATIVES.

Shall I meet you with this letter, in the favoured shades of a Father's planting! as I have understood that your annual retreat is among trees cultivated by a Parent's hand. Whether this may reach you there or not, something alive within me, better than naughty self, seems as it were to unite with your contrited spirits. The Saviour's gentle, sweet, marvellously kind and feeling, language of invitation to his faithful followers, presents, as so beautifully applicable, encouraging and consoling, that I think I must refer to it, namely, 'Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile!' I can hardly forbear to copy a few lines from a beautiful comment on these words;

"Gladly we catch the tender sound,
Which bids us come and rest awhile;
Come, breathe with me the desert air!
Come, breathe to God the secret prayer!
We come! we come!—the harrass'd soul
Longs to escape this war of words,
The clouds of care which round us roll,
And rest with thee, thou Lord of lords!
And once again, the bark refit,
Ere we the quiet haven quit!"

My own 'dear little home,' as thou so justly termest it, is a prepared place of rest for me. No human contrivance or foresight could have so provided for my ease and accommodation; no anxious cares, no daily solitudes, which press with even lawful weight, in many situations; and what shall I say? reverence and humbling contrition clothe my spirit. Language

would fail me to tell of the lowly calm wherein my thoughts are fixed on the mercy which has followed me from my childhood to this day. In my lowest estate I have the anchor of hope, and dare not cherish unbelief, nor unprofitably dwell on things too high for my present comprehension. Even my very weakness proves an exercise of faith and patience. These things I write, not so much for your instruction, as to signify that we are fellow-contenders for the end of our faith—the salvation of our souls.

I mark thy observation on the too frequent and familiar mention of the name of the blessed Saviour, both in public and private. Through faith in this name, my belief is that we shall be saved; but the solemn admonition sometimes rises before me, 'Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.'—O! I long to depart from all iniquity; this is a marvellous work, of the Lord's beginning, carrying on, and perfecting.

MARY CAPPER."