

faith in the redeeming Power of a crucified, glorified Saviour, manifested in the humbled soul, as the true light and life, which opens the blind eye, and leads in the way of salvation. I am sensible that consoling evidences may be veiled; that bright vision may fail, in a long, dark and gloomy day; the cloud resting upon the tabernacle. Is not this the trial and proving of our faith, even at the present time? But with thee and thy dear husband and family, I look forward with cheering hope that brighter days are in store for those, who in faithfulness, hold fast their confidence in the mercy and love of our Heavenly Father, as a reconciled God. Divine compassion can alone begin, carry on, and perfect his own glorious work; my impotence and ignorance keep me, as I think, at the Saviour's feet.

MARY CAPPER."

To K. B.

"5th mo. 29th, 1837.

MY BELOVED NIECE,

Morning by morning my thoughts seem to bring to my view the dear exercised labourers of the present day. Solitary and useless as I apprehend myself to be, my best desires, in favoured seasons, are earnest, in the spirit of supplication, that heavenly Mercy may be manifested to heal the wounded spirit, to strengthen the feeble-minded, and to confirm our faith in the one sacrifice for sin; that we may know the effect of sanctifying Power, while passing through this time of probation. My heart seems to press after the experience of a prepared state for a prepared place.

MARY CAPPER."

TO THE SAME.

"Birmingham, 12th mo. 14th, 1837.

Cough and debility keep me much confined, though I am favoured to attend most of our religious meetings; and with the ability given, I think my heart has united with those who are exercised in desire that we may experience a revival of spirituality, with that faith which produces a right preparation to worship in spirit and truth. O! for a more powerful sense of this in all our religious assemblies. Lowly, persevering waiting at the Redeemer's feet, seems to me the watchword for the present time. My dear niece, may Israel's Shepherd keep thee, and all who are dear to thee, with my own soul, nigh to the mercy-seat, and finally complete his own glorious work of salvation!

Thy aunt,

MARY CAPPER."

TO B. AND C. C.

"2nd mo. 22nd, 1838.

MUCH LOVED FRIENDS,

There never was a day in which I so fully entered into sympathy with my fellow believers in the sure mercies of God in Christ Jesus. Though these may have received, in favoured seasons past, sweet evidences of walking acceptably in the Divine presence, yet at the present time (it may be for the accomplishment of the Lord's purposes,—for the completion of his own work) the poor, disconsolate traveller may seem to be forsaken. I do know something of this continued warfare; but in adorable

mercy, the wrestling soul can hear the cheering language, 'All is not lost that is out of sight.'

With you, my precious friends, my desire and prayer is, to look, beyond all doubts and fears, to a gracious Redeemer, whose power is above all; for we may feelingly adopt the language, 'This is mine infirmity!'

Very affectionately,

MARY CAPPER."

To ———.

"Birmingham, 2nd mo. 29th, 1838.

MY FELLOW-PROBATIONER,

For whom I continue to feel an affectionate Christian interest. I think thy letter would not have lain so long unacknowledged, had I anything to offer that could minister availing instruction. My limited experience however, leads me to cherish tender sympathy with every one who is convinced of the sinfulness of sin, and of our depravity by nature.

It is recorded in Scripture, from the Highest authority, 'A man must be born again, or he cannot see, or enter, the kingdom of heaven.' This new birth, or new creation, is a blessed change of heart; all things become new; new thoughts, new desires, and new views of ourselves. I may venture to say, that it appears to me, that thy present humiliating sense of gross commissions, with thy mournful retrospect thereof, and thy turning from thy unrighteous ways, are tokens of mercy, that thou art not forsaken, or given up to hardness of heart, so long

as a secret spirit of prayer, or good desire, is raised, and kept alive in thee.

Although, as yet, thou art tossed and not comforted, remember there must be a time of trial, ere the soul can come to rest on the Rock of salvation. We are assured, that 'To know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent, is life eternal.' This is a knowledge too high for the natural comprehension; but we are also assured, that the grace of God, or the Holy Spirit, is given unto us to profit withal, as testified by holy men of old, and by faithful Christians, from generation to generation. The Holy Spirit, the Saviour's gift, is to this day my Comforter, carrying on, as I humbly hope, the great work of sanctification, throughout, in body, soul and spirit. From my early years, I had a secret belief that religion was pure and holy, and that it led to purity and holiness of life; and I was induced to consider that the Society of Friends manifested more consistency of manners and conduct, than was discoverable among others.

The fundamental faith of the Society in a crucified Saviour, as a Redeemer, and a Reconciler to God the Father, I have never doubted; and had there been more faithful obedience to that Spirit which leads out of error, I am inclined to believe we had not been so scattered a people as we are at this day. My enfeebled state of body and mind disqualifies me from entering into argument. My peace seems to be in quietness, and in holding fast my confidence; taking a retrospective view of the way in which I have been kept and led hitherto.

With an earnest desire for the welfare of souls, for thee and thy dear family,

I remain affectionately thy friend,

MARY CAPPER."

TO J. AND S. GRUBB.

“Birmingham, 5th mo. 19th, 1838.

MY PRECIOUS FRIENDS,

Although my powers of communication are at a low ebb, I would most willingly, with unfeigned, uniting love, again greet you. Your dear children also seem to have place in my best desires, that they may be safely kept in the lowly valley, and patiently abide the siftings and provings of this day. I think I do enter into tender sympathy with a rising generation, and with my fellow pilgrims, who may be, at seasons, tossed and not comforted. Nothing less than enduring Mercy and Goodness can keep alive an availing faith in the Rock of Ages,—the Light, the Life, the Power that leads to a life of holiness. My soul presses after this in my present weak estate. Ye dear labourers and faithful servants, may the hope set before you be clear and steadfast. To be willing to bear one another’s burdens, to suffer with those who are tempted, buffeted and grievously tried, is the work of the Good Spirit, that clothes the Christian believer with the mind that was in Christ, so far as seems meet to Perfect Wisdom; so that my endeared S. G. I notice, with a measure of grateful admiration, thy willing submission to a restoration of health, and renewed power to be helpful in thy own dear family and to others, by encouragement and example, that they faint not by the way, though it seems rough and thorny. Thy affectionate communications are very welcome and cheering to me.

I was favoured to pass through the protracted winter with as little ailment as the generality of my aged fellow pilgrims, and have been privileged to get to our meetings for worship, almost constantly, having the free use of my limbs at the lengthened

period of eighty-three revolving years! But a recent attack of erysipelas has much reduced my mental and bodily powers.

With all my infirmities, the Good Spirit is not wholly withdrawn, and I wrestle in prayer for resignation, faith and patience. Accept my imperfect offering, in the love I bear to thee and those most dear to thee.

Affectionately,

MARY CAPPER.”

S. GRUBB TO M. CAPPER.

“Clapham, 5th mo. 1838.

DEARLY BELOVED FRIEND,

Thy sweet and precious letter has done me good. O! how delightful it is to see that some hold on their way, in this day of backsliding. This Yearly Meeting convinces us that we are still, too generally, a revolting people, and my portion of labour has been much in the line of laying open our condition, and calling back the wanderers; for it seems to me to be a day of renewed visitation. The Heavenly Wing is extended to gather into safety; while yet many are not prepared to come under it, for want of being sensible of their danger and of their own helplessness. There is nevertheless a little band of humble, simple ones, who feel their entire dependence upon the Almighty Helper, and these are very near and dear one unto another, wherever they are, and however circumstanced; among such is thyself; kept, through Divine mercy, in the holy oneness, maintaining the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace; and although some of thy steps, now late in the race, may be painful, I do believe thou wilt find the end to be crowned with peace and satisfaction for ever.

My dear husband let me come alone this time, he not being

vigorous enough to make his coming prudent. My children feel the tender regard expressed for them in thy letters to me. We seek not great things for them, any more than for ourselves, either as to temporals or spirituals, but true Wisdom, whose ways are pleasantness, and her paths peace. Many are the baptisms, even in youth, known by such as yield to the preparing Power, which brings to a holy settlement, on the sure Foundation.

It is very sweet, and confirming to some of us, to see Daniel Wheeler return safe and sound, in every sense; and to hear him tell, in a few sentences, of what he has seen of the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deeps, and testify to the sufficiency of Divine Grace, as he has witnessed it in himself and others. He says that if he had entertained any doubts before (which was not the case) concerning a measure and manifestation of the Spirit being granted to all men, they would have been removed by what he has seen among those whose situation in the world left them in ignorance as to the outward, yet who acknowledged to being sensible of the reproofs of the great and good Spirit in their own hearts. Daniel is as tender and as humble as a child, after all that the Lord has wrought by him, as well as for him. I may now take leave of thee, my very dear friend, and remain, I humbly trust, in the fellowship of the gospel, and also a partaker with thee in tribulation.

Thy affectionate friend,

SARAH GRUBB."

M. CAPPER TO K. B.

"Birmingham, 5th mo. 22nd, 1838.

My spirit does hunger and thirst for an increase of holiness,—for complete sanctification. We seem very much stripped in our religious gatherings; may we cherish the hope that spiritual

strength and confidence may be renewed! This is not a day with us as a Society, to proclaim that our cup runneth over with heavenly consolation; nevertheless my earnest prayer is, that I may be kept from turning aside, and that Mercy may crown all with the everlasting anthem of thanksgiving."

TO THE SAME.

"Birmingham, 6th mo. 15th, 1838.

I have had satisfactory reports of the Yearly Meeting, and Elizabeth Robson called upon me, and confirmed the encouraging intelligence, that we are not a forsaken people. I believe that if there was more individual faithfulness, we should be more conspicuously favoured with light, life and power, as a spiritually-minded people, who having left the shadow, are pressing after the substance.

*Second day.* I have now had the gratification of seeing my dear nephew and niece Mounsey, and I hope we were mutually refreshed with something better than the wine of the best grapes of Canaan.

MARY CAPPER."

TO S. L.

"Birmingham, 6th mo. 22nd, 1838.

DEAR S. L.

Although a considerable lapse of time may occur between our communications, I am satisfied it enters not our thoughts, that we are forgotten by each other. Many a sweet and uniting recollection arises in the retrospect of days past, when we were

favoured to participate in that refreshment which renews our faith and our confidence in Redeeming Love and Power, which is unalterable, though we may witness so many changes, that we may seem comparable to the solitary in a family. I am not a stranger to a feeling something like this; but the spirit of prayer earnestly breathes in secret for patient submission to the preparing hand of our Lord; and while thus enduring the separation of the precious from the vile, we may truly, and very tenderly, feel with and for one another; and when so favoured, rejoice together in a grateful sense of continued mercies. I understand that at the Yearly Meeting, condescending Goodness and Mercy were measurably experienced; so I was informed by a dear aged friend, Alexander Cruikshank, of Scotland, humble and tender in spirit. O! that there were more, of such consistency of life, and circumspect conversation, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; then I do believe the genuine Foundation of our faith and hope of salvation would be more manifest. The savour of this dear friend's spirit seems to remain as precious odour spread around. I understand that dear, aged Wm. Rickman was a faithful testimony bearer, in London this year, being upwards of ninety-two.

MARY CAPPER."

To K. B.

"Most likely thou hast been informed that thy dear Brother is in London, in obedience to his religious duty. O! what a favour that there are those yet to be found among us, to preach the gospel to the poor, the wretched; yea! the most degraded of the human race. I can scarcely credit the result of thy patience, in arranging the almost voluminous scribbling consigned to thy care. If ought of interest or usefulness can be found, I am most willing that thou shouldst have the selection, and

consider it very kind that thou art willing to take the encumbrance. In concluding these words, my dear Niece, I am reverently conscious that it would be ungrateful not to acknowledge the tender mercy of our Heavenly Father, which has kept me, from my youth to this day, from following on in the broad way that leads to destruction. For this, his revealed power, and redeeming love, be rendered glory and praise!

MARY CAPPER."

In explanation of the foregoing remark, it may be proper to observe, that Mary Capper entrusted her journals, &c. to the editor, some years before her decease; and then supplied some of the earlier pages of this memoir; but it is to be regretted that her memory could not then furnish some connecting links which would have been desirable and useful. It is hoped, however, that the pious walk of this lowly-minded hand-maiden of the Lord, is sufficiently manifest in these pages, to add one more to the many inducements which are held forth, to follow in the footsteps of the flock of Christ,—even of those who obey the voice of the Good Shepherd, and walk in his paths.

To K. B.

"Birmingham, 10th mo. 25th, 1838.

In my eighty-fourth year, I seem but as a child; the sustaining arm of Mercy is still underneath, or faith and hope would fail, as I am in some measure alive to the exercises brought upon us, as a religious body, at this day. Surely there must be a backsliding from our genuine principles,—a departure from the faith, that Jesus Christ, the Son and Sent of the Father,

died for sinners; that his atoning sacrifice, with all its wonder-working effects, too high for human comprehension, brought light and life, or grace into the dark heart of our fallen race, and most mercifully put us, into a capacity to experience salvation. O! how superior is this dispensation to the Mosaic, with its types and figurative ceremonies.

How is it, my dear niece, that I have ventured thus to pen my views? My heart, in unison with every humble believer, longs and presses after the knowledge of God our Saviour; whom truly to know is life eternal; and as a weaned child I am, at times, quieted. May I be thankful for countless favours daily bestowed!"

TO THE SAME.

"Birmingham, 12th mo. 4th, 1838.

As the end of my lengthened life draws nigh, my hope of salvation is still in the Saviour. Thy retrospect of the close of time to thy precious parents is very impressive; it is consoling to contemplate the mercy which we have good ground to believe, prepared, and has gathered their sanctified souls into the kingdom where sin, the root and germ of sorrow, can no more disturb, neither interrupt the undefiled rest of the ransomed of the Lord! I cherish it as a token for good, that we are brought to each other's particular remembrance in our most favoured times. May we not accept it as a sweet, encouraging evidence of the Power that baptizes into one Spirit! by the 'one baptism,' which is something beyond elementary washing or dipping, or any thing perishable.

10th. Our Quarterly Meeting has appointed a Committee, in concurrence with the advice of the Yearly Meeting, to

visit friends in their families, and to offer affectionate counsel, in that wisdom and discernment which may be granted, that all may be induced to press after holiness and godly simplicity. It is well to be stirred up to enter into self-examination. I think my confidence was somewhat renewed by the visit of four friends to myself.

MARY CAPPER."