

1841

Testimonies Concerning Deceased Ministers: 1841

London Yearly Meeting

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TESTIMONIES
CONCERNING
DECEASED MINISTERS.

PRESENTED TO
THE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS,
HELD IN LONDON, 1841.

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A TESTIMONY

From WITNEY MONTHLY MEETING, concerning DANIEL RUTTER, deceased, who died at Witney, the 17th day of the 5th month, 1840; and his remains were interred in Friends' Burial-ground there, on the 24th of the same. Aged 65 years. A minister about 10 years.

IN preparing a memorial of our late beloved Friend, our object is a faithful delineation of what appeared prominent in his character,—what is worthy to be recorded and had in remembrance, as an example to survivors.

He was born at Witney, the 4th of 2nd month, 1775. Of his early life we have but little information; he received his education at Ackworth School, and served an apprenticeship in London. When arrived at man's estate he was inclined to gaiety and dissipation till about his 29th year; during an illness at that time, his mind became powerfully awakened and exceedingly humbled under the convictions he had for sin, and his sense of the wonderful mercy of God. The impressions then received were strong and abiding, inducing him to remark that now he was brought to *feel* what the alone efficacious baptism was; saying emphatically, "*this is baptism indeed!*" He now also became fully convinced of the soundness of our religious principles, and of the value of our peculiar testimonies, which he was concerned faithfully to uphold.

Having been thus favoured to experience a change of heart, he was enabled through grace to maintain a consistent walk in life, and to bring forth fruit to the praise of the great Husbandman; and has left a good savor behind him, both amongst friends and the community at large.

Humility and diffidence were conspicuous traits in his character, yet he evinced a readiness and alacrity in serving, not only the Society, but his friends and neighbours; and stood disposed to be helpful both in counsel and in a pecuniary way when needed. He has often expressed the pain it occasioned his mind on hearing of the decease of any of our members, who had died in the possession of great wealth; yet he was cautious and charitable in judging the conduct and character of others.

He was acknowledged a minister in 1830; his communications were mostly short, yet sound and edifying. He was engaged as one of the Quarterly Meetings' Committee, appointed agreeably to the recommendation of the Yearly Meeting of 1838, in visiting the families of Friends within its limits, and he seemed peculiarly qualified for this labour of love.

His last illness was short, and he did not communicate much; but he once said, "I think mine a critical case, but I am not at all anxious which way it is." The termination was sudden, and we have no doubt he is entered into that rest which remaineth for the people of God, through the merits and intercession of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Signed in the Monthly Meeting held at Witney, the 8th of 2nd month, 1841.

A TESTIMONY

*From the MONTHLY MEETING for the EASTERN DIVISION
of CORNWALL, respecting SARAH TUCKETT, deceased.*

THIS our dear Friend was born on the 21st of 10th month, 1759, at Looe, in Cornwall, which continued, with little exception, to be the place of her residence through life.

She appears to have had, when young, to contend with many disadvantages, as regarded her associates, and with a disposition naturally volatile and fond of gaiety. Some of her early religious impressions were received while at school at Melksham, through the instrumentality of Sarah Stephenson; to whose anxious and persevering concern for her best welfare she often adverted, as having been productive, under the Divine blessing, of beneficial and lasting effects. On returning home from school she apprehended it required of her to pursue a decided course of plainness and consistency as a Friend.

About her twenty-second year she spent some time at Bristol, and from a short diary which she kept while there, as well as from letters which have been preserved, it appears that her mind was tendered at that time by a precious and powerful visitation of Divine love. Under this she learned in a good degree to prefer the things which are most excellent to the specious promises of a delusive world, and became earnestly concerned for the religious welfare of her young companions.

When about twenty-four years of age she yielded to an apprehension of duty which had long attended her mind, to

speak as a minister ; and her engagements in this service being approved by her friends, she was recognised as such in about two years afterwards.

At different times from the year 1791, she visited Friends, in the work of the ministry, in various parts of England, in Scotland, and in Ireland. An extensive service of this nature was a visit, in 1813, to most of the families of Friends in the Quarterly Meeting of London and Middlesex, which she appears to have completed a few years after. A visit to Ireland, in 1818, was one of her last engagements of this kind. In these services it is believed that her labours were often blessed to the good of individuals, and to the advancement of the cause of truth. She held many meetings with persons not professing with us in this county, being frequently associated with other Friends in the service ; and through a long series of years she was a diligent attender of our meetings for discipline, often under great infirmity of body.

Towards the latter part of her life it was with considerable difficulty that she got out once a year from her own secluded habitation, to attend the Quarterly Meeting, when held a few miles distant. She did not, however, repine, being more disposed to number her blessings, and be grateful for them, than to indulge a contrary disposition.

In the second month of 1840, she had an attack of influenza, which, though not apparently severe, soon produced a considerable effect on her general health. A near relative, whom she sent for, kindly attended her ; but all the means resorted to for relief proved unavailing, and the powers of nature, already languid, visibly gave way.

On the 6th of 5th month, two of her friends coming to see her, she said, some persons might think that she had an abundance of good, but that the case was far otherwise ; for she felt very poor and low in mind : yet, when she remembered what the great Master suffered, she ought not to be

surprised. Some remarks being made on the state of things among Friends in another land, she said, with emphasis, "The spirits of individuals must be subject to the judgment of the church. I have found this the safest way for myself."

A visit from some Friends on the 13th appeared to open a train of thought and expression, which produced feelings of hope and comfort. Some of them who were young she addressed very affectionately, saying, "May my dear young friends grow up as willows by the watercourses, plants of the Lord's planting. May He bless you, and love you, and keep you! Seek the Lord and his strength!" In making these remarks, her countenance displayed a peaceful serenity.

In allusion to an encouraging message from an absent Friend, it was observed, that it is a great favour that the members of the spiritual body are enabled to feel one for another. She replied, "It is a great blessing;" adding, "We must drink of the cup the Master drank of, and be baptized with the baptism He was baptized with. It is those who come through much tribulation that stand before the throne. The trial of faith is precious." After a time of great suffering from oppression and difficulty of breathing, she obtained a little relief, and said, "There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the people of God." It was replied, "We have been permitted at seasons to taste of them in passing through this state of probation, and what will the full enjoyment be?" She answered, "All unworthy!" A precious stillness and solemnity succeeded.

On retiring to bed she said, "I hope I am going to the joys of God's salvation." The night was tolerably quiet and easy, and she seemed refreshed in the morning; but a great tendency to drowsiness, with extreme debility, afterwards came on, and she could scarcely articulate so as to be understood. Towards evening she appeared in a very sink-

ing state, but wished her attendant to understand that she was quite sensible, and that all was well. She had a restless and suffering night, and said that she believed she was on her death-bed—that she never had doubted of the outward and inward appearance of Christ, but had now been afresh convinced of it.

The day following, being the 15th of 5th month, she seemed longing for a release, and said it would be a favour to pass quietly away; but the power of utterance having almost failed, she could express but little. In the evening she said, with difficulty, “We have no merits to plead, it is *all of mercy!*” And soon after she quietly breathed her last.

Her remains were interred on the 18th, in Friends’ Burial-ground at Looe. She was aged upwards of eighty years; a minister about fifty-four years.

We are comforted in fully believing, that, notwithstanding her low apprehensions of her own state, she was graciously permitted to find acceptance through Christ her Saviour.

Signed in our Monthly Meeting aforesaid, held at Liskeard, the 2nd day of 2nd month, 1841.

A TESTIMONY

From the MONTHLY MEETING for the WEST DIVISION of CORNWALL, respecting WILLIAM HOSKINS, who died at Falmouth the 27th of 10th month, 1840; and was interred there, in Friends' Burying-ground, on the 1st of 11th month following, aged 56 years. A minister about 8 years.

Our dear friend was the son of John and Anne Hoskins, of Austle, in this county, and was born there in the 10th month, 1784.

During his youth he attended the Episcopalian places of worship with his father; and in his search after truth he also examined the religious views of the Wesleyan Methodists, attending for a short time some of their class-meetings.

His mother was a member of our religious society; and her example and influence, together with the perusal of the writings of Friends, were instrumental in convincing him in early life of the truth of our principles.

When about twenty-two years of age he commenced business at Helston as a plumber and brazier, and was in the constant practice of attending the meetings of Friends on first-days at Marazion or Redruth, to which he generally walked, although both places were about ten miles distant from his home.

After residing about two years at Helston he was received as a member of our Society, and was the only one in that place. The serious and consistent conduct of our dear

friend, marked as it was by strict integrity and uprightness, adorned the doctrine he professed, and gained for him the esteem, not only of his fellow members, but of those also who had other and more frequent opportunities of forming an estimate of his character.

About the year 1814 he removed to Falmouth, and some years afterwards he was united in marriage to Eleanor Stephens, daughter of John and Anne Stephens, of Hayle, in this county, who proved to him a valuable companion, and to their children a religiously exercised and tender mother.

He was appointed an elder in the year 1827, which station he filled for several years, until having been called of the Lord, as we believe, to labour in the Gospel, he was acknowledged as a minister.

The almost sudden decease of his beloved wife, in the early part of 1837, whilst he was preparing to leave home to pay a religious visit to the families of Friends in Bristol, plunged him into deep distress.

This affecting circumstance was a close trial of his faith, having to leave his children, who were young, and eight in number, although under the charge of a near relative; but he was enabled to commit all to the care and keeping of a gracious Providence, and in less than three weeks afterwards he left home for Bristol, remarking that he could not satisfactorily attend to his own business, though dependant on it for support, until he had performed the errand of his Divine Master, and was strengthened to accomplish the service to the satisfaction of his friends, and to his own great peace.

Shortly after this he was twice similarly engaged, having the concurrence of his Monthly Meeting to visit the families of Friends in Manchester, Macclesfield, and Leeds, also the meetings and families of Plymouth and Tavistock; and although suffering much from bodily weakness, he was

enabled to accomplish these visits to his own relief, and to the edification of many.

Our dear friend was often reduced to a state of much weakness, but through all he made great efforts to attend our religious meetings, both for worship and discipline.

In these he was frequently engaged to call back the wanderer, to arouse the careless, warning them of the wiles of Satan, and to stimulate the sincere in heart to persevere in the race set before them, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith," on whose boundless love in offering himself for the sins of the whole world he often dwelt.

Deep suffering and sorrow were his frequent portion, yet was he never, we believe, heard to murmur; but on the contrary was enabled to hold fast his integrity, affording a striking example of resignation, and was remarkably disposed to recount the favours bestowed upon him, and to encourage his friends both by example and precept to the exercise of a thankful and trustful spirit.

In an interview with a sympathizing friend about a month before his death, he observed, "To be sure I have had many trials; but oh! where shall I begin, or how shall I end, if I attempt to enumerate the mercies bestowed!"

To another kind friend who had long sought to smooth his path, he said, about the same time, "The body is in a sad case, but it does not affect me, I am so sustained: the stripes I *might* count, but the blessings are *numberless*; and even in the stripes there is a blessing, for they draw me nearer to Him who is becoming my all in all!"

On a subsequent day he remarked that he felt the sustaining arm of the Lord underneath, and that we were not following cunningly devised fables; and further said, that sometimes he was ready to doubt his work being done, as he was often favoured with clear openings in doctrine, much in harmony, as he believed, with the views of our early Friends.

At another time, when the same friend entered his room, he held out his hand, and said, "I want thee to rejoice with me. Oh! the comfort and the joy, tongue cannot utter!—no accuser of the brethren!—no buffetting of the enemy! the poor body is in extreme suffering, but deliverance is near!" He then exclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest! hallelujah! hallelujah!" continuing this strain of praise until almost exhausted.

When apparently in a very low state he said, "The spirit rejoicing, the body sinking, but the mind so supported."

We believe our dear friend was one who had feared the Lord from his youth; and when he was called to the public advocacy of the cause of truth, he yielded to the Divine requisition, made a full surrender, often testifying that He whom he served was not a hard master; and having through faith and obedience become one of Christ's flock, it was given him, we believe, to rejoice in the purchased redemption, and in effect to adopt the language of the Apostle, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

Given forth by the Meeting aforesaid, held at Falmouth, the 13th of the 4th month, 1841, and signed therein.

A TESTIMONY

*From the MONTHLY MEETING of Friends of the EAST
DIVISION of DEVONSHIRE, concerning our deceased
Friend, OLIVE DYMOND.*

OUR dear Friend Olive Dymond was the daughter of Jonathan and Esther Hitchcock of London, and was born on the 9th of the 9th month, 1761. She was educated in connexion with the Established Church, (of which her mother was a zealous member,) but in early life she became dissatisfied with its forms and ceremonies, and after passing through deep and varied conflicts, being convinced of the rectitude and truth of our religious principles, joined our Society, about the twentieth year of her age.

In 1789, she was married to our late friend John Dymond, whom she survived about two years; and was acknowledged a minister by this monthly meeting at the same time with him.

Her gift in the ministry was rarely exercised, and she usually expressed herself in few words, but they were accompanied by the baptizing power of the Holy Spirit.

She was a valued and affectionate helpmate to her beloved husband, encouraging him to faithfulness in the discharge of apprehended duty, and cheerfully submitting to the privation of his society, when he was called from home in the service of his Divine Master.

Her attachment to the religious principles, which she early embraced, remained unshaken to the end of her life; and the deep exercise of her mind for the welfare of our

Society was frequently witnessed by those around her, and she repeatedly expressed her full belief, that it would still be preserved and sustained by Him who had gathered us to be a people.

She was for many years affected with paralysis, which gradually increased, until she became entirely unable to help herself; the faculties of her mind, however, continued remarkably clear and bright, and to many of her friends her communications were lively and edifying. At one time, referring to her enfeebled state, she said, "But I have not one pain too much," and then spoke of the rest prepared for her, when the trials of the suffering body should be over; adding, "I have nothing of my own—no righteousness of my own—it is all through the mercy of my blessed Redeemer." At a subsequent time, when under great suffering, a hope being expressed that she felt support and comfort underneath, she replied, "O yes—I have no triumphant feeling, but a quiet assurance." And she was enabled when near her close, to adopt the language of the Psalmist, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

She died in great peace on the 26th of the 8th month, and her remains were interred at Exeter, on the 1st of the 9th month, 1840, aged seventy-nine years, a minister about forty-two years.

Signed in the Meeting aforesaid, held at Collumpton, the 1st of the 2nd month, 1841.

A TESTIMONY

From NEWCASTLE MONTHLY MEETING, concerning MARGARET BRAGG, deceased.

MARGARET BRAGG was the youngest daughter of Isaac and Rachel Wilson of Kendal, and derived much advantage from their pious care to train up their children in piety and virtue, and in the fear of the Lord; she also had in after life to number amongst the many blessings which she then enjoyed, the benefit derived from the Society and conversation of Friends engaged in the work of the ministry, who frequently, in the course of their travels, were hospitably entertained at her father's house. She appears to have been favoured with precious visitations of Divine love in early life, tendering her spirit before the Lord, and exciting in her mind strong and living desires that she might be enabled to walk in the paths of holiness and dedication. She lost her valuable mother by death when about fourteen years of age: as she grew up to maturity the salutary restraints of the cross were at times irksome to her active mind; she was tempted to elude the vigilance of her surviving parent, and to indulge in light, speculative, and unprofitable reading, of which practice she had afterwards bitterly to repent, when her mind was renewedly brought to yield to the convicting influence of the Lord's power, and earnestly to seek to have her heart and affections fixed on Divine things; then the subjects of her injudicious reading frequently haunted her mind, in a manner and at such times as greatly tried and distressed her. She has been heard to

say, that, about this period of her life, the operations of Divine grace were at times so powerful, that, in the midst of her enjoyments amongst her youthful associates, she was frequently constrained to retire, to wait upon the Lord, and to pour out before Him the breathings of her soul.

In the year 1790, and about the twenty-ninth of her age, she was married to Hadwen Bragg of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in whom she found a true fellow-traveller in the way to the kingdom, and as they endeavoured to walk in the divine counsel, they grew in religious experience, and became prepared for usefulness in the church; their hearts and house were not only opened to receive the Lord's messengers and servants, but they were enabled to extend a kind and fostering care toward those of less experience, who were drawn by their kindness and hospitality occasionally to resort to their house. Thus, by their pious and instructive conversation, and by their counsel and advice, as well as by example, they encouraged others in their search after those things which make for true peace, and things whereby one may edify another. About the thirty-fourth year of her age she first appeared as a minister, in which as she grew in her gift, she became a diligent labourer; and although her family and domestic concerns claimed much of her time and attention, she visited at different times most of the meetings of Friends in Great Britain; and in the year 1825 those of Ireland, where her faithful and zealous labours of gospel love, proved as a refreshing visitation to many: through her instrumentality in this journey, we have cause to believe some were effectually reached, and "turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God."

She was endowed with a superior share of natural abilities, and possessing an active mind, she was induced to take part in the management of a variety of affairs beyond the generality of her sex. To a mind thus gifted and occupied, a more than ordinary watch was requisite to keep the will

and wisdom of the creature in due subjection to the Divine will; and within those limits which Christian humility demands. From long cherished friendships with several of those who had once been useful in the Society, but who had swerved from their stedfastness, this our beloved friend was, for a time, involved in much conflict: but as she attentively observed the effects produced in several of these, how they were drawn back into the practice of those ritual and figurative observances, out of which our faithful predecessors were led; and from the more pure enjoyment of the spirituality of the gospel dispensation into creaturely activity; and also into a light esteem of those burning and shining lights, who were instrumental in gathering our Society to be a separate people; she was mercifully enabled to see the delusion, and her feelings of unity and fellowship with her brethren and sisters in religious profession increased, which was cause of humble heartfelt rejoicing to many, both on her own, and on the church's account.

As long as she was favoured with health, she was diligent in attending all our meetings, both for worship and for the discipline of the church; in which she was often very helpful. Her ministry on many occasions was close and searching, calculated to arouse the supine and indifferent, and was, we believe, blessed to many. She was frequently engaged to visit, and tenderly to sympathize with the sick and afflicted; many of our young friends also partook largely of her kindness and hospitality; it being her especial care to notice in this way, the more friendless amongst them. To the poor generally she contributed liberally, visiting or causing them to be visited at their own dwellings, labouring to promote their comfort and benefit in a variety of ways.

Her last illness was short; a few months previous to its commencement, being inquired of one morning as to what kind of night she had passed, she replied, she had been awake for some hours, but they were not hours of pain,

she had enjoyed such sweet communion with her Saviour. At another time, alluding to her probable recovery from an attack of illness, she said, perhaps her restoration for a time, was for the further sanctification of her soul, and that if it had its intended effect it would be well. About this time she was very feeble, yet entered with lively interest into the cares and trials of some of her endeared relations; events also in the religious movements of some who were dear to her, occupied her close attention, being tenderly concerned at a departure from what she had long considered, and which renewed examination only confirmed in her apprehension, to be correct views of the spirituality of the Christian dispensation. At times her mind was deeply tried on this account; but after the full expression of her own views to some of them, she was greatly strengthened to leave all in the hands of her Heavenly Father, through whose goodness she was enabled to maintain her belief of the truth steadfast unto the end.

In the beginning of the 5th mo. last she spent a short time at the sea-side with some of her children; she attended meeting at Shields, a few times; on the last occasion she was strengthened to bear a lively testimony, of which a friend who was present stated, "that she was engaged at great length, on the uncertainty of life, and a necessity of knowing a preparation for the solemn change; she addressed the various classes present with an affectionate earnestness, clearness, and fervour, that I do not remember ever to have heard exceeded." Consistent with her wonted practice, about this time she paid a few visits to some of her friends in affliction, the last being on her way to her own home. She soon after became very unwell, and had medical advice; on 5th day morning the 27th of 5th month she requested to have the fourteenth chapter of John read to her, after which she remarked, that she had been able to follow it throughout, in the evening she complained of sickness, retired to her bedroom, and left it no

more : the next day she remarked, " I have been able both yesterday and to-day to feel a degree of supporting faith," and sweetly commented on the comfort of truly believing : adding, that she had much desired she might be favoured with faith, patience, and resignation ; and ability to say, " not my will, but thine be done ;" but that this was an attainment she had not reached ; she had some will left. " I sometimes fear," she continued, " I have not felt sufficiently the sinfulness of my transgressions, having been forgiven much I should love much, and yet, feeling at times a little peace, I have ventured to hope for acceptance in the Beloved." Her unabated attachment to our religious Society was strongly manifested by her deep interest in the accounts received of the Yearly Meeting. On 7th day debility increased ; her breathing became much affected, so that she could not bear a recumbent position ; on 1st day evening she said, " I seem to have done with temporal things ;" On 2nd day weakness increased which she bore with much patience ; her heart appeared occupied with the anticipation of the blessed realities, which she hoped soon to enjoy in full fruition. To an attendant to whom she had been imparting affectionate counsel, she said, " Ah ! my dear H., what to me now are all the smiles or frowns of the world, in comparison of the smiles of an approving God ?" A little after, " If I am passing through the dark valley of the shadow of death, I can trust in a gracious God. When I have deviated from the right path, either through neglect, indifference, or erring in any way ; great has been my distress, but we have a gracious Intercessor, I can trust in Christ Jesus, who pleads availingly for us. Not anything which I have done,—oh no ! but if I may be but a sheep of the fold, no man can pluck these out of the Father's hands. Christianity has in all ages been spiritual, though surrounded with many abuses, but I believe pure Christianity is always the same." In her last hours, though attended with

great weakness and difficulty of breathing, she was preserved in a sweet, patient, resigned frame of mind; saying, "Let patience have its perfect work:" when her voice was become almost too feeble for utterance, reviving a little, she said, "I was in hopes that I was gone, but thy will be done; it is Thou that sanctifies and orders all things right:" she was frequently breathing forth the language of prayer, thanksgiving, and praise. Thus we reverently trust the redeemed spirit passed into the presence of its God, through whose goodness, mercy, and power, victory was granted, through our Lord Jesus Christ. She departed this life on the 2nd of the 6th month, 1840, and her remains were interred in Friends' Burial-ground at Newcastle on the 8th of the same. Aged 79 years, a minister about 45 years.

Read, approved, and signed, in Newcastle Monthly Meeting, held at Newcastle the 9th of the 12 mo. 1840.

A TESTIMONY

From COGGESHALL MONTHLY MEETING, in Essex, concerning SUSANNA BROWN, deceased.

IT having pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from amongst us our beloved friend Susanna Brown, we feel inclined to issue a short memorial respecting her.

She was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Brown, and was born at Bayford, near Hertford, in the year 1775. For many years she was engaged in the capacity of a servant, in which she was concerned conscientiously to fulfil the duties of her station; and it was while thus situated at Melksham, in Wiltshire, that she first appeared in the ministry. She came into Essex in the year 1819, and resided in the compass of Thaxted Monthly Meeting. She afterwards removed to Coggeshall, and lived with a Friend as housekeeper about sixteen years, where she had the charge of a young family. In this responsible situation she was enabled to fulfil her various duties with great uprightness and propriety, being above all things most tenderly concerned that those under her care might experience a growth and establishment in the truth. She was one who might be truly said to adorn the doctrine which she professed, not only by precept, but by her bright example; thereby inviting those around her to follow in that path of self-denial which she so evidently trod. Humility and love were striking features in her character, ever esteeming others above herself, and studying even their outward comforts before her own.

It was her practice to rise early, that she might have opportunity in retirement to seek for a renewal of her spiritual strength and for preservation in watchfulness, so that her mind might not be encumbered with the concerns of the day, and that whilst diligently employed therein she might be found "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

In the year 1820 our dear friend was acknowledged a minister in unity. Her appearances in the ministry were not frequent, nor in many words, being careful to wait for the fresh anointing, and not to exceed the measure of her gift. She was clear and sound in doctrine, and her communications were to the comfort and edification of her friends.

She was engaged in the love of the Gospel, and with the unity of her friends to pay several religious visits to Friends in the compass of her own and some other Quarterly Meetings, at the conclusion of which she had at different times to acknowledge, that, although she felt herself to be an unprofitable servant, she was favoured with a portion of true enriching peace.

In the spring of 1840 she went to pay a social visit to a Friend at Melksham; and on the 5th of 4th month, being at a meeting there, she appeared in testimony, in the course of which she said that her mind had been much impressed with the awful uncertainty of time, reviving the injunction of the blessed Redeemer, "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning, and ye yourselves like unto men who wait for their Lord, that when He cometh and knocketh they may open unto Him immediately," saying, "It is only in this watchful state that we can be prepared to receive the blessed tidings of 'Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!'"

She died at Melksham, the 8th of the 4th month, after

two days' illness, during which she was preserved in great calmness, but did not express much; and we reverently believe she has been permitted, through redeeming love and mercy, to receive the joyful sentence to which she had so recently adverted.

Her remains were interred at Melksham, the 15th day of 4th month, 1840, aged about sixty-five years; a minister upwards of twenty years.

Signed in and on behalf of Coggeshall Monthly Meeting,
held at Kelvedon, the 5th day of 10th month, 1840.

A TESTIMONY

*From the MONTHLY MEETING of COGGESHALL, in Essex,
concerning WILLIAM IMPEY, late of Earles Colne,
deceased.*

IN furnishing a memorial of the exemplary life and conversation of this our dear friend, our desire is to bear testimony to the efficacy of that Divine grace which enabled him, through obedience to its teachings, to become a devoted follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He was born in London, in the year 1790, and appears to have been the subject of religious impressions at a very early period. The following extract from a letter to his mother, written whilst at school, when about ten years of age, describes the state of his mind at that time :—" I may say, the Lord has visited me lately in unspeakable mercy ; but oh ! how has Satan come and ploughed up that good seed which might have sprung up. I have been followed from time to time by the inward reprovcr, and have been checked when I have done wrong. As thou wrote to me about the benefit derived from sitting in silent meetings, I can say that, in meeting, when nothing has been said, I have been so visited that I could not refrain from tears, and I do hope, through adorable mercy, I shall be enabled to resist all the temptations that may be cast in my way."

Although his mind was thus preciously visited in very early life, it appears that, through unwatchfulness, he lost for a time much of this tender susceptibility, and deviated from the path of rectitude, which caused him great conflict

of mind, under which he deeply deplored the loss which he had sustained ; and, being mercifully followed by the convictions of the Spirit of Truth, he was brought to experience true repentance, after which his conduct and conversation were marked by exemplary circumspection. Referring to some renewed desires to become fully devoted to the service of his Divine Master, he thus writes :—" I was led to watch over my thoughts, words, and actions, and from about my sixteenth year, I may say, the fear of the Lord deepened in my mind, and I often sought Him in the fields and solitary places ; and when no human eye beheld me, would pour forth my prayers and tears before Him, and fervent were my desires that I might be strengthened to serve Him faithfully."

Having for years felt a strong desire to devote himself to the instruction of youth, at the expiration of his apprenticeship he came to reside at Earles Colne, in the compass of this meeting, as an assistant in the school of a Friend, whom he afterward succeeded, and there is cause to believe that a blessing rested on his watchful solicitude and religious concern for the best welfare of those under his care.

He first appeared as a minister in the 25th year of his age, having been prepared for this important service by submission to that baptizing power which alone can rightly qualify for usefulness in the church ; and he was acknowledged as such in the year 1817.

In the exercise of his gift he was often powerfully engaged amongst us, under a deep concern for the eternal welfare of his friends, and with a desire faithfully to acquit himself as a good steward of the talent committed to his trust, fervently calling upon them to go forward in the way of holiness, and to devote themselves unreservedly to the Lord's service, while his care was great to labour only with the ability that God giveth. He was engaged at different times to visit the families of Friends constituting our Quar-

terly Meeting; but his religious services were not much extended beyond its limits, except in some visits by appointment of the Yearly Meeting.

In the year 1819 he was married to Mary Levett, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Levett of Coggeshall, who died in 1831, leaving three sons, for whom he evinced much deep religious and parental care. In 1836 he was again married to Hannah King, daughter of the late John and Hannah King, of Sudbury, who survives him.

In the autumn of the year 1839 our dear friend, as one of the committee of our Quarterly Meeting, visited some of his friends in their families, in the performance of which service he appeared helped in a remarkable manner.

Soon after this engagement he became seriously unwell, and his strength gradually declined. During his protracted illness, as well as in previous times of health, poverty of spirit was often his portion, attended; however, with an humble, peaceful, and confiding trust in Divine goodness and mercy. Whilst the issue of his disorder was uncertain, he appeared to be preserved in patient resignation to the Divine will, at times thankfully acknowledging that the foundation on which he had been concerned to build was broad enough, and strong enough for him to stand upon, that it did not slide from his feet in the day of trial, and that he felt he had nothing to trust in but the mercy of God in Christ Jesus.

On one occasion, speaking of the time when there was much unsettlement in our Society, he said, "My mind was at that time drawn into retirement, and I longed to spend whole days in waiting upon the Lord, that so I might come to partake of the abounding of his love and goodness in the same precious degree as our early Friends did. Oh! I am convinced that it is for want of true simplicity of heart, and of keeping the eye single to the light, that the understanding is not so enlarged, nor the eye so illuminated to

see and to comprehend spiritual things as they did; the Lord is still graciously disposed to enlarge the capacity, and to instruct in the things of his law, the truly waiting soul, "Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it." At another time he remarked, "In a short time I shall be gathered to my fathers; I desire to thank the Lord for the many favours with which my life has been crowned," and expatiated with a heart filled with love and praise on the mercies he had received during the whole course of his pilgrimage.

To a dear Friend, who visited him a short time previous to his decease, he exclaimed with uplifted hands, "Through adorable and unmerited mercy I can say, I *know* that my Redeemer liveth!"

A few days after, being more than usually exhausted in attempting to turn in bed, he said faintly, "My flesh and my heart faileth!" then in a stronger voice, "but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever!" And when very near the close, "Weak in body, poor in mind, yet without fear or a shadow of doubt."

He departed this life on the 14th of the 7th month, 1840, and his remains were interred in Friends' Burial-ground at Earles Colne, on the 19th of the same, aged 50 years; a minister about 25 years.

Whilst we deeply feel the loss the Church has sustained in the removal of this our beloved friend, we have the consolation of believing that his purified spirit, released from the conflicts of time, has, through redeeming mercy, been permitted to enter the joy of his Lord.

Signed in Coggeshall Monthly Meeting, held at Halsted, this 1st day of 2nd month, 1841.

A TESTIMONY

*Of SHROPSHIRE MONTHLY MEETING, concerning ANN
DICKINSON deceased.*

“THE MEMORY OF THE JUST IS BLESSED:”

So we feel the memory of this our dear departed friend is precious, and believe we may truly say, though dead she yet speaketh. Our beloved friend was the daughter of Abraham and Rebecca Darby of Coalbrookdale, where she was born the 10th of 6th month, 1779. In the 4th month of 1805, she was married to our friend Barnard Dickinson, and as a wife, mother, and friend, few could exceed her; being always ready to sacrifice her own ease and comfort for the benefit of others, and her assiduity in relieving the wants of the poor, will long be remembered by many that partook of her bounty.

In the early part of 1830 she first appeared in public as a minister, and although she did not travel in that capacity, she was anxiously concerned faithfully to discharge all her religious duties at home, frequently acknowledging that she felt she had been a loiterer, and that having lost much of her precious time she was desirous that the remainder of her days, which she did not expect to be many, might be mainly devoted to the promotion of the cause of righteousness.

In the second month, 1839, she was engaged by appointment of our General Meeting in a visit to the families of Friends in Worcestershire and this monthly meeting, which she performed we believe to the satisfaction of her friends.

At this period her health was giving way, and whilst at Worcester she suffered much from the inclemency of the weather. In the spring of this year under the same appointment she went into North Wales to see the few there under our name, to whom her visit was very cordial, although the expression of her belief, that it would be the *last*, was to them affecting.

On her way home she was so unwell as to render travelling very trying, and being soon after apprised by her medical attendant, that her complaint was one for which there was no cure, although the information was unlooked for, the dear sufferer bore it with the greatest composure, willingly submitting to whatever might be the will of her Almighty Father. And though for a time she was able to get to our own meetings, yet she continued in a very feeble state.

On 1st-day the 26th of 4th month, 1840, she became so much worse, that her continuance for many hours appeared doubtful; yet, through patient suffering, her life was prolonged several days. In addition to her previous alarming malady she had now decisive consumptive symptoms; her cough was very trying, and her expectoration difficult,—at times almost to suffocation. From the first of this attack, she had no expectation of amendment or any wish for it, often expressing a desire, that, if it was the will of Providence, she might be released, and that the work might be cut short in righteousness: she added, “It would be such a happiness to be released, for I do not as far as I am able to judge feel anything in my way.”

In reply to a question, she said, “Pray for me, pray that I may be enabled patiently to bear what I may yet have to pass through,” often repeating under continued suffering, “Pray that Providence may be pleased to cut short the work in righteousness.”

On 1st-day morning the 3rd of 5th month, she requested

her husband and children to sit round her bed ; when she was strengthened to intercede for herself in their presence, and that it might please Providence to support their dear father under the approaching separation, and that she might be fully prepared for the change. On the following day she became much weaker, and that evening she uttered several pious ejaculations, desiring that those that had witnessed her sufferings might be thereby instructed in Christ Jesus our Lord : her articulation then failed, her breathing gradually became more indistinct until she quietly and peacefully expired, the 5th of 5th month, 1840, aged sixty years; and we doubt not her purified spirit was translated to the realms of everlasting bliss. Her remains were interred in Friends' Burial-ground at Coalbrookdale, on the 10th, after which a solemn meeting was held.

Signed in Shropshire Monthly Meeting, held at Coalbrookdale, the 30th of 9th month, 1840.

A TESTIMONY

From WORCESTERSHIRE MONTHLY MEETING, concerning our dear friend RICHARD BURLINGHAM, of Evesham, deceased, who died the 11th of 10th month, 1840, aged nearly 61. A minister 30 years.

RICHARD BURLINGHAM was the son of John and Hannah Burlingham, of Worcester, and was born in that city the 24th of 10th month, 1779. He was twice married. First in 1803, to Mary, daughter of Charles and Mary Trusted, of Alcester Meeting, with whom he lived not quite three years; and next, in 1810, to Ann, the daughter of Robert and Ann Gregory, of Claverham, who survived him. He removed from Worcester to Evesham in 1805. His mind was imbued in early life with the tendering operations of Divine truth; the reading of the Holy Scriptures, retirement, and private communion with his Maker were much cherished by him,—the fruits of which were conspicuous in his life and conversation.

In his 28th year our dear friend was appointed to the station of an elder, and in that capacity he accompanied at different times his friends John Kirkham and William Forster on various religious services. His first appearance in the ministry was in the 12th month, 1809. On returning from his first religious engagement with certificate in 1815, he thus expresses himself:—"It may be right for me, in commemoration of the Lord's goodness, to acknowledge, that, though at first setting out I was permitted to have my

faith tried as to an hair's breadth, and felt almost indescribable weakness, yet in the Lord's time help was administered and I was favoured to get along beyond expectation, though at times deep suffering and poverty were experienced; at the conclusion a tribute of praise and thanksgiving was rendered unto Him who is worthy of the dedication of the whole faculties of man, and who remains to be a rich rewarder of all who diligently seek Him,—hitherto hath the Lord helped me."

For many years his lot was cast mostly at home, where he was a bright example in the attendance of meetings for worship and discipline; and in the exercise of his social and religious duties, he always manifested a disposition to co-operate with his fellow-townsmen in any plans for the temporal benefit and best interests of his indigent neighbours, in which he could act without compromise of principle: he filled the joint offices of secretary and treasurer to the Bible Society for thirty years.

As our beloved friend advanced in life his gift in the ministry became enlarged, accompanied by an unction which manifested it to spring from a pure source; and he was often powerfully engaged to unfold the great truths of the Gospel, in the spirituality of which, and in the fundamental doctrines of the mediation and atonement of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, his faith was strong and unwavering.

During the last ten years of his life he travelled much, there being few parts of the United Kingdom to which his gospel labours have not extended, either under the sanction of his Monthly Meeting or by appointment of the Yearly Meeting: during this period he once attended the General Meeting at Aberdeen, four times the Yearly Meeting at Dublin, and once was engaged on a general visit to Ireland. To the Quarterly Meeting of London and Middlesex, and those of Westmoreland and Lancashire, he appears to have been particularly drawn, and in many of the subordinate

Meetings constituting them, as well as in some others in different districts, the arduous and important service of visiting Friends in their families was felt to be a duty; this, from the state of our religious Society in many parts at that time was a peculiarly painful and self-denying requirement; but it appears, not only from his own grateful acknowledgment on the return of his certificates, but from the encouraging testimonies of many of the visited, that our dear friend was favoured, through Divine aid, honestly to labour in the love of the Gospel, and faithfully to uphold the standard of truth.

How much his mind dwelt on the uncertainty of life was forcibly manifested in the general tenor of his later public communications. On 1st-day, the 13th of 6th month, the day before leaving home for a distant Quarterly Meeting, he was earnestly engaged for the spiritual health of his friends, concluding with the text, "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light," observing that it was not the time for us to be sleeping or to be putting off the great work of our soul's salvation, seeing that we none of us knew how soon we might be called to appear before the judgment seat of Christ. In the evening of the same day a large family party was assembled after a separation of many months. Some chapters in Isaiah having been read, our dear friend bore a lively testimony to the value of the Holy Scriptures, and the privilege we enjoyed over thousands, nay millions, who were destitute of them. He had been comforted, he said, by the solid and impressive manner in which they had been read that evening, and he much desired they never might be read, either in public or private, but with reverence of soul.

His ministry at our General Meeting at Leominster, in the 7th month, the last which he attended, was of a searching and solemn character, and in it he was also constrained to testify "that the path of duty remained to be the only safe

one, and that no true peace could be found but by walking in it, however contrary it may be to the natural inclination."

At our Monthly Meeting in the 8th month, our dear friend obtained a certificate to visit the Quarterly Meetings of Cheshire and Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, and, if way opened, that of Lincolnshire. In the previous meeting for worship he had much to say on the subject of true living faith, alluding to Abraham as an example among many quoted by the Apostle, "he believed in the Lord, and he counted it to him for righteousness."

He attended his own Meeting at Evesham on 1st-day the 6th of 9th month; he was largely engaged in the ministry, and after adverting to the benefit of afflictions, and in a striking manner to the sufferings of our dear Redeemer, and to his agonies in the garden, when in the anguish of his spirit he sweated as it were large drops of blood, he concluded with the following affectionate invitation:—"Come, come, come all poor, frail and weak as we are, and let us cast ourselves at the footstool of Divine mercy!—Christ can take away our stony hearts, and give us hearts of flesh, being able to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him." His manner was peculiarly solemn, and he remarked after, that language seemed to fail him to convey the deep exercise his mind was under: this was the last time his voice was heard in our assemblies.

On 2nd day the 7th of the 9th month, he left home, and arrived the same evening at his friend Crowdsen Tunstall's, near Nantwich, intending to be present at the Meetings which were to be held in that town the two following days; but on the night of his arrival, and on the succeeding day, several violent attacks of hemorrhage from the nose so prostrated his strength as wholly to incapacitate him from pursuing his engagement. After a confinement of some days he was favoured so far to recover as to admit of his return to Evesham under the care of his dear wife and son.

In a religious opportunity with his kind friends, before parting, he affectingly alluded to the very low state into which he had been brought, and, after having expressed his gratitude for their unremitting attention at the moment of extremity, he concluded an encouraging appeal to the junior members of the family, in nearly the following words:--
 "Take the testimony—take the testimony of one who from very early years was enabled to surrender himself to the Divine requireing, that he has not been following cunningly devised fables, but *real, solid, substantial truth.*"

The latter part of the journey greatly fatigued him, and produced a restless night; considerable fever, nervous irritability, and other unfavourable symptoms ensued, and his situation became one of great anxiety, though not with the apprehension of imminent danger. During the three weeks which elapsed between his return home and his decease, his heart appeared to overflow with desires for the prosperity of Zion and for the spiritual welfare of those around him, with fervent prayer that he might be preserved in patience and resignation under his present sufferings. Very many were the instructive observations which fell from his lips, a few of which we have thought it might be useful to record for the edification and encouragement of survivors.

On one occasion, after a psalm had been read to him, he sweetly supplicated, "that the Lord would send him a little help from his holy sanctuary, and strengthen him out of Zion,—that He would look down on his poor afflicted child and give him a little rest, even this night; that the end for which he had seen meet to afflict him might be answered, and that patience might be given to bear all the turnings and overturnings of his holy hand."

The dear invalid had much comfort and satisfaction in a visit from a Friend on the 27th, and remarked with great interest on the low state of our Society; he thought there was much want of unity of the Spirit, that the things of

this world had taken too strong hold on the minds of many, and cramped their usefulness in the church ; he also alluded particularly to the variety of promiscuous reading in the present day ; many publications introduced into Friends' families he considered had a tendency to lessen the relish for more instructive and substantial reading. On the 30th he earnestly petitioned that the adversary of souls might not be permitted to take advantage of him in his great weakness, but that the Lord would be pleased to raise up a standard against him ; and he humbly desired that a little renewal of hope might be given him. On the following day he remarked, " I feel that I have been but a very unprofitable servant, and that great weakness has attended my best endeavours to do what I believed to be right."

A letter having been received from a dear relative, at the hearing of it he was affected to tears, and in much brokenness of spirit observed, " It seems to bring tenderness over my spirit. Ah ! this is what we much want,—a union of feeling with kindred spirits, it is very sweet : I have long felt nearly united to her." When greatly depressed he said, " What I want to feel is something of that contriting influence which brings into tenderness of spirit : this is what I seem to want. I can take no rest in anything I may have feebly done :—in nothing but the unutterable mercy of God in Christ Jesus. I have nothing else to rest on, feeling my own great unworthiness,—often resembling the poor publican when he smote his hand on his breast, saying, ' God be merciful to me a sinner ! ' "

On the day preceding his death, after a short but refreshing sleep, most of the family standing around his bed, our beloved friend addressed them for some time with much clearness. Among other expressions, he said, " The Scripture declaration is, ' Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven ; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.' "

Mentioning a relative, he remarked, "I have had some sweet messages for her:" one of which he desired might be sent to her, "Let thy garments be always white, and let thy head lack no ointment." His mind seemed deeply impressed with the necessity there was for maintaining holiness in all our thoughts and actions, and he apprehended this purity of heart was not sufficiently known amongst us; that if it were, the graces of the Spirit would be more manifest in our conduct, and more fruit would be brought forth to the praise and glory of the great Husbandman.

In an earnest address to a brother who had come from a distance to see him, he said, "Great have been the yearnings of my spirit, especially of later years, for the dear children,—whether my own, those of my dear relatives, or others,—longing that these may be gathered by the forcible influence of example." After a pause, looking sweetly round, he said, "I feel I love you all *so much, such precious love!*" A few hours before his decease he observed with great emphasis, "Ah! I have a very powerful testimony to bear to the love of God in Christ Jesus. I believe it is only through the blood of Jesus that we can be saved,—no works of our own; it is through grace, for 'by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.'"

The love and fervour manifested in his countenance, and the solemn impressive manner of his delivery, forcibly struck those who had the privilege of hearing his dying testimony to those sacred truths, which had been so precious to him in his life: it was the last time he was sufficiently collected to converse at length, and it seemed as if his departing spirit had caught a ray of that love which it was soon to experience in all its fulness.

Shortly before his end he remarked, "I am glad to see so many of you about me, dear friends." And on his afflicted wife inquiring of him if he felt happy, he replied,

“I feel very comfortable, my dear.” This was generally his reply to every similar question, and his countenance bore testimony to the truth of it; no anxiety or distress was depicted there, but all was peace.

About eight o'clock on first-day morning, the 11th of 10th month, 1840, the spirit of our dearly beloved friend was released from the shackles of mortality. He was, we believe a faithful steward of the talents committed to his trust, and in the remembrance of his exemplary life and earnest labours amongst us, we feel and desire to cherish the feeling, that though dead he yet speaketh.

His remains were interred in Friends' Burial-ground at Evesham, the 18th of 10th month, 1840.

Read, approved, and signed in Worcestershire Monthly Meeting, held at Evesham, the 11th of 2nd month, 1841.

A TESTIMONY

From GUILDFORD MONTHLY MEETING, concerning ELIZABETH MOLINE deceased.

OUR dear friend Elizabeth Moline, was the widow of the late Robert Moline of Godalming, and the daughter of Benjamin and Ann Kidd of the same place. She was much esteemed for the soundness of her judgment and the religious consistency of her conduct ; adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour.

About the year 1796, our dear friend, under deep exercise of mind, believed herself called upon to appear as a minister in our religious meetings, and was subsequently acknowledged as a minister by the Monthly Meeting. Her communications were generally short, and offered in much humility, bespeaking a mind clothed with Christian love, and a warm interest in the well-being of her friends. She was naturally of an amiable though diffident disposition, very courteous and affectionate, so as generally to win the esteem and attachment of those amongst whom her lot was cast. She was constant in her friendships ; and to the poor of her own neighbourhood she was kind and considerate, often visiting the abodes of misery and distress, and in proportion to her means administering relief and comfort.

Our dear and valued friend was very exemplary in her attendance of our meetings, both for worship and discipline, wherein her solid deportment was at all times very instructive. She was seldom, if at all, engaged in the ministry in our meetings for worship in her latter years ; but her

remarks in our meetings for discipline were pertinent, and expressive of the sweet covering of her mind. The clearness of her faculties was remarkable to the close of her life. Her last illness was very short, but her mind was preserved in sweet peace, having expressed that she had nothing of her own to depend on, but humbly trusting she might be accepted through the sacrifice and intercession of her dear Redeemer.

Thus our dear friend finished her course full of days and full of peace, and her memory is precious to us; and we reverently believe her redeemed spirit is numbered among those who "have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

She departed this life the 27th day of the 1st month, 1841, in the 80th year of her age, and was interred in Friends' Burial-ground at Godalming, the 4th of the following month.

Read and approved in our Monthly Meeting, held by adjournment at Godalming, the 9th of 4th month, 1841, and signed therein.

A TESTIMONY

*From BRIGHOUSE MONTHLY MEETING, respecting ANN
DEARNALY, deceased.*

THIS our dear friend was the offspring of parents not in membership with us; but from her early youth she was brought up in the attendance of our religious meetings, and was admitted a member of our Society about the 22nd year of her age.

From a few memoranda found since her decease, it appears that she experienced strong convictions for sin in her early years, and through disobedience had often to go mourning on her way; nevertheless, she was at times made sensible of her Heavenly Father's love shed abroad in her heart, and by yielding to the strivings of the Holy Spirit was favoured at length to obtain forgiveness and peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

When not prevented by indisposition she was a diligent attender of our religious meetings, and engaged therein patiently to wait upon the Lord for the renewed influence of his Spirit.

Some years after her admission into membership she was led to speak a few words in our meetings for worship; and, though of a diffident and retiring disposition, and entertaining very humble views of herself, she was concerned, we believe, according to her measure, faithfully to occupy the talent committed to her, and about the 34th year of her age she was recorded as a minister. In this capacity she was but little known except to the members of her own Monthly

Meeting, by many of whom she was beloved as a pattern of Christian humility and meekness, simplicity and watchfulness. Her communications, though generally short, and often little more than the revival of a few passages of Scripture, were attended with a solemnity of feeling that bore evidence of a right preparation of heart for the service, and were not unfrequently instrumental in stirring up the pure mind in others.

For many years she had to pass through much indisposition, which was often attended with considerable bodily suffering. In these conflicts, however, her mind was mercifully preserved in patience. She peacefully departed this life the 19th day of the 3rd month, 1840, and was interred in Friends' Burial-ground, near Brighthouse, on the 22nd of the same, aged 51 years. A minister about 17 years.

Signed in Brighthouse Monthly Meeting, held at Bradford, the 4th of 12th month, 1840.

A TESTIMONY

*Of BALBY MONTHLY MEETING in the County of YORK,
concerning DANIEL WHEELER, deceased.*

OUR beloved friend Daniel Wheeler was the youngest son of William and Sarah Wheeler of Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London; and was born there the 27th day of 11th month, 1771.

His parents were rather above the middle rank in society, and being consistent members of the Established church, were strict in conforming to its rites and ceremonies, punctual in attending their place of worship, and careful to train up their children to devotional exercises.

Before he was twelve years old he was deprived of parental restraint by the death of his father and mother; and was placed at a school at Fulham, for the purpose of learning navigation, to prepare him for his future seafaring life.

Thus left an orphan, through the interest of a relative he was entered on the king's books as midshipman at an early age; whilst he was preparing for the service, and before he had completed his thirteenth year, circumstances led to the breaking up of the family circle, giving rise to a long separation from his brothers and sisters, to whom he was very warmly attached.

He now sailed for the first time, cruising on the coast of Portugal; and after remaining six years in the navy, he finally quitted his ship, and entered the ranks of the army as a private soldier.

“When about sixteen years of age,” he says, “having been unwell, and probably led to reflect a little on that account, I was made sensible of a divine visitation extended to me at that time; disclosing, with indubitable clearness, the vanity and emptiness of every earthly station, tarnishing the pride and glory of this perishing world in my sight; and which, though little understood and less regarded at the moment, has since, at different times, been brought to my remembrance by Him that declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, the Lord, the God of Hosts is his name! When this occurred, although then entered into the bond of iniquity, yet I had not launched so fully into its awful abyss, as was afterwards most lamentably the case; and from what I have since witnessed, in unutterable mercy, of the strength and power of redeeming love, a belief is induced, that, if this warning voice, then sounded in the secret of my sinful heart, had been hearkened unto and waited upon, my footsteps,—even mine, would have been conducted from the horrible pit to which they were fast verging.”

It was after long exposure to the severity of the weather, during a harassing service in one of the most unhealthy districts of Europe, that Daniel Wheeler was seized with the prevailing fever, which swept away so many of his fellow-soldiers; and after all prospect of recovery seemed to be gone, he was in mercy raised up from the hospital, where numbers were daily perishing round him, to become, in future years, the messenger of mercy and glad tidings to others. At this period, however, although he maintained a fair character among his fellow-men, he was living in a state of much estrangement of heart from God, and often striving against his own secret convictions. In the discharge of those duties belonging to his station, he had acquitted himself to the satisfaction of his superiors; he had been ad-

vanced to the rank of serjeant-major, and was afterwards further promoted.

In 1794 or 1795 he paid a short visit to his oldest sister residing near Sheffield, who was married, and had become a member of the Society of Friends by conviction. He was not long allowed to enjoy this interval of quiet, before he was summoned to join the regiment, in which he had obtained a commission, on its departure for the West Indies. They set sail; twice the fleet put to sea, and as often encountered a dreadful hurricane; several of the vessels were lost, the troops perishing in them, but Daniel Wheeler was providentially spared, experiencing a narrow escape.

Reflecting on these disasters, and the renewed occurrence of wonderful preservation, so unexpected and so undeserved, his heart was touched; he could not resolve a third time to expose his life as he had done, but determined to quit the army, so soon as he could meet with suitable employment. He communicated this resolution to his sister at Woodhouse near Sheffield, and returned thither, having given up his commission, in 1796.

His mind was now opened to embrace the principles of Friends, and he attended our meetings at Woodhouse. This excited the ridicule of some of his nearest relatives and companions, whose astonishment was great at the thorough change that soon appeared in him. The work was not suffered to be long on the wheel; the effect was decisive and permanent, affording a display of Divine power, not less remarkable in this rapid conversion, than where there has been a more gradual accomplishment of its purposes.

He made an application to be admitted into membership with Friends: and after a suitable time, his request was complied with, in the 2nd month, 1799.

It is worthy of notice, that but little, if any, instrumental means was concerned in this remarkable change. Whilst

attending the small and generally silent meetings of Woodhouse, Daniel Wheeler had felt the truth of our principles, and had yielded to the conviction. His was a stability and growth in religion of no ordinary measure. In a very few years after his convincement he was appointed an overseer, and he was indeed a bright example of zeal, sincerity, and love to his friends, in that responsible station.

An opening to begin business in a small way at Sheffield presenting itself was readily embraced; and in this, as in his future undertakings, the Divine blessing appeared to attend him, and to crown his exertions with success.

In the 6th month, 1800, he was married to Jane Brady, the daughter of Thomas and Rachel Brady of Thorne, in whom he found a helpmate indeed, of sound judgment, guileless and faithful. He adds in a letter written after her death "the Heavenly Master's love has never ceased to follow us through all the vicissitudes of time, during a life, not a little chequered, for a term of more than thirty-two years and a half, when He was pleased to deprive me of my greatest earthly treasure, and to take back that which He gave: but it was His own, I verily believe, even His,—the same who enabled me to say, in the moment of my greatest distress, 'Blessed be the name of the Lord.'"

As a tradesman he was diligent in business; he was also "fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." By the strictest attention to integrity in all his dealings, he gained the esteem of all with whom he had to do. Yet it was easy to see where his heart was fixed: his Bible was his favourite companion, and the few minutes that could be spared at a time amidst his daily concerns, were spent in the perusal of the inspired writings.

For some time previous to 1813, the impression had become strong upon his mind, that he would be called to advocate the cause of truth and righteousness upon the earth. Very deep were his conflicts, and very close was his

application of soul to his Heavenly Father, for strength to perform his will ; and it was his practice, when he lived in the country, to withdraw early in the morning to a small field near his house, for the purpose of religious retirement and prayer.

He was very watchful lest he should be led away from the grace vouchsafed unto him, frequently refraining from conversation apparently innocent, and in which he delighted, lest at any unguarded moment he might grieve that Holy Spirit whom he felt to be his comforter and guide. He was recorded as an approved minister in the 6th month, 1816.

About this period our friend was made sensible that some sacrifice would be called for on his part, as an evidence of his gratitude for the unutterable mercy and great condescension of the Almighty, in having plucked him as a brand from the burning ; and he saw clearly that it was indispensable for him as much as might be to separate himself from the world and the things of the world, by declining his prosperous trade, and retiring with his family into a smaller compass.

The extent of his business was becoming a burden. He felt the force of our Lord's declaration : " Ye cannot serve God and mammon ;" and his obedience to the requirement was full and unreserved.

" Not," said he, " that I have acquired a sufficiency without doing something for my livelihood ; far from it. I have still a prospect of maintaining my family comfortably with care and industry, leaving the event to Him who knows the thoughts and intents of the heart. I have no desire to accumulate riches for my children, the blessing seldom attends it ; and the baneful effects thereof are too often visible, even in our Society."

His mind was thus disposed to withdraw from his concerns in trade, and he was in a state of waiting preparation,

when an inquiry was made, on behalf of the Emperor Alexander of Russia for a member of the Society of Friends, to superintend some works of drainage and of agriculture in the neighbourhood of Petersburg. Daniel Wheeler offered himself for the service, and finally accepted the appointment.

On the 18th of 6th month, 1818, he attended the meeting at Sheffield, when he took an affectionate leave of Friends there. He told them that nothing less than apprehended duty could have induced him to take the present step: that, four years ago it was clearly intimated to him, that it would be required of him to remove into Russia; and though the prospect was very trying to the natural part, yet endeavouring to obtain resignation, he had been favoured to feel sweet peace. His mind had been deeply affected while sitting among them, in viewing the prospect before him, when he would be deprived of the precious privilege of thus assembling with his Friends; that he wished none might suppose his case a hard one, for he thought that there was scarcely a person on the face of the earth, who had more largely partaken of the gracious dealings and protecting care of a merciful Providence. Twice he had been preserved from shipwreck,—he had been favoured to escape the devouring pestilence when numbers were falling around him; and, when many were destroyed by the cruel hand of war, his life had indeed been marvellously spared. And surely, the Almighty Being whose arm had been so often extended for his preservation, when he was running headlong in the paths of error, had a right to dispose of the residue of his days, and was worthy of obedience.

He shortly after embarked for Petersburg, and took charge of the works committed to him. These operations appear to have been conducted successfully, much to the improvement of the extensive estates and to the satisfaction of the parties concerned. There is also ground to hope,

that his labours will at a future day prove a blessing to that empire.

On account of circumstances connected with the religious profession of the country, the Gospel services of our dear friend were much circumscribed to private interviews; and in the line of his religious duty, he addressed the English residents in that city. The uniformly guarded and consistent life and conversation, the unbending integrity which no self-interest could warp,—no influence from without could suppress, will be long had in honourable remembrance in that land, to the glory of that Lord and Master, whom, diligently to serve and faithfully to obey, was more to our dear friend than the smiles of princes, or all that the world could bestow.

During the abode of Daniel Wheeler in Russia, he was careful to keep up in his house the regular attendance of meetings for worship, twice on first-days, and on fifth-days. An orderly and regular attention to the reading of the Scriptures was daily observed in his family; nor did they omit the frequent perusal of the writings of Friends.

For the distant members of his own monthly meeting, he evinced his concern by addressing them once a year, and occasionally at other times, putting them in remembrance of the things which belonged unto their peace.

In the 4th month, 1825, our friend Daniel Wheeler was liberated by his monthly meeting to attend the Yearly Meeting in Dublin, and for other religious engagements in Ireland. He was also concerned in 3rd month, 1831, to visit Friends in Devonshire and Cornwall, as well as the inhabitants of the Scilly Islands. These services appear to have been accomplished, much to the satisfaction of his friends and to the comfort of his own mind.

At the end of 1832, whilst he was confined by indisposition at the house of a friend in Norfolk, the mournful intelligence arrived from Russia of the death of his beloved

wife. This was one of the greatest trials that could have befallen him ; but the Almighty hand was near to comfort and sustain him ; and he was mercifully strengthened to say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away ; blessed be the name of the Lord."

A little before this he had laid before his Friends at their Monthly Meeting in 9th month, 1832, his prospect of paying a visit in Gospel love to the Islands of the Pacific Ocean, Van Diemen's Land, and New South Wales, in which, as well as in the Quarterly Meeting and the Morning Meeting of ministers and elders in London, he had their full concurrence and earnest desires for his preservation.

For so very extensive a service, the necessary arrangements occupied a considerable time : these being at length completed, he sailed from the Thames the 13th of 11th month 1833. The vessel was proceeding down the English Channel, when on the 21st they were overtaken by a heavy storm, which induced them to take shelter off the Isle of Wight ; and from adverse winds, and other causes, they were not able to take their final departure until the 15th of 3rd month, 1834.

He had been anxious to set out, and this detention was a great exercise to his faith. Yet, prompt in his movements as our dear friend was accustomed to be, when his duty was clearly defined, his example is strikingly instructive, in the patience and the stedfast faith with which he would wait until the true light so shone upon his path, as to point out not only the way, but the right time to move in it ; and closely as he had been tried on this occasion, he was at last permitted to see and acknowledge, that he had not been detained one day too long.

The voyage out was a very tempestuous one, but he was preserved through all danger, and, accompanied by his son Charles, arrived safely at his destination.

Amongst these distant islands he was long and acceptably

occupied. Yet he was often made sensible, preparatory to attending meetings, and other religious services, that he had no ability or qualification of his own, until he was humbled as in the dust; when after patiently waiting to be endowed with strength from on high, he has been enabled so to minister, that the Divine power has overshadowed the assembly; softening and contriting these poor Islanders; filling their eyes with tears and their hearts with love, until they could scarcely allow him to leave them. This arduous service, extended through the long period of nearly four years, was at length brought to a close, and he returned safely to England.

In the published accounts of our valued friend's labours in these distant regions, there is abundant evidence of his care to direct his hearers to the Great Teacher and Sanctifier, and to wean them from a dependance on instrumental aid; and it is gratifying to observe, that, in preaching the truth boldly, without respect of persons, he also gained the good-will of the resident missionaries, who received him with uniform kindness, and gave him on his departure very ample testimonials of their approval.

It may not be unprofitable in this place to notice the exemplary care which our departed friend had exercised over his tender offspring, to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. That they might experience a growth in grace, was the fervent desire of his heart. He would rise at an early hour to read the Scriptures to them, and at night he would quietly withdraw from the room, when the children were gone to rest, to endeavour to direct their youthful minds in reverent approach to their Heavenly Father.

The blessing of Him who alone was able to preserve them, and render them meet for His kingdom, we believe was not wanting. For when, within a short period of each other, three of these young people were called from their afflicted

parent to exchange time for eternity, he had the consolation of knowing that their end was crowned by a humble and confiding trust in redeeming mercy.

Had it been in the ordering of the Divine will, after so long a travel in distant regions, and sensible of declining strength, our dear friend would have thankfully settled down for a season of rest. Hence it is scarcely in words to express the sympathy that was felt for him, when he informed his Monthly Meeting, on the return of his certificate for the South Seas, that it was required of him at once to set out for the American Continent, to visit more especially the cities on the coasts. At this time his son Charles Wheeler, his endeared companion amidst the perils and fatigues of the Southern hemisphere, was in a critical state of health, and for his sake his father might have felt anxious to delay his voyage. But so devoted was he to his Master's service, and so faithful to apprehended duty, that the yearnings of a father's heart could not stay him, nor call forth a repining word. He proceeded to America, and appeared to have pretty much carried out the work required of him, when he found himself released to pay a visit to the remnant of his family, who had now removed on account of Charles's declining state, to the more genial climate of France. At St. Germain, near Paris, he witnessed the peaceful close of his dear son. He once more attended his own monthly meeting in 3rd month, 1840, and soon after sailed from this country for the last time, for New York. On preparing for his voyage out he writes, "But now that the time draweth nigh, I feel more than ever the need of the prayers of the faithful for preservation and support in this the evening sacrifice about to be offered, when the natural strength of the poor body and perhaps that of the mind also is weakened, as days have multiplied upon me, and years have increased; and, I think I never felt more at the prospect of being again severed from my beloved

children :” adding, “ Certain it is that nothing short of implicit obedience to what we believe to be a divine requirement will be accepted ; and nothing can so fully bring our love to the test, as the having to leave all and forsake all, without making any reserve for ourselves.”

A week after he sailed, Daniel Wheeler was taken ill, and continued so for the remainder of the voyage. The complaint appeared to be a cold attended with fever, and as he was unable to lie down from difficulty of breathing, his strength rapidly declined. He received every attention that could be rendered on ship-board, for he bore the respect and regard of all. When he arrived at New York, he was conducted on shore by kind Friends there, and further medical advice was obtained. The opinion formed of his situation was decidedly unfavourable. On being told that he was thought to be in a very critical state, he said : “ All has been done that could be done ;—only write to my dear children, how it is.” “ The work has been going on with the day.” “ All I want is quietness, it is a great thing to be clear from pain.” “ Love to all my friends on this side the Atlantic as well as the other.” “ I want nothing but the love of my Heavenly Father, and I witness it. The Lord is good to them that love and fear His name : great things hath He done for me ;—things so wonderfully marvellous that they could hardly be believed were I to tell of them.”

He remarked to a friend ; As to himself, he had no doubt : he had the same faith that had been with him through life, and which was founded upon the Gospel of Christ, which enabled him to say with the Apostle, “ nevertheless I live ; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me : and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

All that the most assiduous care and tenderness, aided

by medical skill, could do proved unavailing to restore him. His exhausted frame gradually sunk under the disorder, and he quietly passed away on the 12th of 6th month, 1840, aged sixty-eight years, having been a faithful labourer in the Gospel vineyard above twenty-four years.

The Christian warfare was thus ended. Full of years, his loins girded about, and his light burning, he was as one that waiteth for his Lord.

We see abundant cause to exalt His holy name, who thus led forth our beloved friend,—who preserved him through many perils by sea and land—who conferred upon him strength in time of need, and sufficient qualification for His service,—and who, in His own appointed time, we reverently believe, hath called him in redeeming love “to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.”

Signed in and on behalf of the meeting aforesaid, held at Sheffield, the 3rd of 12th month 1840.

THE END.