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A legacy for children; being some of the last expressions and dying sayings of Hannah Hill, Junior, of the city of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania, in America; aged eleven years and near three months

Hannah Hill

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A  
LEGACY FOR CHILDREN;

BEING

SOME OF THE LAST EXPRESSIONS

AND

DYING SAYINGS

OF

HANNAH HILL, JUNIOR,

Of the city of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania, in America;

AGED ELEVEN YEARS AND NEAR THREE MONTHS.

*Matthew*, chap. 21. v. 16. Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, thou hast perfected praise.

*Mark* 9. 37. Whoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me.

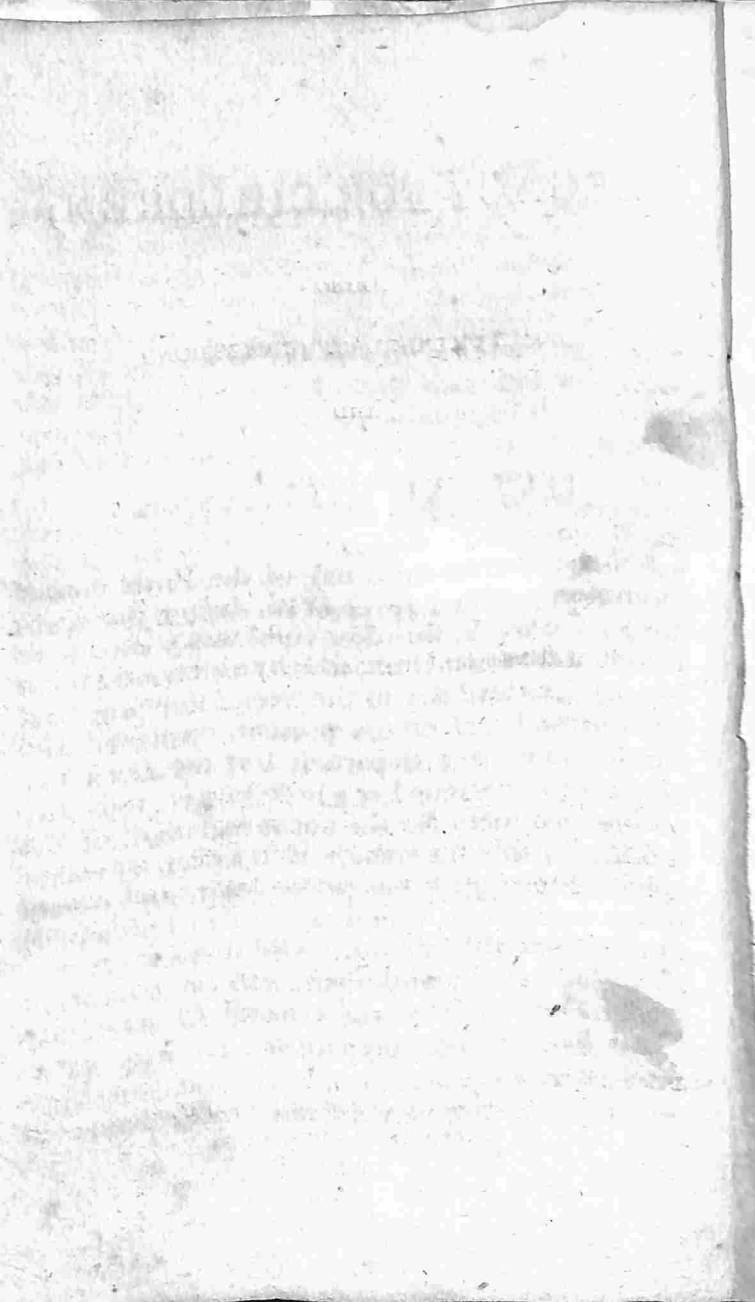
*Luke* 18. 16. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

FIFTH EDITION.

Printed by ANDREW BRADFORD, at the sign of the Bible, in  
Second street, in Philadelphia, 1717.

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1812.



# SOME OF THE LAST EXPRESSIONS

AND

## DYING SAYINGS

OF

HANNAH HILL, JUNIOR.

ON the twenty-third day of the Fifth month (commonly called July) 1714, being the sixth day of the week, this dear child was seized with a violent fever and flux, which so increased upon her by the third day of the week following, that both herself and others present, expected she would then have departed: but the Lord was pleased to continue her a little longer, to testify of his goodness for the encouragement of the living. At this time she was in a deep travail of spirit, concerning her future state, and divers times crying out, would say: "Am I prepared! am I prepared!" adding, "Oh! that I might die the death of the righteous, and be numbered with them at Thy right hand! O Almighty God! Prepare me, prepare me for Thy kingdom of glory."

Then she earnestly intreated those that stood

about her to help with their prayers, that her passage might be made easy.

A friend present, being moved thereto, and sympathizing with her afflictions, kneeled down to prayer; during which, notwithstanding her extreme pain, she lay still, with great attention, and lifting up of hands and eyes: a little after she said, "Father, I shall die, and am now very willing;" and being admonished, without fear or doubting, to rely on God's mercy, whose love to innocent children was so exceeding great that Christ had bid them come unto him; and that she should freely forgive all injuries done to her, by any person whatsoever, so would the Lord forgive her offences against him, and freely receive her into mercy: to which she replied, "I do freely forgive all, and have nothing in my heart but love, to both white and black. But, father," said she, "will every body forgive me?" It was answered, "Yes, doubtless, every one will readily forgive thee." Then she desired her father and mother to forgive her offences against them; and having their answer, she seemed to rejoice, and be well satisfied.

After some pause, she said, "O most glorious God, now give me patience, I beseech thee, with humility to bear what it shall please thee to lay upon thy poor afflicted hand-maiden." After this, she entirely made death her choice, and would often say, "I had rather die and go

to God, than to continue in this world of trouble," adding, "when will the messenger come? Oh! hasten thy messenger!" then turning to her father, she said, "Oh! that I could launch away like a boat that sails! so would I go to my dear brother, who is gone to Heaven before me." Desiring the bystanders not to grieve, "Because," said she, "I am but going to a better place."

Dr. Owen, who was one of her physicians, after all their hopes of her recovery failed, came to visit her. She desired him to sit down by her, and said, "My dear Doctor! all the town knows thou art a good doctor; but I knew from the beginning that I should die, and that all your endeavours would signify nothing. But, Doctor," added she, with a pleasant air, "the Lord has hitherto given me patience, and I still pray to him for more, that I may be enabled to hold out to the end, for my extremity of body is very great."

She was very importunate in requesting her parents freely to give her up to the will of God, saying, "It would be better both for them and her so to do:" and when she thought she had prevailed, "Now," said she, "I am easy in mind." Then asked her father for a piece of silver (which he gave her) and after she had held it and looked at it a little while, returned it to him again, saying, "Now I give it to thee freely, for it was mine, because thou gavest it me:" thereby intimating herself God's gift

to them, and her example therein, for their resigning her to him again cheerfully.

When any would seem to encourage her with hopes of recovery, she made light of it, saying, "Why is there so much to do about me, who am but poor dust and ashes? We are all but as clay, and must die: I am going now; another next day; and so one after another the whole world passes away."

One taking leave of her said, I intend to see you again to-morrow; to which she replied, "Thou mayest see me, but I shall scarcely see thee any more; though I will not be positive; God's will be done."

She would, divers times, say to her dear mother, "Art thou sorry I am going to my dear brother?" And to others about her, "Why are you troubled and weep, seeing I am but going to a better place?" Adding, "Oh! that the messenger would come! that my glass was run!" Turning her eyes, and discourse to Hannah Carpenter, who came to visit her, she said, "My namesake, I am going to my dear uncle," meaning her husband Samuel Carpenter, "who is gone to heaven before me." Another time she said, "Dear Frances, I am coming to be with thee!" meaning her school-mistress, Frances Janney, deceased. Another time Thomas Chalkley being present, she said, "Oh! my dear Martha!" meaning his wife, deceased, "How do I long to be with thee!"

She would be often speaking of her funeral, and desired that Friends, and others might



generally be invited to her burial; and mentioned divers persons particularly by name, that were nonresident, and some strangers, that but lately came into the country, lest they should be omitted.

At a certain time, near the medium of her six days' most violent extremity of pain, (for so long was she accounted dying, or at least more than once each day, had the symptoms of death strongly upon her) with a sorrowful countenance, and very mournful voice, she said, "O my dear mother! I fear the Lord is displeased with me again:" one answered, "Dear child, why shouldst thou entertain such thoughts?" "Because," said she, "I am continued, thus long, to endure this extremity of body, which none knows but myself, nor can any think how great my pains are."

Her afflicted mother being sore distress, to see her languishing child lie thus without help, and willing to try the effect of a dose of medicine, which the doctor had before prepared, prevailed with her to take the same, but it immediately came up again; at which her mother, in an ecstasy of sorrow, said, O my dear child! I am in a great strait, what shall I do for thee? to which she in a solemn manner replied, "my dear mother! pray to God for direction;" then pausing a little, she said, "dear mother! if thou desire it, I will take another dose."

Not long after, it pleased the Lord, in his tender mercy to this dear soul, to remove her doubts, as appeared; "for," said she, "father,

I think the Lord has showed me that I do not bear all this for myself only; hath he not," added she, to which one answered, it might be so. "Ah," replied she, "he has; glory to his infinite name! for he is better than kings, queens or governors, and there is nothing can be compared to him."

As her mind was fully bent heavenward, so she would often speak, with earnest desires of drawing to a conclusion here, and giving some directions about her interment; desiring that she might be neat, and decently laid out; and said she, "I shall go clean to God, for no unclean thing can enter his kingdom." She requested her father to provide a horse, lest her mother should not be able to go to the burying ground; and desired her mother to take her smelling bottle, and have a chair brought to the grave, lest she should faint there.

The seventh day before her departure, after querying what day it was, she said, "I long for first day." One replied, why? seeing all days are alike to the Lord. "I know that," said she, "but my fervent desire is, to be gathered into the heavenly church;" then turning to her father, said, "if I die to day, let me be carried to the meeting-house tomorrow."

When first day came, she asked if her mother intended to go to the meeting? who answered, no! she could not leave her dear child in that condition: "then," says she, "let my cousins go, for it may be the Lord will be dis-

pleased if all the family stay at home." Adding, "not to look upon one another, but to wait upon God." Then with much thankfulness she expressed the great satisfaction and comfort she had enjoyed, by the public testimonies of friends; and called those that travelled amongst us, of late, in that service, to wit: Thomas Wilson, and James Dickinson, &c. God's messengers, sent from far to visit and warn us.

She would repeatedly say, she was freely resigned and willing to submit to the will of God, whether in life or death; and was frequent in prayer and supplication to the Almighty, not only on her own behalf, but a real concern was upon her, for the welfare of others: still humbly beseeching the Lord to grant her patience, and that he would be pleased, with an eye of pity and compassion, to look down upon the poor bowed-down-ones and on her his afflicted servant; "O my good God," said she, "comfort the mourners in Zion, and support their drooping heads; be pleased to provide for the widows and fatherless, and be thou both husband and father to them."

These were her frequent and repeated cries unto the Lord, and indeed it was astonishing, in one of her years, to see and hear, how powerfully she was drawn forth, at times, on various subjects, for the space of a quarter of an hour together, to wit, "That God in mercy would,

yet more abundantly shower down his blessings on Philadelphia, and the inhabitants of these parts of the world; the restoration of her beloved aunt Preston, from her long continued and present indisposition; earnestly desiring the Lord to accept her life and spare her dear aunt, who was, and might be so eminently serviceable in the church." A like concern came upon her expressly to pray for her uncle Lloyd and his family at London; and with great fervency of spirit did she beseech the Lord very particularly, on behalf of her honoured mother, that he would be pleased to continue her; and turning to her, said, "O my dear mother, don't grieve so for me, God will bless my father;" then turning to him, said, "My dear father! comfort, comfort, my dear mother, and the Lord will comfort thee."

At another time she prayed earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest, (in regard it was very great, and the labourers but few,) "That he would be pleased to raise up and send forth many more faithful labourers into the harvest." She was divers times concerned to supplicate the Lord for living water; "Oh!" said she, "that it might spring up in me to eternal life!" (alluding to our Saviour's discourse with the woman of Samaria, at Jacob's well,) amplifying and very suitably applying the text.

In the time of health she greatly delighted to read, had a good memory, and was conver-

sant in the holy scriptures beyond most of her age. At a time after drawing to a conclusion of her aforesaid prayer, she asked some present, "if they had ever tasted of this water of life?" who answered yes; "ay," replied she, "and so do I: glory be given to thy most excellent name, O my God!"

Not long before her departure she said, "father, the Lord hath assured me I shall be happy." It was answered, "that is comfortable indeed, it is better than a thousand witnesses;" "ay," replied she, "this is matter of joy and rejoicing, can my soul say, by living experience." After she had lain still some time, one offered her the cup to drink, but she put it by, saying, "Not that drink, 'tis the divine spring of life, in myself, I long after, and that I might neither thirst, nor need to drink any more of this."

She desired to see John Wright, a friend of the ministry, who, upon notice thereof, came to visit her; she asked him how he did, and how his dear wife and children did? Told him, she was glad to see him, and that her heart was filled with love to him and them. She was very respectful to all that came to see her, and gratefully acknowledged the kindnesses of all those that were any ways aiding about her; thanked even the servants of the house, for the services done her, and desired the Lord would bless them, that had been helpful (as she said) to poor helpless Hannah. She very respectfully thanked Mary Dickinson, for her kindnesses, and said

she had been as a mother to her in this sickness; and duly acknowledged Sarah Rolf's and Ann Brown's good will in their neighbourly visits to her. To some she gave small tokens of her love, and desired her parents to do something further of that kind, to such particulars whom she named to them, in remembrance of her.

The counsel which she gave to her dear and only sister, and her cousin Lloyd Zachary, whom she dearly loved, was very grave and solemn, at the time when she took her final leave of them, viz. "Dear sister! my desires are, that thou mayest fear God; be dutiful to thy parents; love truth; keep to meetings, and be an example of plainness. And dear cousin! be a good boy, observe thy uncle and aunt's advice, and the Lord will bless thee, and they will regard thee as their own, and do for thee. Will ye not (said she) father and mother?" And continued, "But 'tis better to have treasure in heaven, where neither moth, rust, nor thieves can destroy."

She had indeed an admirable fluency of pertinent expressions, suitable to the subject matter which pressed upon her mind; for which she was often thankful to the Lord, that he had not only enlarged her heart in prayer, but had also hitherto enabled her to utter those things, that were, as a concern, upon her mind to deliver.

A little before her departure, (finding a shortness of breath, and greater difficulty of speech, her spirits being now much exhausted,) she de-

sired her father and mother's assistance, on her failure to express the things which they conceived to be upon her mind, as doubtless finding it her duty to declare what she did, though with great difficulty, for she was in all other respects very sparing of speech, during the whole time of her illness.

About an hour before her decease, being in a slumber, she said, "The fire would not cease burning, until all the chaff was consumed, though men strive never so much in vain to quench it." Then desired the watcher's care of her sister, lest she should take cold, took some drink at her mother's hand, and said, "Now, my dear mother, pray lay thy head close to mine," and pressed hers towards her mother's bosom, which sufficiently betokened the strength of her affection and duty to continue, even beyond expression of words.

Then she recommended her spirit to God, saying, "Glory! glory! glory!" and so as with the sound of an hymn, this innocent lamb closed her eyes and expired as one falling into a sweet sleep, without groan or sigh. She departed this life the second day of the sixth month, 1714, being the second day of the week, about two o'clock in the morning.

And being herself translated from this life to that which is eternal, in the heavenly mansion of rest and peace, with God her Maker and Redeemer, hath left these fruits of love and good will to her dear relations, tender compa-

nions, and young people, for whose sakes chiefly it is made public, as a genuine collection, from those who were most constantly present with this tender-spirited little maid, during the time of her sickness, until death, by one whose humble prayer to the Lord is, that it may have the blessed effect of exciting children "to remember their Creator in the days of their youth," and to live answerable to his holy will, that so they may be eternally happy, and God over all may everlastingly be glorified in the young and rising generation, world without end, amen.

H. H.



## POSTSCRIPT.

**SINCE** the decease of this dear child, Hannah Hill, junior, it is evident, that she had a sense of her approaching death, for some considerable time before she was seized, and would be often speaking of it to divers of the family, and in particular to her most intimate associate and cousin Elizabeth Norris, to whom she also divulged the matter, with such a solid assurance, as broke them both into great tenderness; when being at the burial of a relation, she told her said cousin, "the next burial she would be at, should be hers," which did indeed so happen accordingly; whereby it appears, this innocent child was preserved near unto the Lord in spirit, who had thus highly favoured her with this secret.

And the sense that was given her, of our friend John Lowdon's decease, is very remarkable, viz. being asleep in bed the night before his departure, she suddenly broke forth into an ecstasy of sorrow, with weeping and sighing, which very much surprised her father and mother (who lodged in the same room) they spake tenderly to her, and queried what was the matter? She replied, "Oh! I dreamed my dear friend John Lowdon was a dying." They en-

deavoured to pacify and divert her thoughts, saying, it was but a dream, and that they hoped to see him to-morrow, &c. But she continued under the same exercise, beyond what is common, (the said John Lowdon being then twelve miles distant, where he had appointed a meeting at Abington, and preached the day before at Germantown, about six miles off, so that there was then no tidings of his indisposition, he having been taken ill in the aforesaid meeting, and died the next day following:) and when the account of his death came, she was most sorrowfully affected, and earnestly desired the corpse might be brought to their house, and buried in town.

The substance of a letter from Hannah Hill, junior, to her cousin E. Norris.

*Dear cousin E. Norris,*

The burial of our worthy friend, John Lowdon, was performed in the most solemn manner, the corpse being carried from our house, first to the meeting, which was very large, and from thence to the grave, where many expressed their sorrow for the church's loss: but it must needs be his exceeding gain, who expressly said (a few minutes before his departure) he had done his day's work in his day; and that he laid down his head in peace with God, and in unity with his people; which that thou and I may do, is the earnest desire of

Thy affectionate loving cousin,

H. HILL, Junior.

## GRIFFITH OWEN'S

## TESTIMONY.

**T**HE Lord God hath been pleased, in his great love and favour, to give a gift, or manifestation of his holy spirit, light, and grace of his dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to the sons and daughters of men, to show unto them the way to eternal happiness, and to direct them and help them, to walk in it. And although it is universally extended to all, yet it is those who gave up their hearts, in thankful reverence, to obey and follow the manifestations and requirings of it, have found favour with God. And those he raised up and established, by the power, and spirit of his dear Son, to be good, living and bright examples to the children of men, in their generations; patterns of righteousness, meekness, humility, self-denial, patience, temperance, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity; which are the fruits of the holy spirit of Christ Jesus which appeared, and shined forth, through them, to the world. And some hath the Lord been pleased to make willing, to give up their hearts, to obey and follow the discoveries and leadings of his precious gift; and to take pleasure in the fruits and way thereof, in their young years, whom the Lord did adorn with the beauty of holiness, and made to shine as lights to the world; and among these or in this calendar, may be recorded young and

innocent Hannah Hill, daughter of Richard Hill and Hannah Hill his wife, of Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania; considering how she spent the short time the Lord was pleased to give her in this world. Her meek and godly behaviour from a child, since she had any knowledge of good and evil; her dutifulness to her parents; her love and good will to all, but especially to those who walked in obedience to the truth. I knew her from a child, and I never beheld any airy, light or unbecoming carriage, behaviour or expressions, from her, but attended with much gravity, modesty, meekness and plainness. I was several times with her on her death-bed, and was much tendered and comforted, in the sense of the love and power of God, that attended her; in which, and by which, she uttered many wise, heavenly, and excellent expressions, beyond what could be expected from one of her age; some of them are set down, as in the foregoing may be read. I was made to say, it is the Lord's doings, and it is marvellous in my eyes. These things are published, not thinking that any thing that can be written or spoken, by any man or woman whatsoever, can add any thing to the state or condition of the deceased, whom the Lord, I believe, hath taken to himself, from the troubles of this world, to rest and dwell in the mansions of glory for ever and ever, but for the sake of the living, who are yet upon the stage of this world, and especially our young people, for whom my secret cries and prayers

go often up to the Lord, that he would be pleased to work upon their hearts, as he did upon the heart of this maiden, a willingness to leave off and forsake the vanities, follies, pride, high-mindedness, and the many evils, which, by nature, they are inclined to; and bring them to live a godly life, in innocent and righteous conversation, that the work of regeneration may clearly appear in all their actions and behaviour; that those who may converse with them, and behold their good works (coupled with the fear of God) may be made to acknowledge, that they are the seed whom the Lord hath blessed. These are the fervent prayers of him, who sincerely desires the prosperity and well-being of all people, that they may come to die unto sin, and to live unto righteousness, the way to eternal happiness,

GRIFFITH OWEN.

# THOMAS CHALKLEY's

## TESTIMONY.

**T**HERE is something in my mind to write, in memory of that dear innocent child Hannah Hill, junior, who departed this life about the eleventh year of her age, in peace with God, and in great love and unity with his people, and in much assurance of her own eternal happiness.

I was well acquainted with this tender young maiden for several years before she died, and took good notice of her conversation, which was bright and shining in that which is commendable in youth. Oh! saith my soul, that the youth of our age, and this city, might follow her example; she was a pattern of piety, plainness, and obedience to parents, and of a womanly and obliging temper unto all.

It was my lot to be for some months a resident in the family, and I observed that she was always very dutiful to her parents, loving to her friends and neighbours, and kind to the servants both white and black. I also observed, that many times when other children were at play in the streets, she would be either at her book or needle, at both which she was dexterous, and it rather seemed a delight to her than a burden. She had an extraordinary talent in reading the holy scriptures, and other good books, in which she took much delight: may

the minds of young people be stirred up, by her example, to put the same in practice, is my hearty desire.

This testimony I am constrained to give concerning her, that she lived and died beloved, and her loss lamented by all that knew her. One great virtue I may not omit mentioning, which would be very becoming in Christians of riper years, she would often sympathize with those that were in affliction, or under exercise; of which my poor self was a feeling witness: for when I buried my loving and beloved wife, after I came home from the burial, she came to me and took me by the hand with both hers, and leaned her head upon my side, in much tenderness of spirit, which greatly affected my heart at that time, to consider, that her years were so green and her soul so ripe, she being then about nine years of age. Oh! may I meet with them in God's time, in his eternal rest and glorious kingdom! To which I doubt not but that those dear souls are ascended.

I made a visit to this dear young woman the day before she died, and she looked upon me, and remembering my wife (whom she loved dearly) "I am going to her," said she, "and to my brother;" who a little before he died, being about four years of age, said, "he should have a golden chair in heaven; and that he would take wings and fly thither." And may all who cast their eyes on these lines, say, with

the man of God of old, "Oh! that I had wings like a dove, then would I fly away and be at rest." Even so come sweet Lord Jesus, pray-eth thy servant,

THOMAS CHALKLEY.



