

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF
DEBORAH BELL

ORIGINALLY ENTITLED:

A SHORT JOURNAL
OF THE LABOURS AND TRAVELS IN THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY,
OF THAT FAITHFUL SERVANT OF CHRIST,
DEBORAH BELL.

And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.—Acts ii. 17.

Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.—Dan. xii. 4.

UNABRIDGED
FORMATTING AND MODERNIZED SPELLING BY
JASON R. HENDERSON

PREFACE.

The author of the following short journal, was daughter of John and Deborah Wynn, of Bradford, in Yorkshire. Her father, when a soldier under Oliver Cromwell, being convinced of the ushering in of a dispensation which abolished the use of carnal weapons for the destruction of men, laid down his arms and was discharged.

He was soon after called into another warfare, and in those times of hot persecution, fought with undaunted courage and holy zeal under the banner of the Lamb. He became an able minister of the everlasting Gospel of peace and purity, and travelled much, with good success, for the promotion thereof.

For this daughter, the only child left of seven, his care was great, to watch over and restrain her from evil, and to inform her, so far as her infant years were susceptible, in things relating to religion and a future state; wisely guarding against allowing the affectionate part to indulge her in anything of a tendency to her own hurt, or which would bring a reproach on the testimony given him to bear to others.

These early endeavours, through the divine blessing, made deep and lasting impressions on her mind; and although when very young she was deprived of the help of so worthy a parent, he being removed by death when she was not quite eleven years old; yet she kept near to and in a humble dependence on Him who is a father, and more than a father to the fatherless, whereby she gradually witnessed, under his renewed and continued visitations, a growth in the work of regeneration; and earnestly desiring, that in all things she might be perfectly resigned to answer the Divine requiremings; after many deep baptisms and refinings, about the nineteenth year of her age a dispensation of the Gospel was committed to her; for the publishing whereof she became eminently qualified, and in a short time gave proofs of a truly evangelical minister. Her appearance in the work was with awfulness; her testimony to the unrighteous was as fire amongst stubble; but to the humble, afflicted travellers towards Zion, it ran in a free stream of encouragement and Divine consolation.

She was sometimes led, clearly and with great authority, to speak of a day of trial which would come upon this nation, wherein their sandy foundation would be shaken, and their polluted rest broken, and a decision made between the nominal professors of religion and those who were in the life and practice thereof.

Her conduct in the world corresponded with this high calling; in her family she kept a tender and watchful eye over those under her notice. She was quick in discerning and prudent in admonishing; some reaped the advantage thereof, who still retain it in remembrance.

For further information concerning this worthy deceased Friend, the reader is referred to her husband's testimony, and to the journal itself; the serious perusal whereof, is especially recommended to those who are young in the ministry.

Robert Bell.

JOHN BELL'S TESTIMONY CONCERNING HIS WIFE, DEBORAH BELL.

Deborah Bell, wife of John Bell of Bromley in Middlesex, late of Grace-church street, London, daughter of John and Deborah Wynn, was born at Bradford in Yorkshire; and being carefully educated in the way of truth by her pious and faithful parents, she sought the way of the Lord, and the knowledge of his blessed truth, when very young, and was mercifully favoured to partake of that virtue and Divine goodness which makes fruitful towards God, as she frequently expressed herself. In her minority she often earnestly desired the Lord would be pleased to enable her to come up in doing his will, and that in all things she might be perfectly resigned to answer his holy requirings, and be fully given up in heart in all sincerity, and by his grace devoted to serve and obey him, according to the ability received. He in mercy and loving-kindness heard her humble petitions, and granted the early visitations of his love and goodness, in the pourings forth of his holy Spirit, and gradually, by the work of his own Divine power, so prepared and sanctified her heart, that she was made a vessel of honour. For as she became acquainted with his Divine and living word, when very young, she grew in experience of that work which is wrought by the power of Christ, by which alone salvation and perfect redemption is witnessed; and being a humble follower of Jesus Christ our Lord, and through the operation of his grace, cheerfully given up to follow these manifestations of the Divine light and workings of the Spirit, which are inwardly revealed, she was so fitted for her Master's use and service, as early to become a branch in Christ Jesus, the true and living Vine, bringing forth fruit to the praise and glory of God the good Husbandman. Being led through deep travail, and close exercise and affliction of mind, she thereby gained great experience, and was made sensible of various states and conditions, which tended to qualify her for that great and weighty work whereunto she was afterwards called.

About the nineteenth year of her age, the Lord saw fit in his wisdom to commit a dispensation of the everlasting Gospel to her to preach; in which service being faithful, she grew in the knowledge of God, and had great experience of his dealings, and like the wise scribe, who was well instructed to the kingdom, "Brought forth out of the good treasury of her heart, things both new and old," so that she became an able minister thereof, to the comfort and edification of the churches where she came. Many who were unacquainted with the work of the blessed Truth in themselves, were reached by her powerful and lively ministry; in the service of which, she often appeared strong when in bodily weakness, which frequently attended her, to the admiration of those who had the knowledge of her outward infirmities.

She laboured faithfully in word and doctrine, and visited many of the meetings of Friends in most parts of England, Wales, Scotland, and was twice in Ireland, and had good service where she came, for she duly regarded the guidance of Truth in all her services; and in an especial manner, when under a concern to travel on that account, she earnestly desired to be fully satisfied of being rightly called, and to see her way clearly opened, both as to the time when, the places where, and the people to whom, it was her duty to minister, and was ever very careful to return when she found her mind clear and easy. She would often say, which I mention for the instruction of others, That there was great danger in exceeding the commission, by staying abroad beyond the right time. She greatly desired that all the ministers of Christ,

who found themselves concerned to travel in the service of the Gospel, might take due care not to miss their way on that hand, neither when in their travels, be drawn aside out of the right line opened to them by the Truth, through the persuasion of unwary inconsiderate people, but wait for the power of Christ our Lord, to preserve them steady in mind in all their services for the promotion of the blessed Truth; frequently repeating, “That she had observed many, whom she believed to have been rightly drawn forth, who yet through weakness and instability had missed their way in those particulars, and thereby received hurt and lessened their service.”

When she was under a concern to go abroad to visit the churches, the weight of that exercise brought her very low, both in body and mind; for she waited diligently for the counsel of God, and full satisfaction in herself, before she made her concern known to any; for her whole dependence was in great humility on Christ our Lord, to put her forth, and go before her, and to give her strength and wisdom, to discharge herself faithfully to her own comfort and peace, the edification of the people, and his honour. But though she was strong in the Lord, and zealously concerned for the cause of Truth, yet by nature, she was of a weakly constitution, and through hard travail and close exercise, which often was upon her for the Truth's sake, her bodily infirmities increased before old age came on.

Towards the latter part of her time, being often infirm, she frequently rejoiced in the Lord, and expressed the great comfort, peace and satisfaction, which she had in having devoted her youthful days to his service, and being freely given up faithfully to obey his holy requirings, while a degree of health and strength were granted, and she was able to undergo such service; often saying, “An early devotion was very acceptable to God, and the strength of youth could never be so well and profitably employed, as in faithfully serving the Lord in humility and sincere obedience, in whatsoever work he in his wisdom may be pleased to qualify them for, and call them into; for where it happened, that any such lived to be attended with the infirmities of old age, the comfort and peace they would enjoy, would be abundantly more to them than all the comforts of this life;” and she could by living experience say, “That nothing in this world was worthy to be compared with it.”

She often earnestly desired that the sense thereof might lay hold of our youth; that they might give up their minds to seek the Lord early, and devote the strength of their time to his service, that in the end they might be made partakers of the same comfort and peace, which was her greatest joy and real cause of rejoicing, and became more and more so as she drew near her conclusion. And this I publish for their perusal, that if by any means they might be prevailed on, and stirred up to consider, how necessary and truly profitable it is to begin early in that great duty recommended by the wise man; “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when you may say, I have no pleasure in them.”

Being under a concern to visit a few meetings in Hertfordshire, and as far as Huntingdon, though in a weak state of health, she undertook that journey, which proved her last, towards the middle of the seventh month, 1738. She was from home ten days, and had six meetings, and although weak in body, yet she appeared strong in her ministry, and had good service, much to the satisfaction and comfort of

Friends where she came; and when she came home, she rejoiced much and said, she was humbly thankful to the Lord, who had enabled her to perform that journey, and had given her strength to discharge herself faithfully of the concern she was under; and that her heart was filled with that peace and comfort, with which he is pleased to favour his obedient servants; and that she apprehended her day's work was nearly finished, for she saw no more work her great Master had for her to do; and she had no desire to live, but to serve and glorify him.

The last time she was at the evening meeting at Bromley, about two weeks before she died, she bore a living testimony to the Truth, and was engaged in supplication to the Lord in a particular manner, praying in great fervency for the preservation, growth and settlement of the youth amongst us, in the living eternal Truth, to the affecting and tendering of many hearts. When she came home from the meeting, she was filled with Divine comfort, and said, "It is now finished, I do not expect you will have me with you at that meeting any more." Her weakness of body increased, and she taking cold, it seized her lungs, and occasioned a hoarseness, to which she was often liable. On the 22nd day of the eighth month, being the first-day of the week, we went to London to meeting, but being much indisposed, she was under some difficulty to stay the time of it, and did not go in the afternoon, but waited for me at a Friend's house until meeting ended; and coming home, she continued weakly, though a little better at times till fourth-day evening, but grew much worse again that night and had the advice of a physician, but it had not the desired effect.

On sixth-day morning a pleurisy came on, which much affected her breathing; and though means were used to remove it, she found no relief; the pain grew more violent, so that her affliction was great, and in a humble submission she earnestly desired the Lord, that he would give her strength to bear her pain and affliction patiently. Her petition was fully granted, for she was endued with patience to an uncommon degree, and bore her affliction with a firm resignation and thankfulness of heart, and with tender love and condescension to all about her; and abundance of sweetness she still enjoyed, as appeared by many precious and lively expressions, which deeply affected, and often tendered the hearts of all about her. When her pain was very great, she expressed herself at times after the following manner; "This is hard work indeed; one had need to have nothing else to do at such a time as this. I am sure it is as much as I am able to endure to bear the afflictions of the body; one had need not to have terror of mind besides." And appealing to a young woman standing by her whom she dearly loved, and who had duly attended her in her illness, she said, "You know I have had very little respite from pain since I was first taken ill; I would have none put off the great work of repentance till such a time as this; if I had that work to do, what a dreadful thing it would be." At another time, many young people being present, she said, "I would have our young people be willing to bear the cross in their youth, and despise the shame, for that is the way to have true peace in themselves." And another time she said, "I now feel that which my soul has longed for."

Seeing several young women standing round her bed, for whose growth and settlement in the blessed Truth she had often been concerned, she looked solidly upon them and spoke as follows; "I was early convinced, that unless I was born again, I could not see the kingdom of God. I have witnessed it, and

you know I have preached this doctrine to you, and you must know it for yourselves.” This she spoke with such authority as pierced the hearts of all present, and I believe will not easily be forgotten. At another time, looking steadily upon us, with a composed countenance said, “I have always been sincere, and never had anything in view but the great cause of God, and that I might be clear of the blood of all men, and I have discharged myself faithfully; for whatsoever my hand found to do, I did it with all my might, and never spared myself; and I am fully clear and easy, and my day's work seems to be done.” At another time, observing the distress I was in, she looked earnestly upon me, and said, “The Lord brought us together, and has been with us, and you must give me freely up to him again, and he will support you, and take care of you.”

At another time, being in great distress of mind, under the consideration of my great loss of so dear a companion, if she should be removed, I asked her if she had not rather live with me a little longer, if Providence saw fit? She looked pleasantly upon me, and after a little pause, said, “I have no desire or will of my own, I stand in the will of God.” At another time, under the sense of her great pain, she said, “I earnestly desire the Lord may release me while I have strength and patience to bear my afflictions, but I neither murmur nor repine.” And observing the sadness of my countenance, she said, “Why should I not go now? I can never go better.” I told her if Providence pleased to raise her again, she might be with me longer, and be of service, and yet go well; she readily answered, “There may be danger in that, I am now ready.”

At another time, I told her, when bemoaning myself, if the Lord should see fit to remove her from me at that time, I believed he would receive her into the mansions of glory; she replied, “I never doubt that; I trust through Christ to be removed into eternal bliss, for I am in peace, and perfectly easy.” At another time she looked upon me and said, “The Lord gave me to you, and you must give me up to him again.” And towards the latter part of her illness, being in great pain, and observing the concern I was in for her, she said, “My dear, I am afraid you hold me.” I answered “No, I have freely given you up, and stand resigned in the will of God;” she looked pleasantly upon me, and replied, “That is very good in you.” Afterwards her affliction and pain being very great and heavy upon her, she prayed fervently, and said, “Lord, be pleased to grant me a little ease before I go hence and be seen of men no more.” And the Lord was pleased to answer her fervent supplication; for the day before her departure, all pain and affliction seemed to be removed, and she continued quiet and easy, in a still sweet frame of mind; and although she spoke not much during that time, which could be perfectly heard, yet she remained very sensible, and her sweet and lively breathings plainly declared she continued in inward prayer and praises unto the Lord, her lips often moving, and sometimes expressions were heard, tending to signify the full assurance she had of an inheritance in eternal felicity and glory amongst the just. Many more precious and weighty expressions she dropped during her illness, which the distress of my mind prevented me from remembering perfectly.

About the fifth hour in the evening, being the fifth-day of the week, and the 2nd of the ninth month, 1738, she sweetly finished her course, and went away like an innocent lamb. And notwithstanding the great affliction and pain she underwent for seven days and seven nights, that brightness and innocency,

which Truth had impressed, remained on her countenance when the soul was released and had taken its flight into the regions of bliss and glory.

She was aged about forty-nine years, and a minister upwards of thirty years; she was endued with many eminent gifts and qualifications, an able minister, rightly dividing the word of Truth through that wisdom received from God, which proved effectual to the convincing of some, and the edifying and reaching of many; she was zealous for the cause of God, and of a discerning spirit and good understanding, so that the enemies of Truth could not stand before her, for her bow abode in strength, and her arrows were often carried to the mark, and were sharp against undue liberty, deceit, and the works and workers of unrighteousness.

She dearly loved the children of the light, and sincerely sympathized with such in their afflictions who were seeking the way to Zion, and often had a word of comfort to them. Her heart and house were always open, according to the example of her pious parents, to receive the ambassadors of Christ, remembering what he said; "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." And likewise what he told his disciples; "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that receives whomsoever I send, receives me: and he that receives me, receives him that sent me." And her delight was in the company of those who laboured for the promotion of the Gospel, and through a good degree of experience, she had sometimes a word of advice and encouragement to such.

She was a loving and affectionate wife, and the gift of God to me, and as such I always prized her, a help-mate indeed both in prosperity and adversity, a steady and cheerful companion in all the afflictions and trials which attended us, and a true and faithful yoke-fellow in all our services in the church; for being ever one in spirit, we became one in faith and practice, in discerning and judgment, and our concern and labour was the same; which nearly united us, and a life of comfort and satisfaction we lived, our souls in the nearest union delighting in each other; and the love and presence of God, with which we were often favoured in our private retirements, sweetened every bitter cup, and made our passage easy and pleasant to us. But alas! What shall I say, the Lord, who is all-wise, and only knows what is best for us, has called her hence, who is worthy to do whatsoever he sees fit; therefore in humble submission to his will who gave, and has taken away, as knowing though it is my loss, it is her everlasting gain, I rest, and can in sincerity and Truth bless his name, who is worthy forever.

John Bell.

On the seventh day of the month aforesaid, her body was accompanied from our dwelling house at Bromley, to the meeting house in Grace-church street, London; from which, after a solemn meeting, many being affected with the removal of so near a friend, it was carried to Friends' burying ground near Bunhill-fields, and buried by her mother, according to her desire.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

A SHORT JOURNAL OF DEBORAH BELL.

In the year 1707, Susannah Saunders came from London into our country on a visit to Friends, and having no companion, with the consent of my mother and some ancient Friends of our meeting, I accompanied her to several meetings in our parts.

The 14th day of the eighth month, we had a meeting at Highflats, where my companion had hard labour in a plain and close testimony. After the meeting, an ancient man who had been of some note among Friends, but falling into reproach, and not taking the advice of the church, had lost his condition and become troublesome, reflected upon the Friend, and told her, she had not a right sense of the state of their meeting, for they were a faithful people; and bid her go into the world and gather a people, and then come and preach to them; and more to that purpose. I was young, and had not appeared in the work of the ministry at that time, therefore sat quietly and heard what passed, though under a great concern, lest what he said should hurt the Friend, and discourage her in her service.

Afterwards he directed his discourse to me, saying, I was of a wrong spirit, or I would not have come along with that woman, for they were a faithful people, and had stood for their testimony in the persecuting times, when others had shrunk and been unfaithful. I told him, I was glad to hear they stood faithful in that persecuting time, and desired they might retain their integrity, and be enabled to stand if such another time should come; that I had not seen much of that persecution, but hoped he had nothing to accuse my parents of in that respect. The value he had for them formerly not being entirely erased, he made me no reply; and the Lord gave me strength to bear testimony against the spirit he was in; and several worthy ancient Friends present, fully expressed how glad they were of our visit, having true unity with the Friend's testimony, and earnestly desired we might not be discouraged, or regard what that man said, for he was of a contentious spirit, and had given them much trouble and exercise. Truth came over him, and we parted with Friends in peace, and proceeded on our journey with comfort.

We had satisfactory meetings at Burton, Pontefract, Selby, Cottness, Rawcliff, and Fishlock, where we visited Sarah Westerdale, an honest Friend and good minister, who lay very weak. We had a good and comfortable time with her, our great Lord being near to her in her affliction. Thence we proceeded to Thorne, Blyth, Mansfield, and so to John Gratton's, where we had meetings, and also an opportunity of seeing that worthy Friend. We stayed one night at his house, and may say, he was a father indeed.

The next day we came to Nottingham, where there was a burial, to which many people came, and our great Master owned us, made way for the testimony of Truth, and favoured us with a good and comfortable time. Next morning we parted in true unity and nearness; for the Lord is gathering a people near to himself, and makes them dear one unto another in that which changes not; for which, and all his mercies, let him have the praise. My companion proceeded on her journey towards London, and I returned home, where I safely arrived the 30th of the eighth month, in true peace, and found my dear mother well, for which I was truly thankful unto the Lord, and glad that I was accounted worthy to be serviceable to any of his servants.

In the year 1708, Elizabeth Richardson, an ancient and worthy woman, was at York Quarterly Meeting, and having a concern to go into Cumberland, our friend William Ellis, and several other ancient Friends, being unwilling she should travel alone, proposed to my mother that I should accompany her, who freely consented; and I being inclined from my childhood, to be serviceable in anything in my power, to the true messengers and ministers of Christ, I gave up to go.

The 19th of the fourth month I set forward, and got to William Ellis's, where I lodged that night, and next day went to Settle, where I met with my companion, and there we had a meeting; we had one also at Kendall; and passing through Shap, came to Thomas Priestman's, and next morning to the Quarterly meeting for Cumberland, where was a large women's meeting. Their affairs were managed in wisdom and great unanimity, and a good meeting it was. Next day was held a select meeting for ministers and elders, where I had the privilege of being present, and it was a glorious meeting; several living testimonies were borne by some young ministers, and suitable advice given by ancient Friends of great experience, who had been for many years instruments of great good to the churches; after which there was a general meeting, which was very large, and a comfortable time, for truth came into dominion, in a great degree.

After the meeting, my dear motherly companion and I, went to her brother Thomas Drewry's. Next day I visited that worthy minister Robert Atkinson and his family; we then proceeded to Jonathan Bell's near Cockermouth, where we met with our friends Daniel Bell, and John Bell who afterwards became my husband. He had concluded, at the request of my companion's husband, in his return towards London, to take care of her home, having conducted her in his way downwards to Leeds, and there left her; and Daniel likewise inclining for that city, they joined with us in company. They were both entire strangers to me, and I to them. Next day, being first-day, we were all at Pardsay, where we had a large and good meeting, and another at Cockermouth that afternoon, which was very large, our worthy friend James Dickinson, and many others from Pardsay meeting, accompanying us there; for my companion was much esteemed by Friends there-away.

The next meetings we took were at Windermore and Kendall. We went also to Robert Chambers's, to visit a Friend who was weakly, where we had a sweet and comfortable time together. Next day we were at Preston meeting, where a weighty exercise fell upon me, and a few words livingly opened upon my mind, and a necessity was laid upon me for the first time, to deliver them to the people; and I can truly say, I stood up in much dread and fear, and spoke what I had to say, trembling, but afterwards felt the peace of God, by which I was comforted.

Next day we went to Lancaster Quarterly Meeting, which was very large, and in that great assembly a weighty concern came upon me, and according to the ability received, I discharged myself, and sat down in the enjoyment of peace. It was an extraordinarily good meeting; and here I met with many worthy ancient Friends, with whom I had been acquainted from my childhood, by their frequently being at my mother's house, in their travels on Truth's service, and their fatherly notice was a great comfort and strength to me in that exercising time; and for this I was humbly thankful to the Lord, knowing him

to be the fountain from which all good comes, and I bless his name.

We had meetings at Settle and Airton, and finding we could not reach Bradford after the last meeting, without inconvenience, we concluded to take up at an inn, and rode into the yard. The landlord came to the door and looked very shy upon us, seeing we were of the people called Quakers, and did not offer to come near us; however we alighted, went in, and were conducted into a room. We sat down, and after some time, called for the landlord, and waited a considerable time before he came. We then ordered supper to be got ready, and when it was brought up, he came into the room, and there being a little pause in silence, he stood by the table and took off his hat, whether with an intention to say something, as their manner is, or not, we knew not; for a Friend in the company, being under a concern, spoke a few words in prayer. At first he seemed surprised, but was afterwards much affected, for the power of Truth came over him, insomuch that his countenance changed, and his carriage towards us was afterwards quite altered. We lodged there that night, and next morning, upon our departure, he showed great respect, telling us if we, or any of our friends, came that way at any time, we might depend on the best accommodation he was capable to entertain us with; so we parted with him in a good disposition of mind, and that morning I got safe home to my dear mother, and found her well, the other Friends being along with me. I was full of peace, and in a humble sense of the Lord's Divine goodness and preserving power, and that his good presence had attended me in that journey, my heart was filled with thanksgiving and praises to him, and made to acknowledge he is everlastingly worthy.

We all went to our meeting, had a comfortable time, and next morning I parted with my motherly companion, and the other Friends, in much love and nearness; for we were truly united in the love of Christ our Lord. They proceeded towards London, and I was left at home, where I continued for a considerable time, in great humility and awfulness of mind, in consideration of the weight of that work whereunto I was called, diligently attending our own meeting; and by waiting upon the Lord for counsel and strength, and often retiring unto Him, upon whom my constant dependency was, I grew in experience, and had strength and wisdom given me to discharge myself faithfully, according to the gift freely bestowed upon me, which gained me a place in the hearts of Friends, who were very helpful to me.

In this year, our ancient and worthy Friend Eleanor Haydock, being weakly, sent a message to me, earnestly desiring I would pay her a visit, saying if she were able to travel, she would go much further to see me. I consulted my mother about it, whose advice I greatly regarded in all my undertakings, being a faithful woman, and of great experience in the work of Truth, and a tender nursing mother to me, in a spiritual sense, under all my deepest exercises. She advised me to answer the Friend's request; and I undertook that journey, and in my way dropped into an evening meeting, sometimes kept at a Friend's house, who had a son that had taken undue liberties and left Friends, but was present in that meeting, and the power of Truth came over us in a great degree. The young man was reached and much tendered, and came to me after the meeting, trembling, and dropped many tears. I spoke to him what was then given me, with which he was much affected, though but a few words. I afterwards became farther acquainted with him, for he heartily joined with Friends, and a great reformation was wrought in him, by that Divine power which purifies the heart, and in process of time he had a few words in meetings.

He did not live many years, but I hope made a good end.

Next day, coming to Eleanor Haydock's, I was kindly received; she rejoiced much that I had answered her request. I stayed with her some time, and had several good and comfortable meetings there-away, and was also much edified and helped by that good woman's conversation, being a person of great experience, well deserving the name of a mother in Israel. After my stay with her, I returned home again in peace, and spent much time in private retirement, in which I found strength and great comfort, and the Lord was near in all my deep exercises, which were often weighty upon me.

In the winter of this year, we had meetings on first-day evenings, and I being young, and much known in the town, the report of my appearing in the ministry, excited the curiosity of many people of diverse persuasions, who flocked into these evening meetings, where they could come without being so much observed as in the day time. This added much to the weight of my present exercise, and I lived a life of humility and great fear, often fervently desiring the Lord would give me wisdom, and guide me by his own spirit, that neither in conduct nor ministry, I might ever do or say anything that might discourage, or turn any inquiring soul out of the way; and forever blessed be his name, his ear was open to my secret prayers, for in those crowded evening meetings we were favoured with his presence, and had many comfortable times; for the Truth prevailed, and often came over all, to the praise and glory of God, the Master of our assemblies.

Finding drawings in my mind to attend the Yearly Meeting to be held at Lancaster for the northern counties, the 29th of the First month, 1709, I set forward in company with Mary Richardson. We took meetings in our way at Skipton, Airton, Settle, Bentham, and Yelland; and on second-day we were at Lancaster Monthly Meeting; on third-day, at the meeting of ministers and elders, and on fourth-day at the general meeting for worship, which was very large; on fifth-day at the Quarterly Meeting for the county, and after the meeting left that town in peace, having had a glorious and comfortable time amongst many of our brethren and sisters, the Lord's power and good presence being witnessed amongst us in a large degree; for which favour we are deeply engaged to be humbly thankful to the God of all our mercies, to whom the praise is due forever.

We then visited the meetings at Preston, Kendall, Grayrig, Brigflats, Dentshead, Grisedale, Ravensend, Garsdale, and Countersel, and from there to John Routh's; where I parted with my companion. Next day I reached Bowbrighall and Bainbrig, and having spent one day in visiting several Friends in their families, passed on to Esker, Burton, and Scarhouse, where I had meetings; and then to Airton, to our worthy friend William Ellis's, where I stayed that night; and next day being the 23d of the second month, I got safe home, through the preserving power of the Lord, in perfect peace, having had a very comfortable journey; for which my soul is humbly thankful unto the Lord, who is near unto his bowed children and faithful servants, and gives the reward of peace into the bosoms of those who cast their care upon him alone, and faithfully answer his call, and follow him fully in all things.

The summer following, a concern came upon me to visit the meetings of Friends in some parts of the

north of England and Scotland, and when I had fully weighed the thing, and saw my way clear, I acquainted my mother and some other ancient Friends with it, and they being willing to give me up, I wrote to Mary Richardson, an elderly woman Friend, who had been my companion in another journey, querying of her, if she had any concern or drawings that way? I received for answer, that she was under the like concern to visit the places proposed, and would be glad to join me in that service. So I made preparation for my journey, and towards the latter end of the fifth month had a certificate from our Monthly meeting; and a great concern appeared in the minds of Friends on my account, I being of a very weakly constitution, and brought very low through the great exercise of my mind; but I was freely given up to the service, and my trust and whole dependence was upon the Lord alone for wisdom, strength, and preservation in every respect, well knowing that he is all-sufficient for those who trust in him, and are freely given up to do his will.

The 30th day of the fifth month, my friend John Bell, of London, being lately returned from his travels in Holland, came to pay me a visit, and stayed our meeting next day; and on second-day morning, the 1st of the sixth month, after having taken my solemn leave of my dear mother and various Friends, I set forward on my journey. My friend John Bell accompanied me to Richmond, where I met my companion. We were all at that meeting, and afterwards my said friend took his leave of us and returned towards London.

My companion and I proceeded, and had meetings at Larkington, Raby, Darlington and Yarm, where I felt the authority and power of Christ the Lord in an eminent manner, and many hearts were reached and much tendered by the Truth, and overcome therewith. My soul was filled with the goodness of God, and in humble thankfulness, living praises ascended unto Him, who had graciously answered my cry and fervent desires to the full that day. Let my soul trust in Him forever. We went next to Stokesley, Norton, Stockton, Shatton, Durham, Sunderland, Shields, and Newcastle, visiting their meetings. On second-day we came to James Halliday's in Northumberland, and from there to Allenwick and Embleton. We found the number of Friends very small in that country, yet were comforted with them in their little meetings, witnessing the promise of our great Lord to be fulfilled, for though but a few, his presence being in the midst of us, we had comfortable times.

On sixth-day morning, we set forward from John Doubleday's towards Scotland, and through hard travel and rough ways, we came that evening to Kelsey, and lodged at Charles Ormston's; from which we went to a Friend's house over the river, and had a very good meeting with a few Friends. Next day we had two comfortable meetings in Kelsey; the number of Friends there was small, but many soldiers and others came in, who behaved soberly, and were very attentive to Truth's testimony.

The next evening we reached Edinburgh, and had a comfortable meeting at the house of our worthy ancient friend Bartholomew Gibson, with Friends and others, who behaved soberly. We then crossed the Firth to Parton-crag ferry, and lodged at an inn.

Passing through Montross we came to Robert Barclay's at Ury, and had a meeting with Friends there.

On seventh-day we had a meeting at Aberdeen, and on first-day a very comfortable one at Kilmuck, for the Lord's power was felt in a good degree to come over all; the largest number of Friends in anyone place in that nation, we met with here. In the afternoon we had a meeting at Inver, Ury, where many people came, who were very sober and attentive. The Gospel of life and salvation was freely preached to them, and I found much room in the people's minds to receive the testimony; for which my heart was humbly thankful to the Lord, who was graciously pleased to favour us with his power and living presence, and enable us to give him the glory.

After the meeting we went to Awarthis, to the house of John Forbes, a good Friend, a living minister, and a generous open-hearted man, where we were received in much love and friendship; but having rode that day upwards of twenty miles, and had hard service in those two large meetings, though I had great peace and comfort of mind, my natural strength was so much spent, that it was with difficulty I sat upon my horse to the end of my journey. We had a comfortable meeting in that honest Friend's house with Friends thereabouts; and having stayed there two nights, and recovered my natural strength in a good degree, we returned to Aberdeen, where we had a meeting the day following. Next morning we had a very comfortable meeting at the widow Hall's house, with Friends that came to see us, and we parted in much love and nearness.

We came to Kingswells, where our worthy friend Andrew Jaffray lived, and had a very comfortable meeting with Friends, and next morning a sweet and edifying season with those who came to take leave of us. Though Friends in these parts were not numerous, yet I was sensible many of them loved the Truth, and in the love of Christ we were made near one unto another. Notwithstanding it was my first visit and in the time of my youth, I then believed it would also be my last to that country; and during my stay amongst them, my soul was in a deep travail before the Lord, for their preservation in the midst of a dark professing people. We came next to Ury, then to William Neeper's near Montross, and also to the town of Montross, where we had meetings.

Then turning our faces towards Edinburgh, we reached Parton-crag ferry that night, and lodged at an inn. Next day afternoon we got to Gingorn, and went on board with our horses in one of their little vessels, in order to cross the Firth. There embarked in the same vessel a man of quality, with several women in his company, his chaplain, musician, and a considerable number of attendants. They behaved themselves very rudely, making us the objects of their ridicule, the chaplain being the rudest of any of them. The gentleman himself was the only person who behaved with common civility; the women sung, and the musician played, but we sat in quietness of mind, and said nothing in reply to the many banTERS they put upon us.

In a little time the wind arose high, and being contrary, drove the vessel towards the sea, and the boatmen laboured hard to keep her up against the wind and waves, but told us, they feared we should all be lost. Their jollity and mirth then departed, and they were turned into sadness and mourning, being surrounded with great fear and terror. The chaplain went to prayers, and my heart being filled with holy zeal against such hypocrisy, when he had done, I told him he was not in a fit condition for that great

duty; for the prayers of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord; and then had a convenient opportunity to rebuke them sharply, and clear myself of them. The chaplain replied, if they perished, we must die with them. I told him, we had peace of mind, and knew where to retire, the fear of death was taken away from us, and we were resigned in the will of God; and if he saw fit that we should lay down our lives with such a rude company, yet his Spirit bore witness with ours, that we were his children, and he would receive us into glory amongst the spirits of the just. The gentleman himself agreed with me, saying if their lives were saved, it would be for the sake of these two good women, and rebuked his chaplain severely for his unbecoming behaviour. Through the mercy of God, after about seven hours toil in that short voyage, we landed safe at Leith, where they took up their quarters; but as we intended for Edinburgh, and the night being very dark, the gentleman sent two of his servants to conduct us safely to our lodging, where we arrived in true thankfulness to the Lord, whose preserving arm had been as a wall about us in all our difficulties. He also sent next morning to inquire of our welfare, and I returned a suitable acknowledgment for his favour and kindness.

The day following we had a meeting, to which many came who were sober and attentive; but towards the latter part of the meeting, while my companion was concerned in testimony, some came in who were rude, and threw stones at us into the meeting, one of which had nigh hit my companion; however, they did not much harm, for we had a good meeting. Passing to Borrowstoness, we had a meeting at the house of Daniel Hamilton, with Friends of Linlithgow and thereabouts. On seventh-day, in our way to Garshore, many people who were at harvest-work in the fields, inquired where we intended to have a meeting next day; telling us they had no minister, and had not heard the word of God preached for many weeks. We told them we intended to have a meeting at Garshore; they said they would come, and on first-day morning abundance flocked there; and Friends concluding their meeting-house was too small to accommodate them, agreed to have the meeting without, which was very large, solid and quiet. The Lord was with us, affording us wisdom and strength to preach the Gospel freely to them, in the power and demonstration of his own Spirit; a comfortable season we had, for the power of Truth came up into dominion over all, and we had great peace and satisfaction, and in humility rendered praise to Him who is worthy forever. After the meeting we went into an ancient Friend's house, who said he had not seen such a meeting there, since George Fox was in that country.

We went from there to Glasgow, and had a meeting in their public meeting-place, where the people were exceedingly rude. They threw stones and dirt amongst us, broke the windows, and made a very great noise while my companion was preaching. I sat quietly waiting upon the Lord, not expecting to have anything to say to such a rude multitude, but a concern coming upon me, I stood up sometime before I spoke, in which interval they looked steadfastly upon me, and desired one another to be quiet, that they might hear what I had to say. I then spoke to them in this manner: We are come from another nation in the love of Christ to visit you, and at our return it is likely they will inquire of us, concerning the people of Scotland: and what shall we say, but that you are high in notion and profession of the Christian religion, but in conduct and behaviour worse than the heathen? You are a reproach to your nation, a shame to your teachers, and the more moderate magistrates of your country; if you knew anything of the Chris-

tian religion, you would show it forth. They remaining quiet, I proceeded and cleared myself according to the ability then given. We had a good meeting, and the Lord shall have the praise, who owns his sincere children in all their exercises and difficulties.

But afterwards, not finding ourselves fully clear of that place, we remained under a weighty concern and deep travail before the Lord, that he might open our way to obtain peace, and to the glory of his name. After some time we went to visit some Friends in their families, and in our return, being about the time of their evening service, the sound of their prayers on every side reached our ears as we went along the streets, and struck at my very life, in consideration of the great deceit and hypocrisy of that poor mistaken people. My concern grew weighty upon me, and the distress of my mind very great, not seeing which way to get an opportunity to discharge myself; when we came to our lodgings I retired alone. We lodged at an inn kept by a Friend, an honest man, who not insensible of the concern we were under, proposed to my companion in my absence, to have a meeting in his house that evening, telling her he could lay several rooms together, that would accommodate a great number of people. To which she readily agreed, provided I was willing; and acquainting me with it, I readily joined with her proposition, which afforded ease to my mind. About the time appointed, many people flocked in, and amongst the rest a considerable number of the collegians, with some of their heads, who, we were afterwards informed, had an intention to oppose our ministry, and dispute with us. But the Lord was near to us, and gave wisdom and strength: and I may say in great humility and nothingness of self, the Gospel of life and salvation was freely preached to them, in the demonstration of the Spirit and power, according to the measure of the gift then received. A very large assembly we had, and our intended opposers stood directly before us like men chained. Truth came over all, the meeting was solid and quiet, and we had a good opportunity to clear ourselves. The meeting ended in a solemn manner, the people dispersed peaceably, and we rejoiced in a sense of the great love and favour of God, who was graciously pleased to condescend and own us, poor creatures, in a time of great distress; for which, and all his mercies, let him have the praise, for it is his own work, and can only be carried on by his power to his glory.

After this, we had meetings at Hambleton and Cumberhead; and finding ourselves easy to leave that nation, we set forward for England, and in two days came into Cumberland, to a Friend's house at Jenkins-town. We were humbly thankful to the Lord when we got safe there. The people being very honest Friends, kindly received us after our tedious and fatiguing journey.

In this county we visited the meetings at Sowpart, Sykeside, Eggletonby, Scotby, Carlisle, Moorhouse, Wigton, Hartley-hall, the Holme, Pardsey, Crosfield, Broughton, and Cockermouth; and then left Cumberland, having been much comforted among Friends, and had several large and good meetings; for we found a great number of sincere sensible Friends therein, and many faithful elders yet living, whose service was great, and by whose care, through the help of Divine Providence, things were kept in comely order in the church.

We then proceeded to Hawkshead, Crook, Windermere, Graithwaite, the Height, Swarthmore, Kendall, Grayrig, Dentstown, Wensleydale, and Garsdale; where we had meetings. At the last place I left my

companion to go to her own home, we having travelled together this long journey in much love and true unity, always being willing, according to the strength given, to help to bear one another's burdens, and in a humble sense of that Divine goodness we had been favoured with, we look leave one of another and parted.

It has ever been my inclination, the little time I have been concerned to travel on Truth's account, and hitherto it has been my practice, to make choice of an elderly experienced Friend for a companion; and the help and benefit I have found in it, engages me to recommend it to all young ministers. Having met with our worthy friend Thomas Chalkley, who intended for our county, he undertook to accompany me home. We took Bentham meeting in our way, and the next day being seventh-day, reached my mother's house; she rejoiced at my safe return, which was in much peace of mind; and I bless the worthy name of our great and good Master, who is with his bowed down children; we have great cause to serve him freely with all our strength, for he is a rich rewarder of all his faithful followers.

After my return, being but weakly through hard travel and close exercise, I continued at home, except sometimes visiting a few neighbouring meetings, as I found my mind engaged. The spring following, my friend John Bell and I came to a conclusion to accomplish our intended marriage, and it was with great awfulness and reverence, having a due regard to the peace and freedom of my own mind, that I consented to enter into a married life.

After a regular proceeding, according to the good order settled amongst us, on the 31st day of the third month, 1710, a large assembly of Friends and others met at our meeting-house at Bradford, and the Lord in mercy was pleased to be near to us, at our entrance into that solemn covenant, and a quiet solid time it was, notwithstanding the great crowd present; for many of the chief inhabitants of the town came, to whom I was well known, who had not seen any of our marriages before. The whole was managed orderly and with great solemnity. The lawyers and most of the gentry signed our certificate, and very much commended our method. The chief lawyer in those parts went home with us, amongst others, and said publicly in the company that our method and the manner of accomplishing our marriages, was the most solemn, and preferable to all the methods of marriage in the world.

I tarried at home with my husband some time; and when I found my mind engaged to visit Friends in the east part of our county, acquainted him therewith; to which he freely consented. On the 1st day of the sixth month, I set forward; my husband accompanied me to Stockton, where I met with my cousin Rachel Bell, who was come there with an intention to be my companion. We had a good meeting with Friends there, and next day went towards Gisbrough, and had a meeting there on first-day. Thence we came to Stokesly, where my husband left us, and returned home; we had a meeting with Friends there, also at Bilsdale, Kirbymoorside, Rowsby, and Whitby.

From there we travelled to Stantondale, Scarborough, Pickering and Malton, having several comfortable meetings; and so to Bridlington, Shipsey, Owstwick, Hull, Eastend, North Cave, and Cottness, and visited all the meetings of Friends along the east coast; and from there to Selby, York, Wetherby, and

Leeds. Then finding myself clear, I left my companion there, and got home to my dear husband and mother the last day of the same month, and found all well. We were comforted in the love of Christ, and my soul was deeply bowed before the Lord, in a sense of his mercy, rendering all praise to him, to whom it is everlastingly due.

I continued about home that autumn and the winter following, and in the spring fell into a weak condition of body, which brought me very low; but when the summer came, finding myself in some degree recovered, and having a concern upon my mind to visit Friends in Lancashire and Cheshire, I acquainted some Friends with it, who were much concerned at my taking a journey in that weak condition; but when they understood my husband inclined to accompany me, it made them easy. We had a certificate at our Monthly Meeting, and set forward the 30th day of the fourth month, 1711, and got to Wycollar in Lancashire, that evening, and next day to Trawden meeting, where we had a comfortable time. The third day following we set forward for Lancaster Quarterly Meeting, where there was a large appearance of Friends, and we had a very comfortable season together; the Lord's opening power and presence being waited for, was felt to lead Friends into their several services. The church was edified, and humble praises ascended to the great Master of our assemblies.

After that meeting we went to Yelland, next morning to Kendall Quarterly Meeting, and had a precious season. We then visited the meetings at Hawkshead, Swarthmore, and the Height, and returned by Yelland and Lancaster. On seventh-day we came to Richard Coward's, in the File country, and had a meeting appointed at Stammen; it was held in a great barn over against the parish worship-house: the meeting was large and crowded, the people quiet and very attentive, and we found room for the testimony of Truth amongst them. The Lord was with us, furnishing wisdom and strength, which enabled us to preach the Gospel of glad-tidings; the meeting ended well; Friends were comforted in our visit, and we truly thankful unto the Lord, who had enabled us to publish his Truth and show forth his glory.

We went from there to Clifton, and Coppel, where we had a very comfortable meeting. Here we met with our worthy friend John Haydock, and went with him to his house; he was free and fatherly, glad of our visit, and accompanied us to several meetings; his conversation was solid and edifying, as well as affectionate; we were comforted and encouraged in our service by his company, and parted in much love and nearness. We came next to Hardshaw Monthly Meeting, then proceeded to visit the meetings at Biggerstaff, Liverpool, Knowlsby, Sanky, and Franly, in Cheshire; where, it being first-day, we had a large meeting.

At the breaking up of this meeting, I fixed my eye upon a young man, and felt a concern upon my mind to go home with him, but he got away out of the meetinghouse before I could speak to him. We went into a Friend's house adjoining thereto, where many Friends came to us, several of whom earnestly entreated my husband to go with them for that night; but he leaving that to my choice, they applied to me; I told them, I had seen a young man in the meeting, with whom I inclined to go if I could find him. They asked me if I knew his name, or where he lived? I replied, I knew neither; but during this conversation, I saw him passing an entry which went through the Friend's house, and called to him. When he

came, I inquired of him where he lived? He said, about three or four miles off. I asked him, if he could accommodate us with a night's lodging, if we should incline to go with him? He answered yes, and should be glad of our company. I then became easy, and we went along with him. When we came to the house, we found them a family of honest Friends, but his father in a very low dejected frame of mind. I said little to him, but concluded to have a meeting in the family that evening, and a glorious opportunity it was, for the power of Truth broke in upon us in a peculiar manner, and the ancient Friend was much reached, comforted and strengthened in his mind, and as I was afterwards informed, was never so much overcome with that weakness any more.

This passage I mention with no other view, but that all Friends who travel on Truth's account, may diligently wait upon God, and strictly mind their guide, to be opened by his counsel, and rightly led into all their services, both as to what meetings and families they are to go to, for in this I have found safety and comfort. The work is the Lord's, and we had need to depend upon him, and diligently wait for the immediate motions of his holy Spirit, for it is by his own power only that his servants are fitly qualified to be serviceable in his church, rendered a comfort to his people wherever they come, and enabled to discharge themselves faithfully to his glory; and when we do so, the inflowings of peace will be our abundant reward.

We proceeded on our journey to Norton, Middlewich, Newton in the Forest, and Chester, visiting the meetings of Friends, and to Nantwich meeting, to which many people came, not of our profession, who behaved themselves soberly and attentively, several being reached; for the power and good presence of Christ was with us. As a fresh concern came upon me to visit Friends in North Wales, we in great humility deliberately considered the thing, and in freely giving up to the motion of life, found peace; and our way being clearly opened unto us, we returned back towards Chester again, and came to Wrexham, in Denbighshire, where we had a good meeting with the few Friends there; and then to Dolobran, where we had a large meeting, and though it was through hard exercise, it proved in the end very satisfactory to us and Friends.

The next evening we got to Ballough, and the day following being first-day, had a meeting about two miles out of the town, at the house of Robert Vaughan. We found the number of Friends very small, but loving and glad of our visit. Next morning we set forward early, and had a long day's journey over the mountains to Dolgelly, but came safe at night to the house of Ellis Lewis, who received us kindly, and we had a good meeting there next day. After this we went to Humphry Owen's, who lived by the sea side, and the day following had a comfortable meeting at his house, with the few Friends thereabouts. Next morning we proceeded, and had a large and very good meeting next day at the house of the widow Bember. Here we found a considerable number of Friends, and several who had a little time before been convinced of the Truth, and joined with Friends; we were highly favoured amongst them, for the power of Truth came up into dominion in a great degree; the hearts of the people were melted like wax before the fire, and the young convinced much comforted and confirmed in the blessed Truth, in a sense of the love of God to them; we were also comforted with them, and high praises were given unto God for his blessed visitation renewed to his people that day.

On the first-day following we had a meeting appointed at the house of William Sawley, there being several convinced in that part of the country; many Friends met us from several distant parts where we had been, and a number of other professions being gathered together, we had a large assembly, and a full and good opportunity amongst them, great openness appearing to receive the Gospel. After the meeting we parted with them, and in particular with our worthy ancient friend Robert Griffith, who had accompanied us from Dolobran during our stay in Wales, and been of great service to us.

Leaving Wales we came into Shropshire, and visited the meetings there and some in Cheshire; then finding ourselves clear, we pursued our journey homewards, and came to Bradford, where we found my dear mother and all things well, for which we were humbly thankful; and in the enjoyment of that peace which we were filled with in obeying the Lord's requireing, and serving him faithfully, we were made to rejoice and bless his name.

Being but weakly at my setting out, I found myself much spent when my service in that journey was over; and notwithstanding I had been wonderfully supported and strengthened, I found liberty to tarry about home the remaining part of this year; during which time there was a particular visitation of truth to the people about Keighley, and many flocked to Friends' meetings in that town. My husband and I found ourselves often concerned to visit them, and several being convinced, joined with Friends.

About this time, a young woman who was a baptist, came several times to a meeting I sometimes visited, and wrote several letters to me, by way of inquiry concerning our principles, which I answered as things opened upon my mind. After several letters had passed between us and she seemed satisfied with my answers, she wrote me another, desiring to be resolved about women's preaching, saying, she thought me a proper person to apply to, being concerned in that service; to which I replied in substance as follows.

Dear friend,

Though we are strangers one to another, as to personal knowledge, yet understanding by some friends, and your own letters to me, that you are inclined to virtue and piety, and desirous to know the way of the Lord, which is very commendable in youth, and particularly want to be resolved concerning women's preaching and praying in public assemblies; and I being concerned that way, and always glad to hear that young people are inclinable to godliness, find the tender love of my heavenly Father flow towards you, heartily desiring he may open your understanding, and give you the true knowledge of himself, and of his way Christ Jesus, whom to know is life everlasting.

And first I shall observe, that the holy women, under the law, were concerned in carrying on the work of the Lord, when the tabernacle was commanded to be built. And Moses spoke unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, this is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying, take from amongst you an offering unto the Lord, whosoever is of a willing heart, etc. And they came everyone whose heart stirred him up, and everyone whom his spirit made

willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments; and they came both men and women, as many as were willing-hearted, etc.

And all the women, whose hearts stirred them up in wisdom, spun goats hair, etc. And various services we may find, for the carrying on of the Lord's work, the holy women in that day were employed in assisting in concurrence with the men in the work of the tabernacle; which I look upon was figurative, setting forth something of the inward work of the holy spirit of Jesus Christ, in men and women under the glorious Gospel dispensation.

But to come closely to the point, we may observe, that Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her, etc. And Miriam exhorted them to praise the Lord; which undoubtedly was approved by Moses, Aaron, and the rest of her brethren. We also find, the Lord has been pleased to make known his will to godly women as well as men, and to make use of their service in matters of great importance; of which Deborah a prophetess and a judge in Israel, and Huldah, the prophetess, are eminent instances. Hence you may see, the public service of women in the church is no new thing, but was practised amongst the people of God in ancient days.

I shall now proceed to observe, that the same was to be continued in the latter days, or dispensation of the Gospel; which is thus expressed by the prophet Joel, personating the Almighty: 'And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, etc. And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit, and I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth,' etc. So if daughters have the Spirit of the Lord poured forth upon them, as well as sons, why may they not preach, pray, or prophesy, when led and moved thereto by the Spirit, as well as sons?

Passing now from the Old Testament to the New, we find a notable instance in Anna the prophetess, who gave thanks and spoke of the Lord Jesus Christ unto all them who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. Here was a woman preacher, who taught or prophesied in the temple of the Lord; an early preacher of the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. But I suppose the chief objection in your mind against women's preaching, arises from that saying of the apostle Paul in his first epistle to the Corinthians; 'Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also says the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.' It appears to have been only to some married women at Corinth, the apostle gave that charge; and none can justly draw from his words, that he thereby meant to prohibit all women from preaching and prophesying in public assemblies; for it is plain from the text, that those Corinthian women were not such as prophesied, or had a word of exhortation to give; but busy-bodies, asking questions which disturbed and troubled the church.

But those amongst us, whom the Lord has concerned to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and declare the glad-tidings of life and salvation by him, to poor captivated souls, are not found asking questions to trouble the church; but labouring in the gift God has given them, that people may come to be turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God; which was the concern of Gospel ministers in former days. Such women as the apostle speaks against, were to learn of their husbands at home; which implies, they lacked such instruction as their husbands might be able to give. We read, Philip had four daughters, virgins, who did prophesy, and though Paul and his company tarried there about a year after he had so written to the Corinthians, yet we do not find, that he in any wise disapproved the prophesying of those godly virgins. We may justly conclude, that if women's preaching or prophesying had been put an end to by the coming of Christ, and was not to be allowed in the Gospel dispensation, Philip, an evangelist, would not have allowed his own daughters to prophesy, who were virgins under his own care, as may reasonably be supposed. Nor did the other apostles, in their general epistles to the believers, give any such commandment to the churches; which, no doubt, they would have done, if in the Gospel dispensation the Holy Spirit had prohibited women being so concerned. Besides, such a prohibition would have been a plain contradiction to the prophecy of Joel, before mentioned.

It also appears very clear, that the apostle Paul never intended such a limitation, who gave suitable advice how women should behave themselves when exercised in praying and prophesying, as you may read. They that conclude the apostle intended to exclude all women from praying and prophesying, make him inconsistent with himself, to prescribe a way in one place how to perform orderly and decently, what he disapproved in another. But the same apostle is very clear when he says, 'For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.' 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' Then if there be no difference between male and female, but all are one in Christ, why may not all be like partakers of the gift of his grace, thereby to be made to speak in his name, and exhort all to believe in him and obey him? And it is likewise to be observed, that in the same chapter the apostle advised the women at Corinth not to trouble the church, he says, 'You may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.' From which it may be as strongly argued, the apostle meant they might prophesy, though not required of them by the Lord so to do; as to say he forbade women to prophesy, though the Lord required it of them. For saying 'You may all prophesy,' included the women of Corinth as well as the men, if moved thereto by the Spirit of the Lord. And though the apostle says, 'Let the women learn in silence with all subjection, but I permit not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence,' etc. Respecting this I shall observe, that those women, upon whom God has poured forth of his holy Spirit, and filled their hearts with his living word, so that they cannot hold their peace, but a necessity from the Lord is upon them to preach the Gospel of glad-tidings, to those who are captives to sin, that they may come under the government of the law of the spirit of life, that sets free from the law of sin and death, having been made living witnesses of the work of God in their own hearts, and experienced a blessed

change wrought therein, and a concern raised to call others to seek after the Lord, and fear him; these can direct into the way that leads to true peace, because they have known their feet to be turned into it, by the mighty arm and power of the Lord, which has wrought a willingness in them to follow and serve him, according to the ability he gives. And this agrees with that saying, 'Your people shall be willing in the day of your power.' And he has, by his power, enabled a remnant to walk in his way, though a way of self-denial, step by step; and these, whether men or women, have witnessed a learning in silence, as they have thus waited and rightly come to learn of Christ Jesus, their heavenly husband; he has opened his everlasting way and Truth unto their souls, and even constrained them, by his overcoming love, to declare of it to others, which has been done at times in fear and trembling, and much self-denial. Such women are not of those the apostle had occasion to reprove. For we are far from usurping authority over the men, but remain in true subjection, depending upon the Lord our strength, and waiting for the authority of his holy power, which calls to this great work, and carries it on, both in sons and daughters, to the praise of his great name, and the comfort and encouragement of poor longing souls, that they may come also and enjoy for themselves, that which will nourish up unto everlasting life. Such women as these the law allowed of, and the apostle allowed of, as might be more fully proved out of the holy Scriptures. For they who allow not women's prophesying, preaching or praying, must consequently conclude, that the Lord's regard to them is lessened, and his love in measure withdrawn from them; for it is evident, by the texts I have mentioned, he made his mind known to women in ancient days, and they spoke in his word to his people; and as their counsel was taken, the Lord enabled his people to overcome their enemies.

But blessed be the name of the Lord, there is a remnant in this day, who have been made partakers of his mercy, and can say he is the same that ever he was, in regard and love to all his people, male and female; God unchangeable, blessed in himself and in his Son Jesus Christ forever.

I might enlarge on this subject beyond the bounds of a letter, should I observe, how Jesus Christ our Lord conversed with, and used the service of women before he was offered up; how his first appearing, after his resurrection, was unto a woman; and also how Paul commended some women, and tells how helpful they were to him, and entreated his true yoke-fellow to help those women who laboured with him in the Gospel; which for brevity I omit, and shall draw towards a conclusion, earnestly desiring the Lord may open your understanding, both in this thing, and in all others which concern your everlasting well being. If I had room, I should be willing to tell you a little of my own experience in several respects, but am more desirous to have a little conversation with you, if opportunity admits. So with sincere desires in my heart, for your welfare and growth in the knowledge of God, and establishment in the blessed Truth, I conclude your truly loving friend, willing to satisfy you in what I can.

Deborah Bell.

A considerable time after, this young woman came to a meeting where I was, and when it ended, told me she was the person who had written me several letters, and received my answers, desiring to have some conversation with me, which I readily agreed to, and we spent some hours together to our mutual comfort. She confessed to the Truth, and was much tendered through the visitation of the love of God to her; and some time after, finding my heart opened in the love of God, earnestly desiring her preservation and settlement in the Truth, I wrote and sent her the following letter.

Dear friend,

In the love of my heavenly Father, I dearly salute you, earnestly desiring that peace, which passes the understandings of men, which the world can neither give nor take away, may plentifully abound in your heart, which no doubt will, as you come to yield sincere obedience to that of God in your own conscience, which you are in some measure acquainted with, as it has manifested to you several things which are contrary to the will of God; and not only so, but has likewise let you see what you should do to obtain peace in your soul; and that which is required of you is, that you obey, from the bottom of your heart, the manifestations thereof. Though at first it may seem to be but a small light, shining in a dark place, discovering those things that are evil to the soul; yet as there is a diligent attention to it, it will shine brighter and brighter, and discover more and more, till every thing that is evil be manifested thereby; and in due time, your soul will come to a perfect knowledge of the will of God, and experience that the path of the just is as a bright and shining light, which shines more and more until the perfect day.

Dear heart, I know the love of God is largely extended to you, and he has blessings in store for you, if you will but wait to be so wrought upon by his heart-changing power, as to be made fit to receive them. I do earnestly entreat of you, as you desire peace of conscience, and a resting place in eternal joy for your soul, that you beware of doing or joining with anything that brings trouble upon you, and breaks your peace with the Lord. Be sure to mind what makes for your peace, and that do; though it may be through hard exercise, and under the cross. This is the right way that all God's faithful children and people have trodden in all ages; and truly, it seems to me, that you must have a great share of the cross to bear; but be not discouraged at this, for it is but a cross to that part which never can inherit the kingdom of heaven. So that it is for the benefit of our souls, to have that part crucified and slain which is an enemy to us, and would hinder us from entering into eternal felicity; and I have further to say for your encouragement, that those who have the greatest share of exercises and tribulations, shall, if they abide steadfast, receive a more exceeding recompense of joy and consolation of soul from the Lord.

Dear child, keep true in heart unto God, and eye him above all, who has been so large in his love, as to work upon your heart by his power, in your young and tender years. It is in order that you may be made a fit instrument in his hand, for the glory of his holy name; and I believe he will carry on his work gloriously in your soul, as you are truly obedient, and subject to his workings there, even to the filling of your heart, not only with admiration of his dealings with you,

but also with great reverence and thankfulness to him, for his mercy and goodness.

My pen is not able to set forth one half of the comfort those enjoy, who are given up in heart to follow the Lord fully, and turn their backs on all the glory of this perishing world; but you may be a witness thereof yourself in the Lord's time, if you truly love him above all, and deny all for his sake. Therefore, I beseech you, take care of resisting the good Spirit of God, while it is striving with you; for this is the day of your visitation, wherein life and death are set before you; and the Lord will not compel any, but he offers his love freely to all; and forever happy will you be, if you join in with it. But on the contrary, if you look out at the glory of the world, and prefer it before peace with the Lord, or look at the exercise and difficulties you may have to encounter, and are thereby prevailed upon to let your spiritual concern drop, it had been better for you had you never known the mind of the Lord, nor had his will manifested unto you. I can tell you by experience, that God is no hard Master; and though many things appear to us, that may seem impossible to be overcome, yet as our eye is to the Lord, with sincere desires in our hearts to answer his will, we shall find he is all-sufficient to support and enable to overcome. Nothing is too strong for him, though all the powers of hell combine together against him, to hinder his work from being carried on in the soul. If the soul dwells but under the government of his holy power, and waits for his heavenly teachings, from which Divine wisdom comes, which wisdom the Devil with all his subtlety can never beguile; such from experience shall have cause to say, the power of God is above all powers whatsoever.

O cleave close to the Lord, and he will never forsake you, nor be lacking to help in the most needful time of trouble. But let me say once more, take heed of slighting this the day of God's love, or delaying; for your soul is at stake, and you may never have the like visitation again. I have been very much concerned for you, and have suffered in spirit with you since I saw you, and it is for no by-ends at all, but for the discharging of my conscience of that duty I owe, and in pure love to your never-dying soul, that I send these lines, heartily desiring they may have the desired effect upon you; and I believe the day will come, wherein you will be made sensible, that it is in the love of God these lines are written. I shall now draw towards a conclusion, having enlarged beyond what I at first intended; for I find my heart opened in love to you, and shall remain one who travails for the good of souls, and that many may be brought into true acquaintance with the living God, and know their peace to be made with him, before time to them here shall be more.

Deborah Bell.

Having felt drawings in my mind for some time, to visit meetings in the southern counties of England, and the city of London, the spring following, I acquainted Friends with it, and had a certificate. Rebecca Cowell offered to be my companion, and on the last day of the first month, 1712, we set forwards, and had meetings at Balby, Blyth, Collingham, Swinehead, Spalden, Gedney, Wisbich, Upwell, Lynn, Fakenham, Wells, Holt, Lammas, and Norwich; where I was kindly received, particularly by our worthy

friend John Gurney, senior, who was an intimate acquaintance of my dear father's, and he related to me many affecting passages of his labours and service in that city and county in early times. During our stay there, his fatherly care over me was very engaging, and I believe will never be forgot while my memory is strong enough to retain it.

We had a meeting in that city on a weekday; then went to Yarmouth, and had a meeting with the few Friends there; but not being fully clear in my mind, I parted with my companion and came back to Norwich, and stayed the first-day meetings, which were very large: I had a good time amongst them, and we were comforted together. Next morning we parted in a sense of the love of Truth, and I came to Taisbrough meeting, where joining my companion again, we visited the meetings at Tivetshall, Diss, Thetford, and Ixor. Then leaving Norfolk, we went to Bury, and were at the meetings there on the first-day, where many people came in. We had a good opportunity amongst them, for Truth owned us in our service; for which my soul is humbly thankful unto our great Lord and Master.

From there we went to Mildenhall, Bayton, Mendlesham, Needham, Woodbridge, and Layson, visiting those meetings; and at the last place had a good and comfortable season amongst a tender inquiring people. We also found a sober tender people at Branston, and had a good time amongst them. We then proceeded to Walton, and Ipswich, visiting their meetings. Then leaving Suffolk, we visited Friends at Colchester, Birch, Kelvedon, and Chelmsford. On the 16th day of the third month we reached London, and went through all the meetings in that city, where we had many precious seasons.

The Yearly Meeting drawing on, my husband came up and met me there, where I saw many of my worthy friends, and had comfortable meetings with them. After which, my mind being clear and fully easy, I parted with my companion; and my husband and several friends accompanying me, we left that city, and taking a meeting at Albans, we proceeded homewards, where we arrived safe, and found my dear mother and all well.

I enjoyed great peace in giving myself freely up to the service of Truth, and humble thankfulness remained on my mind to the Lord for his mercy, in granting a sense of his living presence and power to the support and comfort of my exercised soul, in all my travels for promoting the Gospel.

My husband having been inclined for a long time to remove to London, the place of his former residence, had proposed it to me, and left it under my consideration, where it remained for some years; he leaving it with me without the least importunity. It was a serious thing to me, and I often besought the Lord to know his will therein; for I considered I was the only branch of the family left to come up in my dear father and mother's places, in their several services in the church, greatly desiring I might not miss my way; and great fear was upon my mind. My heart was sincere before the Lord; and in process of time, patiently waiting for the counsel of God, I saw the way clearly, and had a certain evidence that the Lord would be with us, and own us in that undertaking. This removed all doubts, and I freely consented. We then acquainted Friends with our intention; upon which they were much concerned, for we had a place amongst them, they thinking us of service; and also being cautious lest we should miss our way,

were very reluctant to part with us; however, after several consultations, they left us to our liberty. We prepared for our removal, and about the middle of the seventh month set forward for London, brought my dear mother along with us, and settled in the city.

Being afterwards drawn in my mind to visit Friends in Kent, the 31st of the tenth month 1715, and having my dear friend Margaret Ollive for my companion, we visited the meetings, and finding ourselves easy, came safe home, after a difficult journey though but short; for the weather was extremely cold, being a hard frost and a deep snow, during the whole time. Upon coming home, our hearts were filled with thankfulness to the Lord, who had accompanied us in our service, and preserved us from any harm.

A concern having rested upon my mind for a considerable time, to visit some of the meetings of Friends in the north of England and Ireland, which growing weighty upon me, I acquainted my husband and mother with it, who readily consented to give me up to that service. My former companion, Margaret Ollive, agreed to accompany me; and having the consent of Friends, and certificates of their unity with us, the 16th day of the twelfth month 1716, we set forward, being accompanied to Albans by my husband and several other Friends, where we had a meeting that day; after which, my husband took his leave of us and returned home. We then proceeded to Market Street, Newport-pagnel, Northampton, Braybrook, Leicester and Nottingham, where we had meetings. Thence we travelled directly to Bradford, in Yorkshire, and had a very good open meeting amongst my dear friends and former neighbours, who rejoiced to see me once more at the place of my nativity. A very comfortable opportunity it was to many; for which I was truly thankful unto our great Lord and Master, and more and more confirmed that he is worthy to be followed and obeyed in all his requirings.

From there we went to Satterforth and had a meeting; then to Settle Monthly Meeting, where we had an opportunity of seeing many of our friends from several meetings, and had a comfortable time with them. From there we came to Kendal, where we had two comfortable meetings, which strengthened us in our service, and the church was edified in the love of Christ. We went next to Windermere meeting, and so to Cockermouth, and it proving a very snowy day, and I being weakly, was hard set to bear it over the mountains; however, through the favour and protection of Providence, we got that night to our worthy friend Peter Fearon's. His wife, my particular friend and acquaintance from my childhood, received us kindly, and her motherly care was great over us.

Next day we went to Pardsay meeting, and had a good time amongst Friends there; after which we returned to our lodging, but the wind and snow were so very severe, we could scarcely sit on our horses. We stayed there four nights, the snow being so deep and the weather boisterous, that it was judged very unsafe to travel. On the first-day we had two very good meetings at Cockermouth. Next morning leaving my companion with Friends there, I set forward towards Carlisle, to visit my husband's father, and some other relations in that part of the county, where I had many comfortable meetings; and being much pressed in mind for Ireland, intended to return to my companion in order to proceed in our voyage; but the wind continuing contrary, and their Quarterly Meeting drawing on, Friends persuaded

me earnestly to stay that meeting. On deliberate consideration, I found freedom in my mind to consent thereto, the wind still continuing contrary. The meeting being to be held at Carlisle, my companion met me there, and many Friends came. A large and good meeting it was, being overshadowed with the power of Truth in a good degree, though much disturbed by several who were possessed with a ranting unruly opposite spirit. But the governor of the city understanding how they disturbed the meeting, sent his officers to take them away. Next day they came again, and began to disturb the meeting as before, but were soon carried away by the forementioned authority, only one John Robinson, escaping the officers' notice, continued in the meeting; while a Friend was declaring the Truth, he sat still, but when he had done, began to reflect upon Friends with railing accusations. I being under a weighty concern stood up, and in the dread and power of the Lord began to declare of the free grace and universal love of God to mankind. At which he cried out, Disorder; but a man of considerable note in that city, commanding him to be silent, or he would take him out of the meeting, he sat down, and I went on in the authority of the Lord's power, my heart being filled with the love of Christ, which flowed freely to that exercised people, and the Gospel of life and salvation was preached to them, and many hearts were reached and much affected with the Truth. A glorious meeting it proved, and my soul was deeply bowed in humility before the Lord, who owns his poor weak ones that faithfully serve him, in every needful time, who shall have the praise of his own work.

When the meeting ended we took our solemn leave of Friends, being near to us in the unity of the one spirit, which makes the children of God truly one all the world over; and a worthy ancient Friend said, when I took my leave of him that heaven had favoured them, in detaining us to attend that meeting; we now had stayed till the right time, and they could freely part with us. So we came away in perfect peace, and were greatly comforted in a sense of the love of God; for I never left that part of the country with so much ease of mind before.

We travelled twenty miles that afternoon to Cockermouth, and early next morning, as the wind continued fair, we rode to Whitehaven, and finding the ship ready to sail, went on board immediately, being the seventh-day.

We had a tedious passage by reason of contrary winds; and very mean accommodation; however, through the favour of Divine providence, we got safe to land on the fourth-day evening, and went to Dublin that night, where we were kindly received by our friend Joseph Gill. Next day we had a meeting in that city amongst the scholars in the school-room, and on sixth-day a large meeting with Friends and others, in their meeting-house. On first-day we had large meetings, where the testimony of Truth had free passage. We were comforted one in another, and blessed the Lord, who is making his people who abide in his own spirit, dear to one another, of whatsoever nation they are.

We stayed about ten days in Dublin, and had seven meetings, wherein we had good and comfortable opportunities; and leaving that city, we went to John Barcroft's on a seventh-day; the day following to Edenderry, and had two comfortable meetings; from there to a place about seven miles distant, where we had a meeting; from there to Mountmelick, and visited that meeting, and had next a very solid

meeting at Mountrath. About four miles from there we came to a widow woman's house, where we had a very sweet and comfortable meeting, and returned back again to Mountrath. We spent the seventh-day in visiting Friends, several of them sick.

Then visiting Ballynakill, and Kilconner, we came to Newgarden, where the testimony of Truth went forth in a sharp and close manner, against public disorder and secret sins; things were opened so clearly in my mind, that I could safely have said, "You are the man;" for the Lord is opening secret things to his faithful servants, in this day as in days past; blessed be his name, says my soul, forever! for those that trust in him are helped by him, and need not lean on the arm of flesh; for nothing can do God's work but his own arm and power.

From there we went to Ballitore and had a meeting, and so to Castledermot to the province-meeting for Leinster, and were at the meeting of ministers and elders, where we were glad to see many of our dear friends and brethren, and were sweetly comforted and refreshed in the Lord, and one in another in the love of Christ. Next morning was held a very large public meeting for worship, wherein we had a good opportunity, and in the afternoon the meeting for business. On first-day we had a very large meeting, the power of Truth was with us, and I had strength given to discharge myself faithfully. It was a satisfactory time, our elder brethren giving us the right hand of fellowship, and prayers were put up to the Lord, for our help and prosperity in his work, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift, for they were sensible of the weighty concern we were under. Indeed it is a very great thing to travel to promote and publish the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and loudly calls for the greatest humility, reverence and awe, ever to remain upon the minds of all those concerned therein.

After meeting we returned in great peace towards Dublin, and the day following there was a marriage, and the greatest number of people together that I had ever seen on the like occasion; a brave opportunity it was to publish the Truth, and great openness I found upon my mind to that people, and the Gospel of salvation was freely preached to them. They were quiet and orderly, and many very attentive to the testimony of Truth, who had never been at any of our meetings before: others who had not heard a woman preach, went away well satisfied, and we were comforted. We stayed in Dublin till the first-day following, having several meetings amongst Friends in the mean time, and on first-day had two very large meetings; for the Lord in his goodness and mercy, was pleased to open things to their states, and we found our minds clear and easy.

On the third-day following began their Halfyear's Meeting, wherein many living testimonies were borne to the comforting of the faithful, and warning and stirring up the careless to more diligence and circumspection. The meeting held several days, and the Lord, who had been with us in our public services, was graciously pleased to own us in taking leave of one another, to our confirmation and comfort, which was in a select meeting of ministers and elders, seasoning our spirits with his love, in which we parted. Being fully clear we left Dublin that afternoon, and had a number of good meetings amongst Friends. Many people came, and the Lord's power and good presence were with us in our service, and we were much comforted in his love, and remained humbly thankful to him.

From there we went to Coothill, and had two large meetings on a first-day; many Friends living thereabouts, and several sober neighbours coming in, we had very open and comfortable meetings. We travelled on to Ballyhagan, Old-Castle, and the Moate, and had satisfactory meetings. At the last place was the province-meeting for Leinster, where the testimony of Truth came up in dominion over all deceit and false shows, and we had opportunities to discharge ourselves, and came away with satisfaction and peace. From there we went to Waterford and Birr, and visiting the meetings, came to John Ashton's, and had a meeting which was large, many people coming in; there was great openness in that place to receive the testimony of Truth, and some conviction. We then proceeded to Limerick, where we had three meetings, and the Lord was graciously pleased to give sufficient ability to go through with the service in that town; and having discharged ourselves faithfully, we came away in peace; for which we were humbly thankful to the Lord, upon whom our whole dependence was, and we were never disappointed.

We came next to Charly-field, were at that meeting, and from there to Cork, where we stayed some time, I being reduced very low in my bodily strength, through travel and close exercise, which was my lot in this journey, brought on such infirmities as rendered me unfit for much more travel at that time. We had many large and good meetings in that city, there being a considerable body of sensible zealous Friends. After a few days we went to Youghal and Bandon, visiting the meetings, and returned to Cork again. After some stay there, my weakness increasing, I saw my way clear to return home, but waited some time for a passage; we had several precious meetings, and often the company of our dear and worthy friend Joseph Pike, and other ancient Friends then living, who were pillars in the church, whose conversation was very comfortable, edifying and profitable to us.

A ship being ready to sail, we took our leave of Friends there in a solemn manner, and in a lively sense of the goodness of God to his people, came on board; we had a good passage, and in two days landed safe at Swanzev, in South Wales. We then travelled to Bristol, where we met with our friend Joseph Ollive, whom we were glad to see, he being come there, in order to conduct us home. We had several large and good meetings in that city, to ours and Friends' satisfaction. We then came to Bath, and had two good meetings with the few Friends and others in that place; from there to Reading, where I met my dear husband and several Friends from London, who had come to meet us. We had two meetings in that town, the last of which was very large, and an extraordinary time; for the power of Truth came over all, and we were much comforted in the Lord.

Next morning we set forward for London, got safe home that night and found all well; for which I was humbly thankful to the Lord, who had been pleased to call me forth from my habitation, to visit his people in the nation of Ireland, and many other places, in his service, and has been pleased to accompany me with his living presence, whereby I was enabled to go through the work he required of me, and have also been preserved through all dangers and perils, both outwardly and inwardly, to his own praise and my comfort; for which my soul is under deep obligation freely to follow him in all his leadings, who is worthy for evermore.

Having a concern upon my mind again to visit some meetings of Friends in Ireland, and to attend their Half-year's meeting, I acquainted my husband and mother therewith, who freely consented to give me up to Truth's service; and having Friends' certificate, towards the latter part of the first month 1720, I set forward in the stage-coach for Bristol, and being there informed a ship lay at the Pill ready to sail, and a young woman suitable to accompany me in that voyage was gone down, in order to embark, I looked upon it as a providential opportunity; so I hastened to the Pill that evening and met with her. We lodged there that night, and next morning set sail with a fair wind; but being afterwards becalmed, were six days in the voyage before we reached Cork, where we arrived safely through Divine mercy, and many of my dear friends and I were glad to see one another once more.

A few days after came on the provincemeeting for Munster, where I had the opportunity of seeing many Friends from several parts, and Truth owned us in that meeting to our comfort. I stayed in and about Cork twelve days, and had ten meetings amongst Friends and others, some of which were seasons worthy to be remembered.

Leaving Cork I came to Kilconner, where I met with Elizabeth Pease, to whom I had written to accompany me in that journey, if she found freedom in her mind. We had a good meeting with Friends there, and were at Clonmel meeting next day, which was very large on account of a marriage, and the Lord, in whom my trust and dependency was, furnished us in an eminent manner, to the information of those who were strangers, and the comfort and satisfaction of his own children; for which I am deeply bowed in thankfulness to him, and made to say, Let my soul trust in the Lord and serve him forever, for his power is over all, and therein his poor weak children and servants know victory and dominion; blessed be his holy name forever and ever.

From there we went to Cassell, Waterford, Wexford, Lambs-town, Cooladine, and so to the general Monthly Meeting in the county of Wicklow, which was large. We had a good opportunity, and were comforted in the enjoyment of the Lord's goodness.

Next day we went to Dublin, where on seventh-day was held the meeting of ministers and elders for that nation, and next day began the Half-year's Meeting. We had two very large and open meetings that day; for the great Lord and Master of our assemblies did not only open a free Gospel-spring in his living ministers, but also prepared the hearts of the hearers to receive it. During our stay in that city, we had twelve meetings, some of which were very glorious and precious seasons, for which my soul magnifies the Lord, who granted the desire of my heart, which was that the power and virtue of Truth might arise into dominion, so as to reign over that spirit and power which stood in opposition to the holy Spirit of Christ. As soon as I lifted up my eyes to behold that city, when I drew nigh to it, a great weight of exercise laid hold of my mind, and I groaned under it, both day and night, and fervently breathed to the Lord, in whom I trusted, that he would be graciously pleased to make way for carrying on his own work, and give me strength and wisdom to discharge myself faithfully of the weight I groaned under for the Seed's sake, which I was sensible suffered in that place. Notwithstanding, the Lord has a true and sincerely concerned people there, who seek his honour, with whom my soul was truly comforted, and

had good unity, and in that I parted with them in much love and sweetness, being fully clear and easy. Blessed be the name of our God, who is with his servants and hand-maids, and makes his children and people, who are baptized into the one spirit, dear one unto another in the fellowship of the Gospel of peace.

Leaving Dublin we came to John Ashton's, and had a very good meeting amongst a tender newly convinced people, with whom I was truly comforted, and took my leave of them in abundance of love, and came to Limerick, had a meeting there, and from there returned again to Cork. On first-day following, began the province meeting, and the next day the men's and women's meetings. On third-day, a general public meeting for worship was held, to which many people came who did not profess with us, and the Lord was pleased to open many things suitable to their states, for their information concerning the way of life and salvation; and his Divine power and presence was with us in a large degree, to the great comfort and joy of the sincere-hearted, as well as the tendering of many who had lived at a distance from, and in disobedience to, the blessed Truth. But, oh! the great condescension and love of our compassionate Lord is such, that he is reaching a hand of help unto all, and would willingly have the rebellious to turn to him, by unfeigned repentance, while the door of mercy is open. My soul is deeply bowed before him, in admiration of his undeclarable love to poor lost mankind, and a deep travail is in my mind, that the visitations of his love may prevail upon all, and draw them after himself, that they may be gathered into the fold of eternal rest and peace.

This meeting being over, I parted with my companion in true love and nearness, in which we had for some time travelled together. She returned home, and I finding myself fully clear and easy to leave this nation, waited at Cork for an opportunity to embark for England; but the wind being contrary, occasioned my staying there several days, and I had comfortable seasons amongst my dear friends there.

The wind coming fair, and a ship ready to sail, I took my solemn leave of Friends, came on board, had a good passage, and by the protection of Providence got safely to Bristol, where I stayed four days, and had three good meetings with Friends. I then took passage in the stage-coach, and came to London in two days, where I found my dear husband and mother and all well. We rejoiced to meet once more, and my heart was filled with peace, and solid satisfaction abounded in my soul, having discharged myself of my duty, in giving up freely to the service of Truth in this journey. I am humbly bowed in spirit before the Lord, whose love and goodness never fail those that trust in him and obey his call, for he is attending such with his living presence, in their goings out and comings in; for which my soul, with many more, is under deep obligation to follow him in all his drawings and leadings forth, though it be in a cross to our own wills; and I greatly desire his heavenly will may ever be freely submitted unto, for he is forever worthy, and for all his preservation and truth I humbly praise his name.

EPISTOLARY CORRESPONDENCE
BETWEEN DEBORAH BELL AND JOSEPH PIKE

Deborah Bell to Joseph Pike.

18th of Twelfth month, 1717.

I think I do daily see more and more need to cry out with you, O! this inwardness, this inwardness, is what has been too much lacking in a general way, and is still lacking.

For it seems to me, that many are in the high road to ruin for lack of this true inward waiting to know the Spirit of Truth to leaven and subdue their own spirits, and also to open in them such things as might be serviceable and beneficial in the churches of Christ, both with respect to doctrine and discipline. And I may tell you, as one who is not a stranger to the state of the ministry amongst us in this great, and I had almost said, ungrateful city, that a living ministry is almost lost amongst us; for here is so much working and studying of the flesh, and that so well liked and embraced by many, that the work of the Spirit and motions thereof are very much stopped, even in such as dwell daily under the baptizings thereof.

It is but a few in comparison, who have an ear open to hear what the Spirit does say to the churches; but when the Spirit does speak through any, O how do they kick, and even make a mock at it, and at such as are led and guided by the dictates thereof. So that things are in a lamentable condition, and it seems to me the true church is returning into the wilderness again, where she sits solitary and mournful. Yet the Lord sees her in her disconsolate state; and my faith is firm, that the time will come, in which he will bring her back, and she shall be seen to lean upon the breast of her beloved; for in him is all her hope and trust. Many who once were members of her, have forsaken the Lord, and trusted to and leaned upon the arm of flesh; so that it may be said, with the prophet in former days, one has builded a wall, and another has daubed it with untempered mortar.

And I believe the day is coming, in which the wall, which men have in their own wisdom and strength been building for a shelter to them, shall fall, and the foundation thereof shall be discovered; and both the builders and the daubers shall be confounded in that day. For the Lord will overturn all that is not upon the right foundation, in the day when he will arise in his power to cleanse his churches and purify his temple. That we may be of the number, who may be able to stand when he appears, is what my soul travails for. It has often been before me of late, that such a day of trial is hastening on, as will try all to the very bottom, and the strongest will not find anything to boast of; yet I also believe, the weakest babes in Christ who keep their habitation, shall be strengthened to go through whatsoever may be allowed to come upon them for the

trial of their faith, that so it may be more precious than that of gold. I do not see any need the faithful have to be discouraged: for though there be a suffering with Christ for a time, yet there will be a reigning with him also. And though the followers of the Lamb may seem but a few, and his enemies a great multitude, yet the Lamb and his followers will obtain the victory at last, and triumph over all.

While I am thus going on, I am ready to check myself, why I should write after this manner to one who knows more than I do, and whose experience far excels mine, from whom I had more need to receive both counsel and encouragement; for I am often, in the sight of things and the sense of my own weakness, made to cry out, who shall continue to the end in well-doing, so many are the wiles of satan to weaken, and if possible, destroy the faith of God's poor children. Surely we have need of one another's prayers; and as the Lord opens, strengthens, and enlarges my heart towards himself, I am not unmindful of my near and dear friends. I desire to be remembered also by you, and to be frequently visited by your fatherly epistles, as freedom and opportunity admit; and keep nothing back that may be in your mind towards me, for I have an open heart to receive good counsel.

Deborah Bell.

Deborah Bell to Joseph Pike.

12th of Fourth month, 1718.

The church is in my judgment in a poor condition, and many of her living members are almost overborne and crushed by those who are in such a state as renders them incapable of membership in that body which has a holy Head, and is made all holy by the virtue and power which flows from Him and circulates through every member. But such is the declension of this age, that I fear too many who are accounting themselves members of this holy body, know very little what holiness is, at least as to the practice of it.

It is as if some now-a-days did not believe that text, "Without holiness none shall see the Lord," except they think holiness consists in talking of good things now and then. Indeed, talking is the highest attainment some are come to, and by their fair speeches and feigned words they deceive the simple, but cannot deceive such as have a true discerning, and are minding more how they walk than how they talk. For it is come to that pass now, that people must not trust one another by bare talking, though it be with seeming sanctity; but we have need to wait for wisdom from Him who is an all-seeing, all-knowing God, lest, like Samuel, we think the Lord's anointed is before us, when indeed it is not so, but rather such as are despising those whom he has chosen, and are exalting self above the cross of Christ. Such we have amongst us, who would sway in the church, and they do a deal of harm. My spirit is exercised before the Lord in a fervent cry to

him, that he will fill his faithful people more and more with the spirit of discerning, that so all such deceivers may be seen, and a hand stretched forth against them; that the mischief which otherwise they would do may be prevented; and this will help mightily to reform the people. For I am fully of the mind, that the greatest hurt and obstruction of God's glorious work lies amongst some called ministers, and such as are next in degree to them.

Deborah Bell.

Deborah Bell to Joseph Pike.

London, 9th of Ninth month, 1718.

Some of your good fatherly counsel and experience would be very acceptable and I believe profitable to me, who am one that often wades as in very deep places, and am in great sorrow and affliction for Zion's sake.

According to my sense and judgment, she is in a very mournful state, and is rather going into than returning out of the wilderness. And that which most deeply affects my heart, is, that too many who pretend to be watchmen upon her walls are exceedingly ignorant of her condition, and instead of giving a faithful warning of approaching danger, and seeking to make up the breach and stand in the gap, are with might and main seeking to make the breach wider. By this means a door is opened to let in a flood of wickedness, which if the Lord God of Zion does not, by a mighty hand, put a stop to, I am afraid will prove a flood of utter ruin to an abundance [of persons.] For surely we have cause to say, the day is come, in which abominations are found amongst such as are accounting themselves the messengers of our God, and are pretending to act from the motion of his Holy Spirit; [who are] stamping things higher than is requisite, even if it came from such as are, what these only pretend to be. When I hear such things, and also hear and see how loose, frothy, and vain such are when in company, it greatly wounds my very soul, and I am ready to say, truth will never prosper in a general way as formerly [it did,] while such as make so high a profession of it, live and walk from under the power of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This cross is very little borne now-a-days, except by a small remnant, and these are by the others accounted a narrow-spirited people, who say they make the way more narrow than there is need for. But sometimes I am ready to fear, such have either never entered in at the straight gate, or else after some time have returned back into the broad way again. Such may well be numbered among some of old, whom the apostle calls foolish, because they did not obey the Truth after it was revealed, but having begun in the Spirit, sought to be made perfect by the flesh. This seems to be the state of many in our day; and what will be the consequence of these things is known unto Him that knows all. For my part I do fully expect, that except timely repentance be known,

of which I see little hope at present, the Lord will bring a sore and grievous judgment upon the professors of his Truth and name, which will fully manifest the hypocrite and double-tongued. And though the apprehension of this terrible day may be ready to strike a terror into the minds of the upright, and make them say, "Who shall be able to stand in that day, and abide the trials thereof?" Yet I think, as in the administration of condemnation and judgment spiritually, there is a beauty and glory beheld by all such souls as are willing to abide the days of their purification; so likewise, in the administration of judgment outwardly, in order to separate the pure from the impure and the chaff from the wheat, there will be a beauty and glory beheld. And though the gold must pass through the fire as well as the dross, yet the effect will be different, for it will destroy the one, and make the other more pure and beautiful; and though the winds blow hard upon the wheat, yet it will not be driven away, but only the chaff, which is not fit to be gathered into the garner of God's power. And in those days, precious unto the Lord will such be, who in sincerity and true-heartedness have loved, served, and feared him above all. The daily cry of my poor soul unto my God is, that I may be one of that number, whatsoever exercises it may be my lot to go through for the Seed's sake in this suffering day. And as it is my cry to the Lord for myself, so even for many more, and I do find it my duty to pray for my near and dear friends everywhere, and I also earnestly desire to have the benefit of their prayers for me, and in particular yours, my dear friend, as knowing you to be one who often goes deep in spirit before the Lord on account of his people. I also desire a full and free account in writing of your present apprehensions touching the state of the church in general, that I may know whether we be like-minded. I think we ever were when together, and as we still abide near that Fountain of love and life, by which we were made to love one another, which love is stronger than death, we shall still abide in the oneness, and see by the eye of faith the same things, and so be a help, strength, and confirmation one to another.

Deborah Bell.

Deborah Bell to Joseph Pike.

24th of Second month, 1719.

My good and worthy friend.

Your kind and acceptable letter of the eighth month, I received, and was very glad to hear from you; for I thought it long before I had yours, and many fears did attend my mind concerning you, lest you had been worse than usual, which thoughts are very afflicting to me; for I am desirous if it be the Lord's will that your days may be prolonged in this world, for various reasons which are often under my consideration when I hear of your indisposition.

The Lord in his tender mercy look down upon his church in general and the families of this

people in particular, and administer suitably to the present condition and circumstances of his people everywhere, is my cry to him, and preserve forever under the shadow of his heavenly wing and in the pavilion of his power, such as are bent for his glory and the good of his people above all. For many are the poisoned arrows which the enemy is shooting at such, because they stand as in the front, and are boldly fighting with the sword of the Spirit against the wicked one in all his appearances.

These true-hearted soldiers often meet with very close engagements, by reason of so many who pretend to be of the disciples and followers of Christ, deserting their master and starting aside out of their places; and this makes not only the battle the harder upon such as dare not quit their posts, but it also makes the breach the wider which ought to be made up. How these expect to escape that woe, which is pronounced upon such as will not stand in the gap and make up the breach for the house of Israel, I know not. But it is to be hoped, the Lord in his own time will arise for his own name and suffering Seed's sake, which even groans and cries from a sense and sight of the abomination, which will, if not speedily purged out, bring desolation. And indeed desolation is already come upon many, who once knew a good condition, and the greatest misery of such is, they are not sensible of their poor, empty, desolate state, but, too much like some of old, are thinking themselves rich and full, lacking nothing. And such as these are very apt to set themselves on high, and are speaking peace to their poor souls, saying, We shall see no sorrow; when alas! the Holy Spirit is telling them plainly, both immediately in themselves and through the faithful, that they are deceived by the great deceiver of souls, for their state is quite contrary, namely, poor, naked, blind and miserable, and lacking all things. But O, how hardly does this plain dealing go down with this wise, conceited, self-righteous people; for with sorrow I write it, there are very few in these days who have an ear to hear what the Spirit says unto the churches, and indeed the voice and language of the Spirit is very little to be heard in the church now-a-days. For though at times the Lord is laying a constraint upon his true ministers, such as mourn between the porch and the altar, and they are made to open their mouths in his dread, being filled with his eternal word, and they at times warn both professors and profane of the day of vengeance which is even at hand; yet when such have warned people, they, much like the old prophets, are even as it were separate from all, and dwell in solitary places, till sent again with a fresh message. But in the main, the spring of the ministry is very much stopped, and true ministers shut up, especially towards the professors of Truth; yet we have abundance of preaching amongst us, but [chiefly] from the letter which kills.

This was much in my heart, as I sat in our meeting at the Bull and Mouth this day: when things will be better I know not: the Lord help and deliver his poor mourners for his own great name sake, is the cry of my exercised soul.

Now, dear Joseph, I cannot well forbear giving you hints concerning things of this kind; for my heart is often very full in the consideration of the state of many, and I take the liberty to open myself to you, well knowing you to be one who travails for Zion's prosperity, and can deeply

sympathize with her mourning children, who are often in deep sorrow for her sake, and are crying. "How long, O Lord! will it be, before you take unto yourself your great power and reign over all in your excellent glory?" But although it is very unpleasant to see Truth trampled upon and under suffering, and its faithful servants suffering with it; yet I do believe, the greater its suffering is, and the lower we bow and are baptized in a pure sympathy with the blessed suffering Spirit, the higher we shall be raised by the Truth, when it arises. For it must arise and come into dominion over all opposers and gainsayers; and blessed will all such be who are willing to keep company with it, and not only to believe in, but even to suffer with it and for it. I have sometimes thought, it is not a hard thing to follow Truth when it is exalted and triumphs over all and reigns in glory, then many will speak well of it; but when it comes to suffer, be buffeted, mocked and reviled, then comes the trial of our love, and many we see who are not willing or able to bear these things.

Deborah Bell.

Joseph Pike to Deborah Bell.

Cork, 3rd of Ninth month, 1720.

Dear friend, Deborah Bell,

Your long looked for letter of the 1st of seventh month past, by our friend Jonathan Hutchinson, came lately to my hands, and though long expected, yet was very acceptable.

The contents is matter of affliction, in that you had no better account to give, relating to the affairs of the church in general, as well as the dishonour brought upon the holy Truth, by the ill conduct or management of some in high stations therein, which I find has affected you to that degree, as to have influence on your state of health. I can in truth say, it has also affected me under the consideration of these things. What will be the end thereof, while the leaders of the people, by giving hurtful or evil examples, do cause spiritual Israel to go astray and err, as they did of old; and who, instead of standing in the gap and making up the breach against an overruling spirit of pride, and eagerly, no violently, pursuing and running into and after the world, do themselves lead the way, and example the people into it, and thereby bring dishonour and reproach upon the Lord's blessed Truth, as well as lay a stumbling block in the way of the weak and well inclined.

Surely the Lord is greatly displeased with such leaders, and I do greatly fear his heavy hand of judgment will be stretched out against them, as it has already in a measure appeared by the late terrible stroke given to that unbounded grasping and coveting after the world. With what face, if they dare appear, can such preachers pretend or preach that we are a self-denying people,

redeemed from the world, and that we follow Christ by taking up the daily cross, when at the same time their actions and conversation give the lie to their tongues. Such preachers and pretenders as these, must and will most assuredly receive a double reward due to unfaithful and negligent servants or stewards, unless they greatly repent. And yet, notwithstanding all this. Truth is Truth still, and will stand over the heads of such, and remain forever.

The prospect and consideration of things as they are at present, is matter of great mourning and lamentation to the upright in heart, who keep their habitation in the Lord's everlasting Truth, and who are not yet without hope, that the Lord will arise and plead his own cause for his name and glory's sake. Amen.

Joseph Pike.

A SUPPLEMENT, BY HER HUSBAND.

Besides the foregoing account of her labours and travels, she went several other journeys, wherein I was mostly her companion, but she omitted keeping a particular account.

During our residence at Bradford, she accompanied me twice into Cumberland, and also into several parts of Westmoreland and Lancashire, where her service was very acceptable to the churches. After our removal to London, she was several times at Bristol, Bath and some other meetings thereabouts; once at their Quarterly Meeting at Bristol, where she had good opportunities, and was of great service, as several of them afterwards told me. She had many invitations to pay them another visit, and spend some time with them, alledging, she might be of great service to their youth, with whom she had great place; but she was steady, and ever careful not to be drawn by anything but the openings of Truth. Her concern was, to be led into all her services by the spirit of Christ, which only can enable ministers, and make them serviceable in his church; often observing to me in our private conversation, what a weighty thing it was to travel to publish the Gospel, and preach the doctrines of the kingdom of God; and that all ministers had need to be very steady, and often retire and wait diligently upon the Lord, to see their way clearly opened in the light of Truth, and to be led into all their services by the holy Spirit, that certain guide, by which none were ever led astray; and she had observed, for lack of this care and steadiness, other motives had prevailed with some, and they had suffered loss.

In the year 1730, we took our journey in order to visit some meetings in the north of England, and travelled by Royston and Huntington to York, and had two meetings in that city, where she had good service. From there to Leeds, Bradford, and Carlisle, and visited meetings in that county. Then returning by Wigton, Pardsay, and Cockermouth, we had comfortable meetings amongst our dear friends and former acquaintances.

Leaving Cumberland, we came to Kendal, and were at their meetings on first-day, where she had good

opportunities. From there to Settle Monthly Meeting, and next day to Skipton meeting; then to Bradford, where we had a large meeting, many people coming in of her former acquaintance, and the power of Truth was with us, and in the authority thereof, she preached the Gospel of life and salvation. Many were affected, and much reached and tendered, for her heart was opened, and she was largely drawn forth, and enabled by the Truth to lay open to them, and zealously to recommend and press home, the doctrines of Christ our Saviour, in the power and demonstration of his own Spirit, to the great satisfaction and comfort of Friends.

We came from there to Leeds, had a good opportunity with Friends, and proceeded to Nottingham, where we stayed the first-day meetings. In the afternoon the meeting was very large, and she had an excellent opportunity, being enabled through Divine assistance, to preach the Gospel of glad-tidings and salvation, through faith in Christ, freely to them. All were quiet and attentive to Truth's testimony; the power of the Lord came over all, and it was a comfortable season. From there in three days we came safe to London, with peace and satisfaction.

In the year 1736, after our Yearly Meeting at London, we went to Banbury Yearly Meeting, and had a meeting at Hitchin in our way. She had several good opportunities at that Yearly Meeting, which was large. We set forward next morning towards Northampton, and had a meeting at Bugbrook that evening, where many professors came, and she was enabled to preach the Gospel to them, and declare the way of life and salvation, as it was made freely manifest by the light of Christ shining in the heart. It was a good opportunity, and Truth's testimony had an affecting reach upon many.

Next morning we came to Northampton Quarterly Meeting, where many Friends met, and she had several excellent opportunities there, particularly at the meeting of ministers, greatly to the comfort and satisfaction of the few ministers in that county, and others met with them. Being fully clear, we set forward for London, and came safe home in peace.

Having drawings in her mind to visit her native country once more, the latter end of this summer we set forward in company with our friend and cousin Thomas Story. We had meetings at Albans, Sherrington, Wellingborough, Leicester, Nottingham, and Sheffield, where she had good opportunities, and discharged herself faithfully. Thence we came to Leeds, and were at that meeting. Thomas Story leaving us there, travelled northward, but we stayed some time longer, and then went to Bradford, and were at that meeting on a first-day. A large assembly of Friends and others came together, having notice of our intention of being there, and her heart was wonderfully opened amongst them; many Gospel truths were set in a clear light, and declared in the power and demonstration of the Spirit of Christ; an open door appeared to receive the testimony, and many were affected and reached by the Truth.

We stayed thereabouts some time, and she visited many of her friends and former acquaintances; and also attended the meetings at Rawden, Gildersome, and Brighouse, where she had good service. From there we went to Manchester, being accompanied by our dear friend Tabitha Hornor, where we had several meetings to good satisfaction. My wife desiring to see that worthy Friend and servant of Christ,

Benjamin Bangs, (for she ever dearly loved those who had faithfully served the Lord in the prime of their time, and retained their integrity in old age,) we went to Stockport, in Cheshire, and he received us with open arms, like a father in Christ. We had a meeting where he was present, and she had good service, and we were much comforted in his company.

From there we returned by Manchester and Halifax, and afterwards went to Leeds. We spent some time with our friends there, to their satisfaction and our comfort, and were several times at their meeting, where she had good service. We also went to their Monthly Meeting held at Bradford, where she had an excellent time; and afterwards to the Quarterly Meeting at York, where she had good opportunities.

When that meeting was over, she took her solemn leave of her friends in that country, in much tenderness, for the Lord had wonderfully owned us together with his goodness, in that her last visit to them, which greatly strengthened the bands of that true love and nearness, which had subsisted from her minority. It proved a parting time indeed, and her last farewell to most of them. We then set forwards towards home; came to Mansfield on first-day morning, stayed both meetings, and to Nottingham that night; next day to Leicester, and so got safely to London the fore part of the eighth month, through some hardship and difficulty, the weather being very wet and turbulent. We came home in perfect peace, with thankful hearts before the Lord, for his preservation and good presence, that had attended and made our journey truly comfortable and satisfactory to us; for which he shall have the praise, who is forever worthy.

In the year 1737, she inclining to be at the Yearly Meeting at Tenbury, in Worcestershire, to be held for the western counties, we set forward in company with our worthy friend Joseph Ollive, and were at the meeting at High-wickham; after which we proceeded to Worcester, and went in company with many Friends from there to Tenbury. We had several large meetings in that place, wherein she had several opportunities and good service. We from there returned to Worcester, and had a meeting with Friends there; from there to Eversham, and visited that meeting; and so to Warwick, and were at their meetings on first-day, which were large; wherein she had good opportunities to declare the truth. Next day we had a meeting at Coventry, which was large, and the power of Truth was with us, and she had good service for the Lord in that place. Then being clear and easy, we came directly home, with thankfulness in our minds to the Almighty, for his mercy and goodness, who is always near to his depending servants, that are truly devoted in heart to him, and through Divine assistance are answering his requirings.

Having had for some time drawings in her mind to visit Friends at Royston, and Huntington, in the seventh month we undertook that journey, though she was then very weakly; for through hard travail and close exercise, and her often infirmities, her natural strength was much decayed, yet not very perceptible in her public service. In our way we had meetings at Ware and Hertford; then coming to Huntington, we were at that meeting on a first-day, which was pretty large, many Friends coming from parts adjacent. She had a good opportunity to discharge herself of the concern that was upon her, and we had a satisfactory and comfortable time. In the evening we had a meeting at Godmanchester in the school-house, where many people came, and she was enabled to preach the Gospel of life and salvation,

in the power and authority of the Spirit of Christ, to the comfort and satisfaction of many.

In our return from there, we had a meeting at Royston, where we were comforted in the enjoyment of the love of God amongst Friends. In our way home we stayed Tottenham meeting, and then came to our outward habitation, she being perfectly clear and easy, having faithfully performed this her last journey; and how it fared with her afterwards, I refer to the testimony I have written concerning her.