

PART XII.

FROM OCTOBER 22D, 1749, TO AUGUST 13TH, 1754.

SUNDAY, October 22d, 1749. I rode with Mr. Waller and my family to Kingswood. After the sacrament, we found the usual spirit of prayer.

Wed., October 25th. Among my hearers to-day at Bath, were a son of Lord Chief Justice Lee, my old schoolfellow, Sir Danvers Osborn, and Lord Halifax. They behaved decently, and were particularly taken with the singing. In the evening God sent forth his awakening power, and his fear fell on all that heard the word.

Thur., October 26th. I visited my house in peace.

Wed., November 8th. I set out for London, with my brother and Ned Perronet. We were in perils of robbers, who were abroad, and had robbed many the night before. We commended ourselves to God, and rode over the heath, singing.

Fri., November 10th. We kept a joyful watchnight at the Foundry.

Sun., November 12th. I heard that our sister Somerset was gone to glory.

God, who giveth power to them that faint, was with my mouth, and strengthened me to preach the word with success.

Fri., November 17th. I examined the classes; and returned in great bodily pain to Bristol.

Fri., December 1st. I hardly reached my own house, quite exhausted as I was with pain of body and vexation of spirit.

I had little power for several days, and less inclination to preach. My greatest comfort was the conversation of a few faithful friends, such as M. Vigor, S. Perrin, M. Davis, and Suky Burdock.

Mon., December 18th. My birthday. Forty years long have I now grieved and tempted God, proved him, and seen his works. I was more and more sensible of it all day, till I quite sunk under the burden.

Sun., December 24th. I preached with a little strength; exhorted the Society with more.

Christmas-day. The room was full as it could contain.

We rejoiced from four to six, "that to us a Son is born, to us a Child is given."

I received the sacrament at the college. In the evening, all were melted down at our solemn love-feast.

Mon., January 1st, 1750. At four in the morning our room was excessively crowded, while I proclaimed the Gospel year of jubilee. We did not part without a blessing.

Fri., January 12th. I preached (with the old power) on, "Said I not unto thee, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" Generally, my hands hang down, and I am so feeble in mind, that I cannot speak.

Sun., January 14th. The Spirit helped our infirmity at Kingswood sacrament. A daughter of our brother Grimshaw's was just departed in the Lord; being perfected in a short space.

Wed., January 31st. We were waked at two by a clap of thunder, unusually loud and terrible. My partner was much frightened.

Thur., February 1st. I walked with her to Dr. Middleton's. The rain a little quickened our pace.

Sat., February 3d. She miscarried.

Sun., February 4th. I brought my friend Grimshaw home with me, comforted for his happy daughter. I had unlooked-for life in preaching.

Thur., February 8th. There was an earthquake in London.

Tues., February 13th. I preached with a little strength at Bearfield; and the next day with more at Freshford. The spirit of the people helped me. An old lady of fourscore received me into her house. We spent the time in prayer and singing. Stephen Naylor, a poor backslider, had another call to repentance, and seemed resolved to close with it. I invited, at night, many burdened souls to Christ, and his healing power was greatly present, and refreshed every weary spirit.

Sun., February 18th. I carried my sister Betsy to Kingswood; where the Lord visited us again, and feasted us at his table.

Mon., February 19th. My wife had recovered strength

for her journey. We set out with our sisters Betsy and Peggy ; could not reach Newnham passage till past seven. It was then quite dark : the boat on the other side refused to come over. We were got to the edge of the bank, the usual place of embarking, when Providence sent a man to stop us. He informed us that the rains had choked up the river with two banks of sand, and where we were going was all quicksands. We followed him, with great difficulty, to another part of the river. My horse sunk up to the shoulders ; but, with a violent plunge, struggled out. The boatmen at last took pity on us ; came over, and with much pains carried us into the boat, and landed us safe on the opposite shore.

By Wed. noon, February 21st, God conducted us safe to Ludlow. For the five following days I received fresh strength for the work, and rejoiced in some measure that the Gospel had free course.

Tues., February 27th. I preached in their new room at Evesham ; and not without a sensible blessing. I met my brother the next day at Oxford.

Thur., March 1st. I rode to London. Ned Perronet supplied me with a lodging.

Sun., March 4th. I visited old Lydia White, on her death-bed. She accosted me, "Thou blessed of the Lord, art thou come ? I did not expect to see my dear Minister till we met in paradise. You and your brother are the instruments of my salvation. I have known the grace of the Lord Jesus long ago : now I am entering into his glory. He has told me so. I am full of his joy now." Her words strengthened my hands, as I found at the chapel, speaking on those words, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation." They sunk into many hearts.

Mon., March 5th. I prayed by my sister Wright, a gracious, tender, trembling soul ; a bruised reed, which the Lord will not break.

Fri., March 9th. Many flocked to the morning word ; and were yet more stirred up thereby. I have scarce ever seen so many at intercession. At the chapel I preached on the occasion, from Psalm xlvii., with very great awakening power.

Sat., March 10th. I expounded Isai. xxiv., a chapter I

had not taken much notice of, till this awful providence explained it : "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. The foundations of the earth do shake. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage ; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it ; and it shall fall, and not rise again."

I prayed by our sister Lewis, quietly expecting her release. I preached at Snowsfields, and urged them to enter into the Rock, now the Lord is risen to shake terribly the earth.

Sun., March 11th. My spirit and many others' seem revived by the late judgment. The word is with the accustomed power, both at London and Deptford, and wherever I minister it.

Wed., March 14th. I found my sister Wright very near the haven ; and again on Sunday the 18th, yet still in darkness, doubts, and fears, against hope believing in hope.

I preached to a vast attentive multitude over our brother Hoy's grave. As he lived the life, he died the death, of the righteous. O might my last end be like his !

Wed., March 21st. At four I called on my brother Wright, a few minutes after her spirit was set at liberty. I had sweet fellowship with her in explaining at the chapel those solemn words, "Thy sun shall no more go down, neither shall thy moon withdraw itself ; for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended." All present seemed partakers both of my sorrow and my joy.

Mon., March 26th. I followed her to her quiet grave, and wept with them that wept.

Wed., April 4th. I saw several happy souls, in spite of their feeble, sick, or pained bodies. One I visited yesterday, died in the faith soon after.

Fear filled our chapel, occasioned by a prophecy of the earthquake's return this night. I preached my written sermon on the subject, with great effect, and gave out several suitable hymns. It was a glorious night for the disciples of Jesus.

Thur., April 5th. At four I rose after a night of sound sleep, while my neighbours watched. I sent an account to M. G., as follows :—

“The late earthquake has found me work. Yesterday I saw the Westminster end of the town full of coaches, and crowds flying out of the reach of divine justice, with astonishing precipitation. Their panic was caused by a poor madman’s prophecy: last night they were all to be swallowed up. The vulgar were in almost as great consternation as their betters. Most of them watched all night: multitudes in the fields and open places: several in their coaches. Many removed their goods. London looked like a sacked city. A lady, just stepping into her coach to escape, dropped down dead. Many came all night knocking at the Foundery-door, and begging admittance for God’s sake. Our poor people were calm and quiet, as at another time.”

Sat., April 7th. I visited a dying sister, speechless, yet full of earnest love, as her looks and signs confessed. Among the penitents, our Lord visited us in a spirit of prayer and contrition.

Sun., April 8th. I buried our brother Somerset, who came to the grave as a ripe shock of corn in its season. He has now overtaken his companion, and death can no more separate them.

Mon., April 9th. I visited Mrs. C., at St. Anne’s-hill; much delighted with the wood, much more with the company. I did not think there was any such creature upon earth, as a girl of twelve years old without guile and without vanity.

Another was gathered into the garner. I buried her earthly part, for a short season.

Sun., April 15th. I met Mr. Salmon’s “Foreigner’s Companion through the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford,” printed 1748, and made the following extract, p. 25 :—

“The times of the day the University go to this church, are ten in the morning, and two in the afternoon, on Sundays and holidays, the sermon usually lasting about half an hour. But when I happened to be at Oxford, in 1742, Mr. Wesley, the Methodist, of Christ-Church, entertained his audience two hours, and, having insulted and abused all

degrees, from the highest to the lowest, was in a manner hissed out of the pulpit by the lads."

And high time for them to do so, if the historian said true; but, unfortunately for him, I measured the time by my watch, and it was within the hour: I abused neither high nor low, as my sermon, in print, will prove; neither was I hissed out of the pulpit, or treated with the least incivility, either by young or old.

What then shall I say to my old high-Church friend, whom I once so much admired? I must rank him among the apocryphal writers, such as the judicious Dr. Mather, the wary Bishop Burnet, and the most modest Mr. Oldmixon.

Fri., April 20th. I found my Sally well among her friends at Ludlow. She rejoiced my heart with her account of M. Leyson, whom she saw triumphant in her last hour. Here is another blessed soul gone to paradise with a good report of us.

I continued ten or eleven days, mostly preaching every night and morning, here or at Leominster. The latter part of the time a prisoner of pain.

Wed., May 2d. I took horse at three, and came, weary, to Bristol by night.

Fri., May 4th. Hearing the Moravians had been soliciting some of our children, I exhorted them, this evening, to "put on the whole armour of God;" and his power was present to confirm the souls of the disciples.

Sun., May 6th. The Lord was with us as in the former times, both at the sacrament and while I applied to thousands that word, "Thou fool, this night shall thy soul be required of thee."

Sun., May 13th. I baptized Hannah, M. Gibbs's maid; and the whole congregation with her were conscious of the descent of the Spirit, who bears witness with the water.

Tues., May 15th. I set out with Mrs. Vazeille, &c., for Ludlow, and the next day saluted our friends there. During our nine days' stay, they showed her all the civility and love that they could show: and she seemed equally pleased with them.

Thur., May 24th. My Sally was so very ill in the evening, that I gave up the hope of her company to town; but the next morning,

Fri., May 25th, she would go, notwithstanding we all dissuaded her. At eight we mounted ; had fair weather after last night's excessive rain. She mended every stage. I preached in the evening at Worcester.

Sat., May 26th. Our brother Watson met us with a chaise, and carried Mrs. Vazeille and Sally to M. Keech's in Evesham, by noon. Mr. Waller and I rode by them. I preached with life and liberty.

Sun., May 27th. I accepted the Mayor's offer of the Town-hall. The door was quite open. Many gentry and others listened to the word of life. So again in the evening. I rejoiced with the Society, whose enemies God has made to be at peace with them.

Mon., May 28th. We saw Blenheim in our way to Oxford. Our old friend Mr. Evans received us with his wonted hospitality.

Tues., May 29th. I showed Mr. W. and Mrs. Vazeille the buildings and gardens. I gave the sacrament to M. Neal, a true daughter of affliction, and preached again at night.

Wed., May 30th. We had a long day's journey to St. Anne's. It was past nine before we got under shelter. Mrs. Rich was there, who, with our old friends, received us gladly.

Thur., May 31st. Mr. W. and Mrs. Vazeille went to town.

Sat., June 2d. We took up our quarters for eight or nine days at Mrs. Vazeille's.

Mon., June 4th. I preached at the chapel with the usual blessing.

Thur., June 7th. I carried Sally to see our old friends at Newington-green. It is remarkable that the first time Mrs. Stotesbury ever saw her, she said within herself, "That person is to be my Minister's wife."

Mon., June 11th. I paid our friends at St. Anne's a short visit, and returned the next day.

Wed., June 13th. I fetched back my hostage from Chertsey.

Mon., June 18th. I called on M. Dewal at Croydon, and drove on to Westerham, where we met an hearty welcome from Mr. Waller's mother and sister Dudley. I walked in Mr. Turner's, and then in General Campbell's, gardens

He appeared, carried us into his house, and entertained us with great courtesy.

Tues., June 19th. I rode back to the Foundery, and read the letters.

Thur., June 21st. I took horse at three, and *waked* them at Westerham. I passed the day with them in the gardens, reading, singing, and conversing.

Fri., June 22d. I met a daughter of my worthy old friend Mr. Erskine, at the Foundery. She was deeply wounded by the sword of the Spirit; confessed she had turned many to Deism, and feared there could be no mercy for her.

Sat., June 23d. A woman whom I baptized perceived her sins to be then washed away.

I found much of the spirit of contrition among the penitents.

Sun., June 24th. My text was, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith the Lord;" and his consolations were not small with us. At the sacrament they abounded. Poor Mrs. C—— told me, she was "in an agony."

I believe God owned me more this day on account of one who, in an abusive letter, had affirmed, that the Lord was departed from me.

Thur., June 28th. I prayed by our faithful brother H——, just departing in the Lord, and to him.

Fri., June 29th. The scriptures for the day were much blessed to my comfort. My mouth and heart were both opened to preach the word. The presence of the Lord made it a solemn sacrament.

I visited the widow (Hogg) in her affliction, and tried to turn it into the right channel. We continued in watching and prayer till one.

Mon., July 2d. I buried our late brother Hogg, and preached at his grave to a countless multitude on, "These are they that came out of great tribulation," &c. The Lord gave me utterance, and them the hearing ear.

Mon., July 9th. I administered the sacrament to a dying believer, lately called; but now made equal to them that have borne the heat and burden of the day.

Wed., July 11th. I preached a written sermon at Spital-fields, on my beloved friend and brother Hogg. The

chapel was crowded, and the house of mourning was turned to an house of great rejoicing.

Mon., July 16th. I rode to St. Anne's, and returned in such a storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, as I hardly remember to have seen out of America.

Wed., July 18th. I had the satisfaction of bringing back to Mr. Erskine his formerly disobedient daughter. She fell at his feet. It was a moving interview. All wept. Our heavenly Father heard our prayers.

I preached immediately after, on, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." We had a double blessing and power. Poor Jane Cox said, she was even compelled to receive Christ.

Fri., July 20th. We kept a solemn watchnight at Spitalfields.

Sun., July 22d. After evening service I set out with Robert Windsor; got two or three hours' rest at Mr. Manning's; and,

Mon., July 23d, breakfasted with Mr. Evans in Oxford. I lodged at Worcester; and, by eight on Tues. morning, July 24th, found Sally well at Ludlow. Every evening we retired to pray together; and our Lord's presence made it a little church.

Sat., July 28th. I wrote to M. Gwynne, earnestly beseeching her to do all in her power to reconcile her son and daughter.

Tues., July 31st. The word I preached this day at Leominster was accompanied with the power and blessing of God.

Tues., August 7th. At seven I set out with Sally for Bristol, without the consent of the rest. It rained small rain till we came to Leominster; and so most of the way to Ross.

Wed., August 8th. It rained hard soon after we set out; but quickly gave over. We had a rough, dangerous passage at Frommelow. We dined at Cambridge inn, and had a trying journey, "driven by the wind, and battered by the rain." Sally was frightened with the thunder, which often forced us to trees and huts for shelter. Yet at seven, by the assistance of God, we entered our own house in peace.

Fri., August 10th. Sally accompanied me in my visits to the sick.

Sun., August 12th. The Lord met us, who remembered him in his ways.

Mon., August 13th. I met my sister Hall in the church-yard, and carried her to the room. I had begun preaching, when Mr. Hall walked up the room, and through the desk, and carried her off with him. I was somewhat disturbed; yet went on.

Wed., August 15th. He came up again, calling me by my name. I fled, and he pursued; but could not find me in my lurking-place.

Tues., August 28th. Many rejoiced in hope, our Lord applying that precious promise, "I will allure her, and will bring her into the wilderness, and will speak comfortably unto her."

Sat., September 1st. I finished Rapin's history, which has cured me, in some degree, of the prejudices of education.

Sun., September 2d. I baptized Hannah Skinner. He remembered His promise, "Lo, I am with you."

Tues., September 4th. I carried Sally to Mr. Haynes. I preached with an enlarged heart, as I always do at Wick.

Wed., September 5th. My worthy friend Mr. Evans looked upon us in his return to Oxford.

Sun., September 9th. I proclaimed, to a great multitude in the orchard, "Christ the way, the truth, and the life;" and left, I humbly hope, a blessing behind me.

Mon., September 10th. I set out with Sally, and parted; she for Ludlow, I for London; where I arrived on Wednesday morning.

Thur., September 13th. I met my brother and the Stewards.

Fri., September 14th. I met James Hervey at the Tabernacle, and in the fellowship of the Spirit of love.

Sun., September 16th. A great number of communicants perceived the Lord present. He gave us his blessing at our lovefeast also. I was restless all night, through a boil rising on my neck.

Mon., September 17th. I rose at two, and set out for the north. Beyond Islington my mare threw and fell upon

me. I held on as far as St. Alban's, and was then forced to lie down ; yet could not sleep, day or night.

Tues. afternoon, September 18th. With much difficulty I got back to London.

Fri., September 28th. I continued in great pain for several days, till the boil broke.

I passed three days at Newington-green, and found benefit by my physic and fresh air. Mr. Waller and his sisters frequently called, and rejoiced with the church in our house.

Sun., October 7th. I got out to the chapel on this and every Lord's day ; the rest of the month confined to the house mostly. Dr. Wathen attended me constantly, till both my neck and swollen hand were quite well.

Mon., October 29th. I set out with Mr. Waller and Bridgin ; slept the first night at Oxford, the second at Moreton.

Wed., October 31st. By ten I came to Evesham, and had great comfort in praying over our sick brother Watson. I lodged at Worcester, and was refreshed with the little handful at sister Blackmore's.

Thur., November 1st. I preached in Ludlow, where I stayed the whole month, exercised by severe and unexpected trials. One night (November 28th) Mr. W—— fell into convulsions, through the distractions of his mind. I was on the point of following him. Betsy and Juggy fainted away. Confusion reigned throughout the family.

Sat., December 1st. I rode out with Miss Becky, to meet Mrs. Allen and M. Dudley, and brought them to Ludlow.

Sun., December 2d. I encouraged a poor girl to seek for her cure from Him who had wounded her. She has the outward mark too ; being daily threatened to be turned out of doors by her master, a great swearer, and strict Churchman ; a constant communicant, and habitual drunkard.

Tues., December 4th. Mr. W.'s wedding-day. How unlike my own ! I rose, after a sleepless night, in the spirit of heaviness. I prayed for them and with them. Soon after eight they were married ;

“ And 't was my ministry to deal the blow ! ”

Fri., December 7th. I left the house of woe, and the next day rejoiced to find myself among my friends at Bristol.

Sun., December 9th. I visited my sick friends ; four of them in the triumph of faith. Sister Page was almost overpowered : she had desired to live only to see me. She began recovering from our praying together.

The Society seemed filled with consolation. It was a glorious time, and made me forget my late sorrows and sufferings.

Mon., December 10th. I visited our sister Arnett, aged eighty-six, just ripe for glory ; and a child of brother Walcam's, departing in the spirit of praise and love.

Sun., December 16th. Two went home from the word justified.

Sun., December 23d. I gave a close exhortation to the Society, which seemed to sink into every heart.

Tues., Christmas-day. I rejoiced from four to six, with as many as our room could contain ; then rode to Newbury with T. Hamilton. Eating immediately, he fainted away. I found myself a-going, and prevented it by a vomit.

Thur., December 27th. I did not reach the Foundery till eleven. I found Sally at Mrs. Allen's.

Fri., December 28th. I officiated at Spitalfields chapel. One received forgiveness with the sacrament.

Tues., January 1st, 1751. I began the new year as usual, with the voice of joy and thanksgiving.

Wed., January 2d. I visited a sick believer, who talked of death as of going to sleep. "When I think of the grave," said she, "I think it is a sweet, soft place ; but my spirit shall mount above."

Mr. W—— having always insisted on our sojourning with him a while, when he should have an house of his own, I carried Sally thither, to her two inseparable sisters, Betsy and Peggy.

Fri., January 4th. I spent the evening at Mrs. Colvil's, and left my partner there.

Sun. afternoon, January 6th. M. C. and Mrs. D. brought her me back. We had the pleasure of frequent visits from them.

San., January 13th. I preached at Hayes church, morn-

ing and evening, on, "Come unto me, all that labour," and, "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away," &c. They were patient, at least, of the truth. I rode back to town.

Mon., January 14th. Mr. W.'s three sisters were at our family prayers; in which I was even overwhelmed with their burden, and constrained to warn them with tears and vehement expressions of my fear and sorrow. The arrows of conviction pierced one of their hearts. The others were rather confounded than alarmed.

Sun., January 27th. I preached at the Foundery with great severity.

Wed., January 30th. I got an hour's very useful conversation with Lady Piers.

Sat., February 2d. My brother, returned from Oxford, sent for and told me *he was resolved to marry!* I was thunderstruck, and could only answer, he had given me the first blow, and his marriage would come like the *coup de grace*. Trusty Ned Perronet followed, and told me, the person was Mrs. Vazeille! one of whom I had never had the least suspicion. I refused his company to the chapel, and retired to mourn with my faithful Sally. I groaned all the day, and several following ones, under my own and the people's burden. I could eat no pleasant food, nor preach, nor rest, either by night or by day.*

Sun., February 3d. I gave the sacrament, but without power or life. I had no comfort in it, no singing between, no prayer after, it.

Thur., February 7th. My excessive cough helped to pull me down; and then a sore throat. My companion sympathized with me too sensibly.

Thur., February 14th. She was often in great pain, especially to-day. I watched by her in great distress, but could not remove her pain by sharing it. I sent for Mr. Wathen, who prescribed what gave her immediate relief. I gave God, who heareth prayer, the glory.

Sun., February 17th. I dragged myself to the chapel, and spoke on those words, "Thy sun shall no more go down," &c. The whole congregation seemed infected by

* For an account of the probable reasons for Mr. Charles Wesley's opposition to his brother's marriage, the reader is referred to the Life of the Rev. Charles Wesley, vol. i., pp. 565—569.—EDIT.

my sorrow : both under the word, and at the sacrament, we wept and made supplication. It was a blessed mourning to us all.

At the Foundery I heard my brother's apology. Several days afterwards I was one of the last that heard of his unhappy marriage.

Mon., February 18th. I carried Sally out of the confusion to M. Colvil's.

Sun., February 24th. After sacrament, Mr. Blackwell fell upon me in a manner peculiar to himself, dragging me to my dear sister.

Wed., February 27th. My brother came to the chapel-house with his wife. I was glad to see him ; saluted her ; stayed to hear him preach.

Sat., March 9th. I felt great emotion in the word, both morning and evening.

Fri., March 15th. I called on my sister ; kissed and assured her I was perfectly reconciled to her, and to my brother.

Mon., March 18th. I finished Marcus Antoninus, having learnt from him, I hope, some useful lessons, particularly not to resent, not to revenge myself, not to let my peace lie at the mercy of every injurious person.

Tues., March 19th. I brought my wife and sister together, and took all opportunities of showing the latter my sincere respect and love.

Thur., March 21st. At four in the morning I met the watchman, who told me the first news of the Prince's death.

Mon., March 25th. I visited one on his death-bed, who had been converted from Deism, and washed in the blood of *his* Redeemer.

Tues., April 9th. I spent a week with M. Colvil, and Miss Degge, chiefly in reading, singing, and prayer.

Sat., April 13th. I passed the evening with Sally at Mr. Ianson's, and saw the Prince's funeral pass. The house was full of strangers. We joined in many suitable hymns, till near midnight.

Mon., April 15th. I heard Lovybond preach, most miserably. By how many degrees are such Preachers worse than none !

Sun., April 21st. God was present in the word and sacra-

ment, as in the months that are past, when the candle of the Lord was upon our heads.

Thur., April 25th. Our Lord again confirmed his word : "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer," &c.

Fri., April 26th. After intercession, I met J. Hutchinson, and engaged him for the next day : then laboured to stir him up to do the first works.

Sun., April 28th. I buried our sister Pocock, a silent, secret, unpretending Christian, who died the death, as she lived the life, of the righteous. I strongly warned the bands against sin and apostasy.

Tues., April 30th. I took horse in the afternoon, Mr. Lloyd and Sally in the chaise, and lodged at T. Hardwick's.

Wed., May 1st. I rode to Lewisham, and thence to the Foundry ; went to bed ill.

Thur., May 2d. I returned to Sally at Brentford.

Fri., May 3d. I set out with her for St. Anne's, but was driven back by the rain.

Sat., May 4th. I carried my companion thither, and rode back to town.

Sun., May 5th. My subject was, "In me ye shall have peace ;" and He did even in that hour extend to us peace like a river. In the afternoon I rode to St. Anne's.

Mon., May 6th. Mr. Lloyd paid us a visit. We passed our time no less usefully than agreeably, in reading and singing. He and I witnessed to Mrs. C.'s will.

Wed., May 8th. I set out in a post-chaise for Bristol. I heard, in passing Reading, that our friend Mr. Richards was departed in peace. I lay at Newbury the first night ; the second at Calne ; and on

Fri., May 10th, I came safe with Sally to Charles-street. Our friends Vigor, Davis, &c., were there to welcome us. We were much drawn out in prayer.

Sun., May 12th. I was, with Sally at Kingswood, greatly quickened by that promise, "The third part I will bring through the fire." In the sacrament we were swallowed up in the spirit of prayer. I met my sister at the Horse-fair, and behaved to her *as such*. I gave an earnest exhortation to repentance.

Tues., May 14th. I showed her, both at my own house, and the houses of my friends, all the civility in my power.

Fri., May 17th. The congregation was melted into blessed mourning, through the word.

Sun., May 19th. I preached out to a vast multitude on, "Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory;" was carried out to the unawakened wholly. The Society seemed much alive to God.

Wed., May 22d. I rode with Sally to Wick, and received the never-failing blessing.

Thur., May 23d. Returning by the widow Jones's, I asked her daughter at the door how she was. "Just alive," she answered me, "and no more." I lighted, and prayed over her earnestly with tears, as sent to minister the last blessing to an old friend, torn from us by false brethren. She was full of hope and love and prayer for me, and of desire to be dissolved. I went on my way rejoicing.

Tues., May 28th. My very good old friend M. Cradock came to see me, with Mrs. Motte. We sang, and conversed, and prayed, (particularly for their Lady,) as in the former days.

In the evening, Mrs. Jones, of Fonmon, called, and told me her Ladyship would be very glad to see me.

Thur., May 30th. Sally resolved to bear me company to Newcastle. *Deus vertat bene*. I wrote to John Bennet to meet us.

Sat., June 1st. In the fear of God, and by the advice of my friends, I went once more to visit L. H. She expressed great kindness toward me, as did all the family; spoke much and well of sufferings, &c. My heart was turned back again, and forgot all that is past. The Spirit of love is a Spirit of prayer, and sealed the reconciliation.

Sun., June 2d. I baptized Sarah and Eliz., a Quaker and a Baptist, before a full congregation. All were moved by the descent of that Spirit: many wept, and trembled, and rejoiced. The persons baptized, most of all.

Mon., June 3d. My wife accepted her Ladyship's invitation, and went with me to see her. We employed an hour or two in very useful conversation, and singing, and prayer. Our old friend appeared as such; seemed taken with Sally,

and said, "Mrs. Wesley, I will come to see you:" appointed the next day.

Tues., June 4th. Instead of proceeding in Ezekiel, I expounded Heb. x. 38: "Now the just shall live by faith; but if he draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." I saw the reason with Mr. Hall. He came up toward the desk. Mr. Hamilton stopped him. I gave out an hymn. He sang louder than us all. I spoke sharply of his apostasy, and prayed earnestly for him; desired their prayers for me, lest, after preaching to others, I myself also should be a castaway. He walked away, turned back, threatened. The people were all in tears, and agony of prayer.

I spent an hour in prayer with our sisters Perrin, Design, Robertson, T. Hamilton, and Charles Perronet, making particular mention of my brother and L. H. From five to seven, she and her daughters spent the time with us.

Sun., June 9th. At eight in the evening I preached with life and freedom to a great multitude at Point's-Pool.

Mon. afternoon, June 10th. I preached at sister Crocker's, on, "God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you," &c.

Tues., June 11th. Our sister Selby brought me a letter from our brother Pearce, at Bradford, pressing me to bring James Wheatley thither, to answer for some horrible practices of his.

Wed., June 12th. I rode to Bradford; talked with our brother Pearce, then with M. Bradford, and another of the abused persons. I preached on, "Having our conversation honest among the Gentiles."

Thur., June 13th. I preached close and severe warnings. I advised Jo. Hewish to leave off preaching; which he promised to do. I talked with more persons whom James Wheatley had treated in the same vile manner; met the rest at Wick, in all seven. What they told me, they repeated more at large to Sarah Perrin and M. Naylor. I prayed, with strong faith and tears, by our mournful, dying brother Cattel.

I rode to Freshford, and urged them to come boldly to the throne of grace. The Lord was with my mouth.

Fri., June 14th. I kept the hour of intercession at Bris-

tol ; bowed down under the mighty hand of God. I carried James Wheatley to my house, and set before him, in tender love and pity, the things which he had done. At first he was stubborn and hard ; but relented afterwards, seemed willing to confess ; satisfied of my good will.

Sun., June 16th. I baptized a young Quaker at Kingswood ; and then we all joined in the Lord's supper. He was mightily present in both sacraments ; and afterwards gave me words to shake the souls of those that heard.

Mon., June 17th. Sally set out for Ludlow.

Wed., June 19th. I carried my brother home ; offered to join with him heartily and entirely. I consulted what to do with Wheatley.

Thur., June 20th. I got Wheatley again to my house, and talked with him as he was able to bear.

Fri., June 21st. I administered the sacrament to L. H., Sarah Perrin, &c., under a deep and solemn awe of the divine presence.

I found my sister in tears ; professed my love, pity, and desire to help her. I heard her complaints of my brother, carried her to my house, where, after supper, she resumed the subject, and went away comforted.

Sat., June 22d. I passed another hour with her, in free, affectionate conference ; then with my brother ; and then with both together. Our explanation ended in prayer and perfect peace.

Sun., June 23d. L. H., with M. Edwin and M. Knight, desired admittance to our lovefeast. My mouth was opened in exhortation and prayer. Afterwards I introduced my sister to her L—— and the rest, who received her with great friendliness.

Tues., June 25th. My brother and I carried James Wheatley, at his own request, to Bearfield. M. Deverel and S. Bradford proved their charge to his face. He pleaded guilty ; yet justified himself. I walked with him apart : he threatened to expose *all* our Preachers ; who, *he said*, were like himself. I conferred with my brother, and drew up our resolution in writing, that he should not preach. Wheatley absolutely refused to submit. We reasoned with him in vain. He insisted on preaching occasionally in our Societies.

I transcribed the declarations taken from their mouths.

Wed., June 26th. With L. H., S. Perrin declared the matter. She much approved of what had been done, strengthened our hands, proposed writing to Wheatley herself. She was quite cordial to advise, and to bear our burden. We were enabled to pray earnestly for the divine direction and blessing.

Thur., June 27th. We talked again with stiff-necked James; but prevailed nothing. He was resolved to preach; neither would he discover which of the Preachers it was whom, he *said*, he knew to be a gross sinner.

I communicated with my brother and sister, at L. H.'s.

Fri., June 28th. James Wheatley having, to screen himself, traduced all the Preachers, we had him face to face with about ten of them together; and T. Maxfield first, then each of the others, asked him, "What sin can you charge me with?" The accuser of the brethren was silent in him, which convinced us of his wilful lying. However, it put my brother and me upon a resolution of strictly examining into the life and moral behaviour of every Preacher in connexion with us; and the office fell upon me.

Sat., June 29th. I set out for this purpose, Fr. Walker and S. Perrin accompanying me. I lodged at Ross that night. I overtook Sally the next day at Ludlow, by two; unhurt by the incessant rains.

I preached to as many as the hall and parlour could contain. They seemed increased in earnestness as well as number. I found unexpected life and comfort among them; and the following evening had still more reason to hope, that my past labour has not been in vain.

Fri., July 5th. Between six and seven I set out with S. Perrin, my wife, and sister Beck, and honest Fr. Walker. Coming to Worcester in the afternoon, we heard, the rioters had been at the room on Monday evening, in expectation of me, and made great disturbance. I doubted all along whether I had any business here at this time; yet, at the desire of the poor people, I went to their room at seven. Almost as soon as I began the mob interrupted; but, in spite of their lewd, hellish language, I preached the Gospel, though with much contention. They had no

power to strike the people as usual; neither did any molest us in our way home.

Sat., July 6th. We were hardly met, when the sons of Belial poured in upon us, some with their faces blacked, some without shirts, all in rags. They began to "stand up for the Church," by cursing and swearing, by singing and talking lewdly, and throwing dust and dirt all over us; with which they had filled their pockets, such as had any to fill. I was soon covered from head to foot, and almost blinded. Finding it impossible to be heard, I only told them I should apply to the Magistrates for redress, and walked up stairs. They pressed after me, but Mr. Walker and the brethren blocked up the stairs, and kept them down. I waited a quarter of an hour; then walked through the midst of them to my lodgings, and thence to the Mayor's.

I spent an hour with him, pleading the poor people's cause. He said, he had never before heard of their being so treated; that is, pelted, beat, and wounded, their house battered, and windows, partitions, locks broke; that none had applied to him for justice, or he should have granted it; that he was well assured of the great mischief the Methodists had done throughout the nation, and the great riches Mr. Whitefield and their other teachers had acquired; that their societies were quite unnecessary, since the Church was sufficient; that he was for having neither Methodist nor Dissenter.

I easily answered all his objections. He treated me with civility and freedom, and promised, at parting, to do our people justice. Whether he does or not, I have satisfied my own conscience.

At ten we took horse for Tipton-green. Our brother Jones gave me a melancholy account of the Society at Wednesbury, which, from three hundred, is reduced to seventy weak, lifeless members. Those who had borne the burden and heat of the day, and stood like a rock in all the storms of persecution, were removed from their steadfastness, and fallen back into the world, through vain janglings. Well had it been for them if the predestinarians had never come hither.

Sun., July 7th. I preached out to a numerous congrega-

tion, whom I could not look upon without tears. My text was Rev. iii. 3: "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent." Out of the abundance of my heart my mouth spake, and called them back to their first love and first works. It was a solemn season of sorrow. The Lord, I trust, knocked at many hearts, which will hear his voice, and open to him again. He stirred up the faithful remnant to pray for their backsliding brethren; and their prayers shall not return empty.

Another hour I employed in earnestly exhorting the Society to repentance.

Mon., July 8th. I preached at five with much freedom, and hope of their recovery. In the afternoon the Curate met me; a well-disposed youth, just come from College; where his Tutor, Mr. Bentham, gave him an early prejudice for true religion. He invited me to his lodgings, joined with us in serious conversation and singing, and seemed ready for all good impressions.

At six I preached, on Bromidge-heath, to a multitude of the poor, who heard me gladly; and knew not when to leave off.

Tues., July 9th. The many hearers at Dudley seemed to drink in every word.

Wed., July 10th. I exhorted them at Wednesbury to "lay aside every weight," &c. I joined with the brethren in fervent prayer for a general revival.

Thur., July 11th. I examined the classes, and rejoiced to find them all orderly walkers. I received some backsliders upon trial; and prayed by a sick sister, quietly waiting for full redemption.

I dined in Darlaston, at our brother Jones's uncle's. The master was gone to his house not made with hands, and left a good report behind him. He was a good and hardy soldier of Jesus Christ, bold to confess Him before men; for whose sake he suffered the loss of all things, and continued faithful unto death. The people are a pattern to the flock:

"Meek, simple followers of the Lamb;
They live and speak and think the same."

By their patience and steadfastness of faith, they have conquered their fiercest adversaries. God gives them rest, and

they walk in his fear and comforts, increasing daily both in grace and number.

I preached to most of the town, and pressed them to "come boldly to the throne of grace." My spirit was greatly assisted by theirs. Those without seemed all given into my hands. The Society was all in a flame of love. They made me full amends for my sorrow at Wednesbury.

Fri., July 12th. I took my leave of them at Wednesbury, exhorting them to "continue in the Apostles' doctrine, and in fellowship," &c. S. Perrin met, and found much grace among, the women. Half a dozen more wandering sheep I gathered in, and restored to their brethren. I preached at Birmingham to several of the better rank, who received the word with a ready mind.

Sat., July 13th. At morning and at noon my mouth was opened to make known the mystery of the Gospel.

Sun., July 14th. I examined the Society, who adorn the Gospel of Christ. I heard a good sermon at church, about using the world as not abusing it; but, alas! it supposed the congregation to be Christians.

I preached at five before brother Bridgin's door. We expected a disturbance; but the power of the Lord was over all.

The cloud stayed on the assembled Society. The word of exhortation went from my heart to theirs. The Spirit helped us to pray, especially for some at Bristol; and our souls were like a watered garden.

Mon., July 15th. At five I took horse with our brother Bridgin, an old disciple past eighty. I lay at Duffield.

Tues., July 16th. At two I rejoiced to meet some of our dear children in Sheffield. I encouraged them by that most glorious promise, "Behold, He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him." The door has continued open ever since Mr. Whitefield preached here, and quite removed the prejudices of our first opposers. Some of them were convinced by him, some converted, and added to the church. "He that escapes the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay."

Wed., July 17th. I preached at Rotherham, and met, to my comfort, several solid believers. I talked severally with the growing Society. I returned, and preached in

the streets at Sheffield, without life or power, to a wild, tumultuous rabble. I was equally dead at the Society.

Thur., July 18th. I rode toward Barley-hall. I baited three hours at our sister Booth's, and laboured all the time to strip an old, self-righteous Pharisee. At last our Lord got himself the victory. We left her in tears and deep convictions. A greater miracle of grace than the conversion of a thousand harlots!

I dined at Barley-hall with our dear sister Johnson, a widow indeed, and her six sons and daughter, all believers. I had heard at Sheffield, that the Society here was come to nothing. Yet the word was attended with the blessing which never failed me in this place, and I felt the Lord was not departed. I was still more agreeably surprised in examining the Society, to find near seventy earnest souls, most of them believers, and grown in grace. But who can stand before envy? The Preacher that brought up an evil report of them, had it from some of Sheffield, who, through prejudice and jealousy, would always hinder our preaching at this place. How cautious should we be in believing any man! I marvel not now that my mouth was stopped at Sheffield.

Fri., July 19th. I preached once more to this lively, loving people, and left them sorrowful, yet rejoicing. We had a pleasant ride to Wakefield, where our brother Johnson received us joyfully. He himself was sick of a fever; but the Lord makes his bed, and he waits upon Him, without trouble, care, or choice.

By five we were welcomed to Leeds by our sister Hutchinson and others. I preached at eight, to many more than the house could hold. The Lord gave us a token for good.

Sat., July 20th. The Leaders informed me that, of the two hundred and fifty members of the Society, every one could challenge the world, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?"

I visited a faithful brother, whose wife and sister were drawing back. We laboured to restore them, in the spirit of meekness, and the Lord added weight to our words. They departed for awhile, we trust, that we might receive them again for ever.

At eight I preached the Gospel to a multitude of poor

sinners, unfeignedly poor, and hungering after righteousness.

Sun., July 21st. I preached, in the shell of our house, on Zech. iv. : "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation," &c. I rode to Birstal, where John Nelson comforted our hearts with his account of the success of the Gospel in every place where he has been preaching, except Scotland. There he has been beating the air for three weeks, and spending his strength in vain. Twice a day he preached at Musselburgh, to some thousands of *mere* hearers, without converting one soul.

I preached at one, to a different kind of people. Such a sight have I not seen for many months. They filled the valley and side of the hill, "as grasshoppers for multitude." Yet my voice reached the most distant, as I perceived by their bowing at the holy Name. Not one appeared unconcerned. I directed them to "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." God gave me the voice of a trumpet, and sent the word home to many hearts.

After evening service I met them again, but much increased, and lifted up my voice to comfort them by the precious promises; which were then fulfilled in many. The eyes of the blind were opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped, the lame men leaped like harts, and the tongue of the dumb sang.

The Society, collected from all parts, filled their new room; whom I earnestly exhorted to walk as becometh the Gospel.

Tues., July 23d. I showed the believers at Leeds how they ought to walk, from, "Ye are the salt of the earth," &c. In the evening I preached repentance and forgiveness, in the name of Jesus, to a mixed multitude of rich and poor.

I visited a sick sister, destitute of all things, yet triumphing over want, sickness, death.

Wed., July 24th. I preached at Woodhouse, faint and ill, as before a fever. So I told Sally, yet strove to hold up, till I had wrote, with many tears, to my dear J. Hutchinson. At eight the fever came.

Thur., July 25th. I was carried to Miss Norton's, who quitted her house for us and Sarah Perrin.

Fri., July 26th. John Nelson assured me, that above

seventy had died in triumph, out of Birstal Society only.

Sun., July 28th. My fever increasing, I judged it incumbent on me to leave my thoughts concerning the work and instruments, and began dictating to Sarah Perrin the following letter.*

Mon., July 29th. Dr. Milner constantly attended me. I had some discourse with Paul Greenwood, an Israelite indeed; glad to work with his hands, as well as to preach.

Thur., August 1st. M. Polier, a Minister from Switzerland, was brought to me by my Doctor. He inquired thoroughly into our affairs. I told him all I knew of the Methodists, with which he appeared fully satisfied. He seemed a man of learning and piety. In the evening we were strangely drawn out in prayer for him.

Fri., August 2d. I had missed my fit through taking the bark.

Sat., August 3d. I was enabled to ride out, and to confer with the Preachers and others.

Sun., August 4th. I found my strength sensibly increase in the fresh air. I spent an hour with the women Leaders, and appointed them to meet as a band.

Mon., August 5th. I went to the room, that I might hear with my own ears one, of whom many strange things had been told me. But such a Preacher have I never heard, and hope I never shall again. It was beyond description. I cannot say he preached false doctrine, or true, or any doctrine at all, but pure, unmixed nonsense. Not one sentence did he utter that could do the least good to any one soul. Now and then a text of Scripture, or a verse quotation, was dragged in by head and shoulders. I could scarce refrain from stopping him. He set my blood a galloping, and threw me into such a sweat, that I expected the fever to follow. Some begged me to step into the desk, and speak a few words to the poor dissatisfied hearers. I did so, taking no notice of Michael Fenwick.

I talked closely with him, utterly averse to working, and told him plainly he should either labour with his hands, or preach no more. He hardly complied, though he confessed

* Here a blank occurs in the manuscript. The letter has not been preserved.—EDIT.

it was his ruin, his having been taken off his business. I answered I would repair the supposed injury, by setting him up again in his shop. Thomas Colbeck brought Eleazer Webster to me. I spoke in vain to a self-hardened slave of sin, and silenced him.

Tues., August 6th. I prayed with the Society, in solemn fear of God present. It seemed as if He spoke with an articulate voice, "Return unto me, and I will return unto you." My faith was greatly strengthened for the work. The manner and instruments of carrying it on I leave entirely to God.

Wed., August 7th. I took horse for Newcastle with Sally, Sarah Perrin, Miss Norton, and William Shent. We could get no farther than Toplift: found an aged woman reading Kempis; asked her the foundation of her hope. She simply answered, "A good life." I endeavoured to teach her better, and preached Christ the Atonement, as the only Foundation. She received my saying with tears of joy. We joined in fervent prayer for her. All the family seemed much affected. I found myself refreshed in body as well as soul, and easily rode on to Sandhutton.

We were no sooner in the house, than it began to pour down, and continued raining till we set out next morning.

Thur., August 8th. We rested at Durham.

Fri., August 9th. By noon our travels ended at Newcastle. My companions are better both in mind and body for their long journey.

I preached, but very feebly, on, "The third part I will bring through the fire." Preaching, I perceive, is not now my principal business. God knoweth my heart, and all its burdens. O that he would take the matter into his own hand, though he lay me aside as a broken vessel!

Sun., August 11th. I felt the fever hanging about me all day, notwithstanding the bark which I continue taking. The Society appeared lively and solid. I vehemently exhorted them to watch and pray, as well for the labourers as themselves, that none of us might bring a reproach upon the Gospel.

Mon., August 12th. I had much discourse with a brother from Scotland, who has preached there many weeks, and not converted one soul. "You may just as well preach

to the stones," he added, "as to the Scots." Yet, to keep my brother's word, I sent William Shent to Musselburgh. Before he went he gave me this memorable account of their late trial at Leeds :—

"At Whitecoat-hill, three miles from Leeds, a few weeks since, as our brother Maskew was preaching, a mob arose, broke the windows and doors, and struck the Constable, Jacob Hawley, a brother. On this we indicted them for an assault ; and the ringleader of the mob, John Hillingworth, indicted our brother the Constable, and got persons to swear the Constable struck him. The Grand Jury threw out our indictment, and found that against us. So we stood trial with them on Monday, July 15th, 1751, and the Recorder, Richard Wilson, Esq., gave it in our favour, with the rest of the court. But the foreman of the jury, Matthew Priestly, with two others, Richard Cloudsley and Jabez Bunnill, would not agree with the rest, being our avowed enemies ; the foreman Mr. Murgatroyd's great friend and champion against the Methodists.

"However, the Recorder gave strict order to a guard of constables to watch the jury, that they should have neither meat, drink, candles, nor tobacco, till they were agreed in their verdict. They were kept prisoners all that night and the next day, till five in the afternoon, when one of the jury said, he would die before he would give it against us. Then he spoke closely to the foreman concerning his prejudice against the Methodists, till at last he condescended to refer it to one man. Him the other charged to speak as he would answer it to God in the day of judgment. The man turned pale, and trembled, and desired another might decide it. Another, (Jo. Hardwick,) being called on, immediately decided it in favour of the Methodists. After the trial, Sir Henry Ibison, one of the Justices, called a brother, and said, 'You see God never forsakes a righteous man : take care you never forsake Him.'

"While the trial lasted, hundreds of our enemies were waiting for the event, who showed by their fierceness what they designed, had we lost our cause. They intended to begin with pulling down our house : but thanks be to God, who hath not delivered us over as a prey into their teeth.

"The Judge of the court was Richard Wilson, Esq., Re-

corder of Leeds : the Justices, J. Frith, Mayor, Alderman Micklethwait, Alderman Denison, Alderman Sawyer, A. Smith, A. Brooks : Jury, Matthew Priestly, Richard Cloudsley, Jabez Bunnil, H. Briscoe, W. Wormill, Richard Cockell, Joseph Naylor, Joseph Inkersley, George Dixon, Richard Sharp, W. Upton, and Joseph Hardwick. Four witnesses against, six for, us."

Tues., August 13th. I rode with my little family to Sunderland. I examined the Society of about a hundred, most of whom received the atonement in meeting their classes ; an argument for such meetings that I cannot get over. At seven I preached in a large convenient room, filled with attentive souls, on whom I called, "Behold the Lamb of God," &c. For an hour and a half my strength held out.

Wed., August 14th. At nine I set out, and, in half an hour's riding, overtook a woman and girl leading an horse. She begged us to help them up, and forward them on their way. We did so ; but the horse turned with them again, and rode back toward Sunderland. We had the riders to pick up again, and remount. Their horse we put between us ; but he broke through a gap, and galloped back. When he had shook them off, he stood still. I bade my companion take up the girl behind him, hoping the horse would carry the woman alone ; but in vain, though we all beat the poor beast to drive him on : he kicked and flounced, till he had dismissed his rider. I then said, "Surely, good woman, God withstands you. You are going somewhere contrary to His will. I can compare your horse to nothing but Balaam's ass. What can be the meaning of it ?" She answered, "Sir, I will tell you all ; for there must be something extraordinary in the great pains you have taken for me. That child I had by a gentleman, who promised me marriage, but since married another, because richer than me. I am going to try if he will do anything for the child and me : but I fear it is not pleasing to God." I asked what she had to live upon. She told me she was married to a blacksmith, had a child by him, and it was but low with them. I advised her to take God's warning, and utterly renounce the first wicked man ; to spend the rest of her days in repentance, and working out her salva-

tion ; gave her something, and recommended her to a sister in Sunderland. She seemed overwhelmed with joy and gratitude, mounted with her child, and the horse carried them quietly home.

Fri., August 16th. I heard J. J., the drummer, again, and liked him worse than at first. He might perhaps have done good among the soldiers ; but to leave his calling, and set up for an Itinerant, was, in my judgment, a step contrary to the design of God, as well as to his own and the church's interest.

At seven I walked toward Ewe's Bourn to meet the classes ; but my strength totally failed me by the time I got to Sandgate ; where I rested at a brother's, till I had recovered strength to return.

At three I was sent for by the jailer's wife to a poor wretch under sentence of death, for murdering his own daughter of fourteen. Never have I spoke to a more hardened, ignorant, stupid sinner. He utterly denied the fact. I prayed for him, but with little hope.

After preaching at the Orphan-House, I commended him to the prayers of the congregation ; and we found free access to the throne.

At my next visit I perceived little change in him ; only he suffered me to speak, and said nothing of his innocence.

Sun., August 18th. I heard Jonathan Reeves at Sheephill, and added a few words in confirmation of his. I returned to Newcastle comforted.

I preached in great weakness. At our love-feast the spirit of supplication was given, and the poor murderer brought to our remembrance. I have not been more refreshed for this many a day.

Tues., August 20th. I preached in the prison, on, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law," &c. Still I could not discern any signs of true repentance in the poor man, though he is to die to-morrow. He persists in his innocence, but confesses he deserves far worse punishment at the hands of God. I prayed over him with tears, and told him our next meeting would be at the judgment-seat.

I was ready to wonder why Providence had directed me to him, and engaged his people to pray for him ; when one informed me that, while I was earnestly praying for him

in the congregation, a woman had received forgiveness. Many other good ends may be answered, which we do not know; at least our prayer shall turn again into our own bosom. At night I was drawn out again in prayer for him, and continued instant therein for half an hour. The people were deeply affected. It is impossible for so many prayers to be lost.

Wed., August 21st. The first news I heard this morning from Jonathan Reeves was, that he had been, with J. Downes and others, visiting the poor malefactor, and they verily believed he had found mercy. He told them his heart was so light, he could not express it, and he was not in the least afraid to die. Two days before, Jonathan Reeves had talked an hour and an half with him, and put him in great fear; but now he appeared quite calm and resigned, and so continued to the last moment.

I took horse at nine for Horsley, leaving Jonathan to attend the execution, and bring us word. He overtook us in the afternoon with the same account of his convert, who showed all the marks of repentance and faith in death.

I passed the afternoon with Mr. Carr, a young Minister from Scotland, and our brother and sister Ord from Hexham. I preached at seven, quite overcome with the heat. By noon I returned to Newcastle.

Fri., August 23d. I spake with our brother Allen, an Exhorter, whom one would fain have persuaded to forsake his business. I persuaded him to continue in it.

Sat., August 24th. At one I set out with Sally, Sarah Perrin, Miss Norton, &c. I preached, at Durham, repentance and faith in our Lord Jesus.

Sun., August 25th. We communicated at the Abbey. I preached in a yard, to many quiet hearers, "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world," &c.: enlarged much at the Society.

Mon., August 26th. We lodged at Thirsk.

Nov., 29th, 1753. Between nine and ten Lady Huntingdon surprised us by bringing Mrs. Galatin to see us. She had met her at Bath, and conducted her to our house with the mournful news of my brother's danger. I concluded, from several letters last received, and mentioning his reco-

very and design of officiating at the chapel, that he was out of all danger ; but Mrs. Galatin assured us, she thought he would have expired at the altar last Sunday.

Mr. Sims, a Clergyman, followed Lady Huntingdon ; full of his first love. We joined in the Lord's supper, and found much power to pray, particularly for my brother.

At two, as Mr. Hutchinson and I were setting out, we were met by a letter from Mr. Briggs, informing me, that I must make haste if I would see my brother alive. This made us all renew our entreaties to Mr. Hutchinson not to accompany me, lest he should retard me in my journey ; but he would not be dissuaded, resolving, if I left him behind, to follow me in a post-chaise. I was therefore forced to take him, but sorely against my will, in a chaise, to Bath. We got to Mrs. Naylor's with the night. He could not sleep for cold.

Fri., November 30th. We prayed with great earnestness for my brother. My heart was melted into warm desires of his recovery. Between seven and eight we set forward in a post-chaise, and came safe to Newbury before night.

Sat., December 1st. My companion was strengthened to set out again before seven. Soon after four we were brought safe to M. Boults. She had no expectation of us, and was therefore quite unprepared. I had no other place to lodge my poor friend than the noisy Foundery. He had not more sleep than I expected.

Sun., December 2d. The first news I heard last night, in Moorfields, was, that my brother was something better. I rode at nine to Lewisham ; found him with my sister and Mrs. Blackwell and Mrs. Dewal. I fell on his neck, and wept. All present were alike affected. Last Wednesday he changed for the better, while the people were praying for him at the Foundery. He has rested well ever since : his cough is abated, and his strength increased. Yet it is most probable he will not recover, being far gone in a galloping consumption, just as my elder brother was at his age.

I followed him to his chamber, with my sister, and prayed with strong desire, and a good hope of his recovery. All last Tuesday they expected his death every hour. He expected the same, and wrote his own epitaph :—

Here lieth

THE BODY OF JOHN WESLEY,

A BRAND, NOT ONCE ONLY, PLUCKED OUT OF THE FIRE.

HE DIED OF A CONSUMPTION IN THE FIFTY-FIRST YEAR
OF HIS AGE,

LEAVING, AFTER HIS DEBTS WERE PAID, NOT TEN POUNDS
BEHIND HIM :

PRAYING,

God be merciful to me an unprofitable servant !

He desired this inscription, if any, should be put upon his
tomb-stone.

He made it his request to his wife and me, to forget all that is past ; which I very readily agreed to, and once more offered her my service, in great sincerity. Neither will I suspect hers, but hope she will *do* as she *says*.

I have been generally blamed for my absence in this time of danger. Several asked, "Does Mr. Charles know of his brother's illness?" and were answered, "Yes, yes ; many have informed him." All my correspondents agreed in their accounts that my brother was much better ; of which his ministering last Sunday at the chapel left me no doubt. Then they might have apprized me of his danger ; but none thought of me till Tuesday, when they looked for his death every hour. He had ordered letters to be wrote by Charles Perronet to the Preachers, to meet on the 21st instant ; but not a word of notice was sent to me. Now I hear, several letters were wrote to me on Tuesday night ; but I have left them unreceived at Bristol.

I attended my brother while he rode out for the air, and was surprised to see him hold out for three quarters of an hour, and even gallop back the whole way.

In the afternoon I met the Leaders, and spoke them comfort ; then called on my patient, John Hutchinson, whose journey has done him more good than harm.

My text at the Foundery was 1 John v. 14, 15 : "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, he heareth us : and if we know that he hear us whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

Whether the congregation received benefit, I know not, being myself confused and overwhelmed with trouble and sorrow.

God made me to the Society, I trust, a son of consolation. I showed them the cause of my brother's danger, even our unprofitableness, and the nation's rejecting his testimony. I strongly exhorted them to repent, and do their first works, and *on no other condition* to hope for my brother's recovery. I told them, I was persuaded his time was come, and he would have died now, had not the prayer of faith interposed, and God commanded the shadow to go backward ; that still his life was altogether precarious, and they must wrestle on, before the decree brought forth, for a full reverse of the sentence. In prayer God gave us strong cries and tears, and consolation of hope.

The whole Society appear alive, so stirred up, so zealous, so prayerful as I never knew. Many backsliders are returning to us. Many secret friends now show themselves. The strangers stop us in the streets with their inquiries, and the people in general seem to find out the value of a blessing they are going to lose.

I carried Mr. Hutchinson to a quieter lodging, which the friendly Mr. L—— offered us at his house. John Jones, come post from Bristol, spent the useful evening with us, and then slept with me at the Foundery.

Mon., December 3d. I was at a loss for a subject at five, when I opened the Revelation, and, with fear and trembling, began to expound it. Our Lord was with us of a truth, and comforted our hearts with the blessed hope of his coming to reign before his ancients gloriously. Martin Luther, in a time of trouble, used to say, "Come, let us sing the forty-sixth Psalm." I would rather say, "Let us read the Revelation of Jesus Christ." What is any private or public loss, or calamity ; what are all the advantages Satan ever gained or shall gain, over particular men or churches ; when all things, good and evil, Christ's power and Antichrist's, conspire to hasten the grand event, to fulfil the mystery of God, and make all the kingdoms of the earth become the kingdoms of Christ ?

I asked each of the select band whether they could pray in faith for my brother's life. God has kept them all in

darkness and suspense. Those who have most power with Him have received no certain answer, being constrained to give him up *first*, if haply they may then receive him again as from the dead. Some have told me, it was parting with a right eye, with one much dearer to them than their natural father. Many have found strong, increasing hope of his recovery; and a few, whose experience I less depend on, are confident of it.

I called on loving, faithful D. P., and then visited my patient at Mr. L.'s. With him I stayed till near one, the time I had appointed for prayer at the Foundery. Many faithful souls then joined me in behalf of my brother, or rather, of the Church and nation. Neither was our Lord absent. Great comfort and confidence we received, that all shall work together for good, even the glory of God and furtherance of the Gospel.

From intercession I waited on my sister to Dr. Fothergill; who is much pleased with his patient's present case, and greatly approves of his hastening to the Hotwells at Bristol. To-morrow afternoon he promises to visit him at Lewisham.

The rest of the day I passed with John Hutchinson.

Tues., December 4th. I proceeded in the Revelation, and found the blessing promised to those who read or hear the words of that book. From six to seven I was employed with the Preachers in prayer, for my brother and the Church.

I told the Society on Sunday night, that I neither could nor would stand in my brother's place; (if God took him to himself;) for I had neither a body, nor a mind, nor talents, nor grace for it.

This morning I got the long-wished-for opportunity of talking fully to him of all which has passed since his marriage; and the result of our conference was perfect harmony.

Mrs. Dewal and Blackwell observed, what a fair opportunity my wife might have had for inoculating with her sister. I answered, that I left every one to his own conscience; but, for my part, I looked upon it as taking the matter out of God's hands; and I should choose, if it depended on me, to trust her entirely to Him.

Before five I returned to the Foundery, and found two

letters from Lady Huntingdon ; the first informing me, they apprehended my wife was taken ill of the small-pox, as soon as I left her ; the second, that it was come out, and the confluent kind.

She had been frightened (after my departure) with one's abruptly telling her, my brother was dead, and sickened immediately.

I immediately consulted Mr. L., who advised me to fly where my heart directed. "But what can I do with Mr. Hutchinson?" "Take him with you by all means." I went, and made him the offer.

I preached on, "Let not your hearts be troubled ; in my Father's house are many mansions," &c. I met good old Mr. P——, and informed him of my journey.

Wed., December 5th. At five I found John Hutchinson, after a restless night, as the troubled sea.

Thur., December 6th. I came to Bristol by four. I found my dearest friend on a restless bed of pain, loaded with the worst kind of the worst disease. Mrs. Vigor and Jones were ministering to her day and night. S. Burges, a most tender, skilful Christian woman, was her nurse. Dr. Middleton has been a father to her. Good Lady Huntingdon attends her constantly twice a day, having deferred her journey to her son on this account.

She had expressed a longing desire to see me, just before I came, and rejoiced for the consolation. I saw her alive ; but, O, how changed ! The whole head faint, and the whole heart sick ! From the crown of the head to the soles of her feet there is no soundness. Yet, under her sorest burden, she blessed God that she had not been inoculated ; receiving the disease as immediately sent from Him.

I found the door of prayer wide open, and entirely acquiesced in the divine will. I would not have it otherwise. God choose for me and mine, in time and eternity ! *

Mon., July 8th, 1754. At four I took horse for Norwich with my brother, Charles Perronet, and Robert Windsor. We were in fear for my brother, lest the heat of the journey should be too great for him ; but the rain which God sent down all yesterday had laid the dust, and cooled the air.

* No account has been preserved of Mr. Charles Wesley's labours from this period till July 8th, 1754.—EDIT.

The clouds also were ordered to attend us all the day ; so that we had an easy and pleasant ride to Braintree.

Tues., July 9th. Still God in the weather favoured us, and brought us safe to Bury, and ten miles beyond it.

Wed., July 10th. Our leisurely travelling allowed us many hours for writing. Between seven and eight we set out, and by eleven reached Attleborough. Here our brother Edwards met us with a chaise, which brought us in the evening to Captain Galatin's, at Lakenham, a mile and a half from Norwich.

The Captain brought us news that the whole city was in an uproar about poor Mr. Wheatley, whose works of darkness are now brought to light, whereby the people are so scandalized and exasperated, that they are ready to rise, and tear him to pieces. We do not, therefore, wonder that the Clergy are not forward to show their friendly inclinations towards us. Yet one has sent us a civil message, excusing his not visiting us till the tumult is over.

Thur., July 11th. Captain Galatin dined with the Mayor, a wise, resolute man, who labours for peace, but greatly apprehends the rising of the people. We thought it best to lie by till the storm should a little subside. Still the waves rage horribly. The streets ring all day with James's wickedness. From morning till night (the Captain informs us) the Mayor has been employed in taking the affidavits of the women whom he has tried to corrupt. These accounts are printed, and carried about the city.

What could Satan or his apostles do more to shut the door against the Gospel in this place for ever? Yet several came to us, entreating us to preach ; and at night a great number were gathered together to hear us. The advertisement we had printed here last year, disclaiming Mr. Wheatley, did much good, and, with the blessing of God, helped the people to distinguish. Our host, also, has assured the Mayor, Mr. Wheatley is no Methodist, or associate of ours ; and the Clergy, as well as people in general, are sensible of our inviolable attachment to the Church.

Fri., July 12th. We continued in our retreat, transcribing the Notes,* and leaving God to work, and prepare the way at Norwich.

* The Rev. John Wesley's Notes on the New Testament.—EDIT.

Wed., July 17th. Yesterday a lady sent my brother an invitation to preach in her great room, at the window, whence he might be heard by those without. But to-day an Alderman, threatening a prosecution, has made her draw back. I walked to Lakenham, and stopped my brother. The rest of the day we spent in transcribing.

Thur., July 18th. Word was brought us that the gentlemen were much displeased at their disappointment last night. At six in the evening we went forth. My text was, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." The people were amazingly serious. All behaved with the utmost decency. It is evidently the Lord's doing!

Some of the fiercest persecutors are our fastest friends, and constantly attend the word. Many appear affected under it. Not one dares open his mouth against it, as yet.

My brother recapitulated and confirmed my sayings. In the mouth of two witnesses every word was established.

Fri., July 19th. At four my brother, by the advice of Charles Perronet, set out with him for Bristol. By how strange a providence has he been brought hither, that he might be sent hence to the Hotwells, the only probable means of restoring his health!

I preached at five from Hosea xii. 9: "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thy help." Still their patience of the truth continues, or even increases. Near a thousand we have every morning. One man, after I had concluded, spoke a rude word, which drew upon him the general indignation.

At night I had multitudes of the great vulgar, as well as the small, to hear me, with three Justices, and nine Clergymen. The Lord opened my mouth to convince them of sin; and many, I am persuaded, felt the sword of the Spirit in the word.

Sat., July 20th. I declared, to a more numerous audience, it being market-day, "Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money." The butchers were continually passing; yet all was quiet till I had done.

I forgot to mention that, on Thursday morning, James Wheatley overtook me and Charles Perronet in our way to Lakenham. I would hope he intended to pass by us,

but Charles looking back, and spying him, forced him to stop, and speak to us. He asked me how I did ; to which I made no answer. Charles cried out, " Ride on, James, ride on ; do not talk to us. I pray God, give you repentance." He asked me how my brother did ; but still I said nothing. Then, recovering himself, he said, " And God give you repentance, Mr. Perronet." I bade Charles turn back, and leave him ; which he did ; being grieved at the hardness of his heart.

I passed the day at Lakenham, as usual.

Sun., July 21st. My audience at seven was greatly increased. I spoke from the three first verses of Isai. lxi. ; but dwelt upon those words, " He hath sent me to preach the glad tidings to the meek," or " poor." I laboured, as all the past week, to bring them to a sense of their wants ; and to this end I have preached the law, which is extremely wanted here. They have been surfeited with smooth words and flattering invitations. The greater cause have we of wonder and thanksgiving, that they can now endure sound and severe doctrine.

I received the sacrament again from the Bishop's hands, among a score communicants. If the Gospel prevail in this place, they will find the difference by and by. I went to St. John's, and thence to the street. It rained all the time that I was declaring the office of Christ in his own words, Isai. lxi. ; yet none departed. My congregation was lessened by the weather ; but those who did attend were serious, and seemed to receive the word as a thirsty land the showers.

Mon., July 22d. The rain hindered my preaching. God is providing us a place, an old large brewhouse, which the owner, a Justice of Peace, has reserved for us. He has refused several ; always declaring he would let it to none but Mr. John Wesley. Last Saturday, Mr. Edwards agreed to take a lease for seven years ; and this morning Mr. S—n has sent his workmen to begin putting it into repair. The people are much pleased at our taking it. So is not Satan, and his Antinomian apostles.

My brother's prophecy is come true,—that all our caution and tenderness towards them will not hinder their saying all manner of evil of us. The only curse I have had be-

stowed on me in Norwich, was by a *good* woman of Mr. Wheatley's Society: several of which are, I doubt not, gracious souls, in whose shame and sorrow I sincerely sympathize. Others *show* what manner of spirit they are of by tearing their *supposed* enemies to pieces. They have already found out, that it is I and our little Society of eighteen have set the people against poor Mr. Wheatley; and I am come hither with my brother to execute the design we and Mr. Keymar laid against him in London. I trust our few children will take my counsel, not to answer them a word; not to meddle with their distractions; but to stand still.

Tues., July 23d. At five I declared the end of our Lord's coming, even that they might have life, and have it more abundantly. The seriousness of the people deepens at every discourse. Some called on me to inquire after Mr. C.'s character, concerning which I could say nothing.

I met Mr. S. at the house, which is at present a mere heap of rubbish, without walls, without roof, floor, doors, or windows. What will this chaos produce? I think it no bad omen that it was originally a foundery.

I wrote all day at Mr. Edwards's. I hear the blasphemy of the multitude. Their mouths are full of vile expressions:

"Offence and torture to the sober ear."

Woe unto the man that gives occasion to the enemy to speak reproachfully!

At seven I expounded the barren fig-tree, to a people who, notwithstanding all their stumbling-blocks, can endure sound doctrine.

Wed., July 24th. I preached the Gospel from Isai. xliii. 22, &c. Three from the tabernacle called with an invidious, vain design.

My congregation at night was considerably increased by the market-folk out of the country. I preached repentance from Rev. i. 7: "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him," &c. The Lord opened my mouth to convince. His word begins to sink into their hearts. Many were in tears on every side. Toward the close, a huge man tried to ride up to me; but the people interposed again and again, till a serious stout man took and led his

horse away, and kept the poor drunkard at a due distance. Some in the public-house behind me were noisy and troublesome, on whom I turned, and recommended them to the prayers of the congregation. Satan often shows his willingness and inability to hurt or hinder us. In spite of all, the Gospel has free course, and gains daily on the hearers' hearts.

Thur., July 25th. The rain drove me into brother Edwards's. Only the sincere and serious attended. The poor have a right to the Gospel. I therefore preached Christ crucified to them, from Zech. xii. 10. They did in that hour look on him they had pierced, and mourn; particularly one hardened rebel, (that was,) who was in tears the whole time.

Yesterday a woman came to me to ask my pardon for having railed at me, or rather at Mr. Edwards, while passing her. She belonged to the tabernacle. I commended her ingenuousness, wished all her Society like her, and gave her a book. From this many stories were made. I think it best to have no communication at all with Mr. Wheatley, or any of his followers, neither to mention, neither to think, of him, any more than if there was no such sinner upon earth.

I passed the day at Lakenham. At seven I preached to a mixed multitude of good and bad. Some of the baser sort talked lewdly and blasphemously, till I turned and set the terrors of the Lord in array against them. No wonder the slaves could not face me. The words directed to them made many a *sincere* heart tremble. I went on with more power than ever. So immediately did God bring good out of evil. The number of mourners increases. By and by they will be ripe for the Gospel.

Fri., July 26th. I enforced, on many listening souls, our Lord's most important words, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find."

I enjoyed my long-sought solitude all day at Lakenham.

Tues., July 30th. I preached at five from Isai. xxxv., and found my mouth opened, as well as the hearers' hearts. The more Satan rages, the more our Lord will own and bless us. A poor rebel, at the conclusion, lifted up his voice; for whom I first prayed, and then, turning full upon

him, preached repentance and Christ to his heart. I desired him to turn his face toward me; but he could not. However, he felt the invisible chain, which held him to hear an offer of grace and salvation. I have great hopes that Satan has lost his slave. Some have assured me they saw him depart in tears. I began once more transcribing Dr. Young's Night Thoughts. No writings but the inspired are more useful to me. At St. Peter's I heard a very innocent sermon on public worship. There is no railing at present in any of the churches.

The Bishop of Exeter's letter was cried about the streets all day. We prayed, and went forth at seven, expecting Satan's appearance. A multitude attended to Hosea xiv. 1: "O Israel, return unto the Lord; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words," &c. My heart was much enlarged. A very few showed their willingness to disturb, but were soon suppressed. I did not spare them; and the Lord gave weight to His word. I plainly perceive there is no strength nor counsel against the Lord.

Many persons there doubtless are in this great city, who would fain stop the course of the Gospel, and drive it out. Several complain that their fellows will not suffer them to persecute. To say nothing of the Clergy, can Mr. Taylor's* followers digest our doctrine of original sin? Can either the Pharisees or Sadducees, with which this place abounds, wish us success? Here are swarms of Papists and Antinomians, who bear us equal good-will. And all Christ's enemies have a sword put into their hands by that wretched man.† It is Satan's and his interest that the world should look upon us as all alike. And with this view, no doubt, the Rev. Mr. — published his scandals of my brother. But he may find himself mistaken. It is too gross to pass even at Norwich. The Clergy, I hear, declare they are satisfied of Mr. John Wesley's unexceptionable character; and the generality of the people are much displeased at the nonsensical tale.‡

* Dr. John Taylor, then resident in Norwich, whose treatise on Original Sin was answered by the Rev. John Wesley.—EDIT.

† James Wheatley.—EDIT.

‡ This appears to refer to the idle tale which the Bishop of Exeter published about this time, and which some Rev. gentleman reprinted at Norwich.—EDIT.

Wed., July 31st. I expounded Isai. xxxii. 1, 2, to a quiet, attentive congregation, who constantly attend, about two hundred of whom seem more and more to know their wants.

At night I laid the axe to the root, and showed them their actual and original corruption from Rev. iii. 17: "Thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." The strong man was disturbed in his palace, and roared on every side. My strength increased with the opposition. A gentleman on horseback gnashed upon me with his teeth; but my voice prevailed, and they retreated to their strong hold, the alehouse. There with difficulty they procured some butchers to appear in their quarrel; yet they had no commission to approach till I had done. Then in the last hymn they made up to the table with great fury. The foremost often lifted up his stick to strike me, being within his reach; but he was not permitted. I stayed to pray for them, and walked quietly to my lodgings. Poor Rabshakeh muttered something about the Bishop of Exeter, but did not accept my invitation to Mr. Edwards's.

I am persuaded more good has been done to-night, than by any of my former discourses. The concern and love of the people for me is much increased by my supposed danger.

We joined together in prayer and thanksgiving, as usual, and I slept in peace.

Thur., August 1st. My morning congregation made me ample amends for last night's tumult; they were so serious, and so affected with the word, Matt. xi. 5: "The blind receive their sight," &c.

When I gave notice of preaching in the evening, I did not know what a riotous day it is. Yet after prayer I went forth, to keep my word, and see if the Lord had any work for me. The hill was covered with drunkards and rioters; but we saw the hand of God turning them aside, and keeping them at a distance. My subject was, "What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" The congregation looked like sheep in the midst of wolves; but the wolves had a bridle in their mouths, and could not hurt or disturb the serious. Satan must

rage ; for his kingdom suffers loss. Many followed me home, with whom I spent some time in prayer.

By the time that the streets are too hot to hold us, we hope our house will be ready.

Fri., August 2d. I spoke comfortably to the sincere from Matt. v. 3, &c. : "Blessed are the poor in spirit : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," &c. A gentleman faced me while I brought all the threatenings of God's word to bear upon him. He often changed colour, in spite of all his diabolical resolution. The poor people were not ashamed to *show* their concern. They felt the word, if he did not, and were melted down through his obduracy.

I am at a loss for a church, Squire D—— having sent his servant to forbid my preaching any more under his wall. I thought of removing my pulpit to Mr. Edwards's door ; but Providence ordered otherwise, by sending such violent rain to-day as flooded the street around us, and filled it up with mud.

It being the fair day, we had a large company of drunkards to wait upon us at seven o'clock. I stood under a window of the Bull. Satan quickly sent me two of his drunken champions, who did all in their power to interrupt me. Their heads were just as high as mine, and one laid his mouth to my ear, and talked almost the whole time. I was forced, in my own defence, to speak as loud and as fast as I could. And they had no power to disturb me, while I applied the most blessed promise, Isai. xxxv. 10 : "The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come with songs unto Zion." Many experienced the power of the Gospel, preached with much contention. The wild beasts of the people were quite tame, while I passed through the midst of them.

Sat., August 3d. I preached Christ the way, and the truth, and the life, with great enlargement, the people assisting me. They seem a people ready prepared of the Lord. He was with us this morning of a truth.

Sun., August 4th. I met the Society at five, with some new members, or rather candidates ; for such I esteem them all. I exhorted them to walk unblamable in all the commandments and ordinances. We had sweet fellowship in singing and prayer.

At seven I expounded blind Bartimeus; and the Lord bowed their hearts who heard. We never had so large a morning congregation, or so serious. The answers of prayer come back upon us. Surely God hath much people in this city.

I breakfasted at Mrs. Overton's, on whose ground Mr. Wheatley's first tabernacle was built. She has offered herself as a candidate of Society, having stayed in the other till sin forced her out. They are above measure displeased with her. She regards it not, but follows on to know the Lord.

I communicated at the cathedral. An elderly Clergyman pointed me at the table to where the Ministers were. The number of communicants begins to increase: a sign we do not make a separation, as a zealous advocate for the Church charged me in going home. I set him right, and he was in a good measure appeased.

Poor James has given them cause for suspicion. He too came to the cathedral at first, as my opponent told me, and pretended to bring others, till he had got so much hold of them as to take them all from it, and turn them Dissenters. How has he increased our difficulties! But the power and blessing of God can set all right.

I met the Society again after dinner, and strongly exhorted them to bring forth fruits meet for repentance.

I was in great heaviness till five, and then invited a huge multitude to the great supper, Luke xiv. 16, &c., and gave an historical account of the Methodists. Some thought our congregation larger than any before, and more serious. A few ragged drunkards stood at a distance, but were not suffered to make a noise till I had done. Then they lifted up their voice, which made me begin again. I exhorted, sang, prayed, and exhorted again. It was a glorious opportunity. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory.

Our house was crowded afterwards. For an hour I spoke, sang, prayed after God. A fair prospect we have of a flourishing Society, such as shall not be ashamed to speak with their enemies in the gate. Every soul present, I am persuaded, felt the nearness of our Lord.

Mon., August 5th. That scripture was fulfilled, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice,

and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me." We knew not how to part: though we never part now without a blessing. Five more gave in their names as candidates for the Society. Two had belonged to it formerly in London and Newcastle. Last night a poor backslider came to me with tears of sincere remorse. He had run well, been a Leader in London, but forsaken the fountain of living water. The Lord has sent after the one lost sheep. I have a hope that he will rise again, to fall no more.

To-day I heard that as soon as I had named my subject yesterday morning, blind Bartimeus, some went away, crying they had heard enough of him from Wheatley. Poor James had attempted that history, and made a lame piece of work, and many others, which straitens me much. I cannot yet preach of my favourite texts, because he has. He has, as much as in him lay, poisoned the fountain, debased the language of God, hardened the people's hearts, pallied their spiritual appetite, and made them even loathe religion and all that belongs to it. Their natural prejudices against the truth are increased. What mountains are these in the way to Christ! They can never flow down but at His presence.

I dined at Lakenham, and returned with Mrs. Galatin to Norwich. Mrs. Overton, a sincere follower after Christ, drank tea with us. We had hardly time for a prayer before we went forth. A gentleman had been with me yesterday, desiring me to vindicate him from the aspersion of disturbing me in preaching. For his satisfaction I preached, contrary to my design, on the hill. The rioters were there in great numbers. I called them to repentance; but they stopped their ears, and ran upon me, casting dirt and stones, &c. I stood it for three quarters of an hour; but it was fighting with beasts. None of us were hurt by their violence, but several frightened. The rebels followed me departing. I turned and faced them. They fled when none pursued. The poor women had the worst of it. The lewd sons of Belial are furnished with weapons enough from the tabernacle, and talk as inspired by their father. Our people were a good deal discouraged, fearing it will grow worse and worse. (We have a Butler here also, a ring-

leader of the rioters.) I endeavoured to hearten them, and exhorted them to greater diligence in prayer. Prayer is our only refuge; and if our hands be steady, Israel shall prevail.

Tues., August 6th. I was forced to rise at two by the cramp, and could not sleep afterwards. At five many sincere souls were comforted by the voice of the good Shepherd: "Fear not, little flock: it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Wed., August 7th. I preached from, "Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God?" &c.

At seven God, in answer to our continual prayer, opened the door in spite of all the powers of darkness. Preaching to this people is indeed threshing the mountains: yet several of them show great hunger for the word.

Thur., August 8th. Our morning hour is always peaceable, and attended with the blessing of the Gospel. The house is filled with the sincere, and the half-awakened listen without.

Mrs. Bridgham called, and warned me of the dear hearers, (as Mr. Wheatley's Society are called,) some of whom she knew intended to come, pretending to condemn him, that they might ensnare me in my words.

I preached a little after six this evening, according to my notice in the morning, and so disappointed most of the rioters. One drunkard was sent to molest us; but the bridle was in his as well as his master's mouth. Many felt the meaning of those awful words, Phil. ii. 9, 10: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in the earth, and things under the earth."

We afterwards returned thanks in the house, and earnestly prayed for the course of the Gospel: as we always do, both before and after preaching.

Fri., August 9th. I rose soon after four. At five the Lord was mightily with us, to confirm his word, Matt. i. 21: "He shall save his people from their sins." Mrs. Br., Mrs. G., with our brother and sister Edwards, joined me in praise and prayer till near seven: a custom we hope, with God's help, to continue.

At six a tumultuous crowd surrounded me, while I cried aloud, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord," &c. Satan visibly laboured in his children to hinder the Gospel; which yet they could not hinder. A poor harlot shrieked out for the first quarter of an hour incessantly. I could hear no word but Wheatley. I turned toward her, and pressed her to enter the kingdom, with her sister harlots; but she did not care to show her face. We heard no more of her. Her allies stood motionless till I dismissed them.

A huge, black, grisly man followed me into the house, whom I took for a collier. He told me he was a tinker, T. Boulton by name, had been in all Mr. Wheatley's riots, and fought for him forty times; that, understanding I should settle here, he came to offer me his service; and would henceforward fight for me. I thanked him for his non-necessary kindness, gave him a word of advice, and a book; and he went away highly satisfied.

I hear it was he that drove away the noisy harlot.

We rejoiced, as usual, in giving God the glory for his overruling providence.

I should not forget, that this morning Mr. — had the modesty to pay us a visit. Mrs. Edwards opened the door, and, seeing him, without speaking a word, bad or good, shut it again.

Sat., August 10th. The Lord prospered his word preached to many listening souls, from Heb. iv. 14—16.

Sun., August 11th. I walked to Norwich by five, and met the Society, to our mutual comfort. At seven our street was filled from end to end. I strongly preached God in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself. He stood by his ambassador, and bowed the hearts of all that heard. We never yet had so open a door. Two or three of the tabernacle mocked at the beginning; but the stream carried them also away before it. This hour and a half has made us amends for our troubles and buffetings. We acknowledged God hearing prayer. Our brethren at London have surely wrestled for us, and prevailed.

We had double the number of communicants at the cathedral. All who are healed by our ministry show

themselves to the Priest, and enter into the temple with us.

I wonder we should miss so long so convenient a place for preaching as our own street is. The Foundery shuts us up at one side, and Mr. Edwards's and his neighbours' houses on the other. Above three thousand may conveniently stand about the door, and twice as many at the end of Hog-hill. Every place was crowded in the evening, while I enforced the faithful and acceptable saying, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. His power beat down all opposition, and cleared his own way into their hearts. All seemed melted down, or broken to pieces, either by the fire or the hammer. The Gospel had FREE COURSE; the word was glorified, and ran very swiftly. Let all who prayed for its success give God praise, and pray on: so shall it mightily prevail over this great wicked city.

Some of the best of the parish, as well as strangers, joined with us for an hour longer in prayer and thanksgiving. I enforced upon them, by particular and close application, both my morning and evening discourse. Such conversation, I find, is more useful than even preaching itself. The Lord was evidently with us in his convincing power.

Mon., August 12th. The house was crowded, both within and without, while I expounded Mark ii. 1, &c., the Lord confirming his word.

Tues., August 13th. I walked to Norwich. Many seem ready to close with Christ, and to come at his call, weary and heavy laden. The more disposed they are to receive the Gospel, the more he opens my mouth to make it known.

At Lakenham I visited, with Mrs. Galatin, a poor creature, lately delivered of a bastard child, and now swiftly hastening to eternity. Neither she, nor the woman who received her into her house, can read. We talked much to little purpose. Only she seemed thankful for the pains we took with her, and desirous we should come and pray with her again.

I got a useful hour in the evening for conversation and prayer with our awakening neighbours.

PART XIII.

FROM SEPTEMBER 17TH, 1756, TO NOVEMBER 5TH, 1756.*

FRIDAY, September 17th, 1756. At seven I left Bristol, with John Downes, and came to Walbridge by two. In the evening several attended the word, and seemed stirred up to watch and pray. I spake to each of the little steady Society. Forty-three have kept together for years, under the care of our brother Watts. There are no disputes or disorders among them. I added a few words, exhorting them to continue steadfast in the communion of the Church of England. We were much refreshed, and parted in great love.

Sat., September 18th. I set out at six, and in three hours reached Cheltenham. The twelve miles thence to Evesham cost us near six hours; but we rode the short, that is, the Vale, way; and have taken our leave of it for ever. By four we got, weary enough, to Mr. Canning's. The preaching-room was full. I exhorted them to watch and pray always, that they might be counted worthy to escape all these things which shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. Again at seven next morning, and at five in the evening, they received my saying, the Lord applying his own word, both to awaken and to confirm.

I went to church morning and afternoon, and, between the services, visited three or four of the Society, who had been disabled, by age and infirmity, from assembling with their brethren; and were therefore neglected, as not belonging to them. I wrote their names again in the Society-book, with Mr. Canning's family, and J. Watson's, who seemed all resolved to do the first works.

I did not forget to confirm the brethren in their calling; that is, to live and die in the Church of England.

Mon., September 20th. After commending them to God, and to the word of his grace, we rode with our loving guide, J. Watson, toward Birmingham. At Studley he left us, full of his former zeal, and resolved to carry fire among his neighbours of the village to which he is removed.

* It is to be regretted that, from August 13th, 1754, to September, 1756, no record of Mr. Charles Wesley's labours has been preserved.
—EDIT.

About two we got to Birmingham, and soon after heard at the door Mr. Ianson's voice. He brought life with him. As a watchman of Israel, I warned a numerous audience of the sword coming. The word seemed to sink into their hearts.

I had not time to meet the Society, but, in conversing with several, I conceived fresh hopes that they will at last become a settled people. Some, who had forsaken us, I received in again.

Tues., September 21st. The Lord gave us a parting blessing. Mr. Ianson's chaise kept pace with us to Ashley, where our brother Adams received us joyfully. The wild beasts here are tamed at least, if not converted. None molested while I pointed them to "the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world." We prayed earnestly for the conversion of these hardened sinners. I was comforted with the little company of twenty-one, who meet to build up each other. Great life and love was in the midst of them.

Wed., September 22d. I warned them of the impending judgments, and left them standing on the watch-tower. We passed a profitable hour at Donington-Park, with Mr. H. Mr. Ianson attended us five or six miles on our way to Nottingham, which we reached by two. I spent the afternoon in taking down the names of the Society, and conversing with them. We rejoiced to meet once more after so long a separation. My subject, both at night and in the morning, was, "I will bring the third part through the fire." It was a time of solemn rejoicing. There had been, twelve months ago, a great revival and increase of the Society: but Satan was beginning again to sow his tares. My coming at this season will, I trust, be the means of preventing a division.

Thur., September 23d. It rained hard all night. John Downes's lame horse detained him at Nottingham, by which the poor people got another sermon. At seven I set out in the rain with a blind guide, who at last blundered out his way to Sheffield. Here also I delivered my own soul, and the people seemed awakened and alarmed. I spake plainly and lovingly to the Society of continuing in the Church; and, though many of them were Dissenters and predestinarians, none were offended.

Fri., September 24th. I had left William Shent sick in Charles-street ; but, to my great surprise, entering brother Green's at Rotherham this morning, the first person I set eyes on was William himself. The Sunday after I left him he had had another fit of his ague ; yet on Monday morning he *would* needs mount his horse, and ride homeward. He had only one visit from his ague on the road, and grew stronger and stronger by virtue of prayer, more than of physic.

When I was last here the Society were on the brink of a separation, through a party for Mr. Wh—— and Mr. Edwards. They proposed it to honest Mr. Cousins, whose opposing quashed it at that time. I then advised them to go to church. The weak and wavering were confirmed ; three or four of the others offended, and said, "I made the church Christ." After preaching as awakening as I could, I plainly told the Society, that "there was no salvation *out of the church* ;" that is, out of the mystical body of Christ, or the company of faithful people. When I had fully explained myself on this head, we were all of one mind and heart. They then *suffered* the word of exhortation, and were even glad when I said unto them, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Sat., September 25th. I encouraged them by that precious promise, "I will bring the third part through the fire ;" and parted in great love. At eight I preached on the same subject at Barley-hall ; and found there the never-failing blessing. I rode on with William Shent, who was threatened last night with the return of his fever. I was at a loss for a companion to York, when, in passing through Hunslet, one called after me. I turned, and saw Mr. Crook,* who told me Dr. Cockburn was at his house, and had waited for me this week, to carry me to York. We lighted, and spent a delightful hour with the Doctor (my old schoolfellow) and him, both in their first love ; both full of life, and zeal, and simplicity. Mr. Crook pressed me to assist him at the morning sacrament.

Sun., September 26th. At seven I preached to the people at Leeds, on, "Thy kingdom come." The disciples lifted up their heads. I walked with Dr. C—— to Hunslet.

* The Curate of Hunslet.—EDIT.

Mr. Crook insisted on my preaching ; which I did again, from the same words. His congregation seemed to make no opposition to the truth. There were hundreds of communicants, mostly of Mr. Crook's awakening.

We passed an hour and an half at his house, with the voice of joy and thanksgiving. Then he pressed me into the service again. His church, which holds nearly as many as our preaching-house, was filled from end to end. At his desire, I preached on those words, "His blood be on us, and on our children." Our Lord turned the curse into a blessing.

I doubted my strength, yet set out for Leeds. The room was excessively crowded, both within and without. I was very faint, as I mentioned my text,—“When these things begin to come to pass, then look up,” &c. My little strength I increased by using it ; and the word refreshed both soul and body. The hearers were variously affected. O that all may be found watching !

I could speak of nothing but love in the Society ; for I felt nothing else. Great was our rejoicing over each other. Satan, I believe, has done his worst, and will get no farther advantage by exasperating their spirits against their departed brethren. They were unanimous to stay in the Church, because the Lord stays in it, and multiplies his witnesses therein, more than in any other Church in Christendom.

Mon., September 27th. I was surprised at the numbers that flocked to the early preaching, and eagerly received that saying of our Lord, “Behold, I come as a thief : blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments.”

I breakfasted with Miss Norton, and found nothing in my heart towards her but love. She was not so evil-affected towards her forsaken brethren as I expected. Nothing can ever bring such as her back, but the “charity which hopeth all things, beareth all things, endureth all things.”

Several came to confer with me, particularly Benjamin S. I had great satisfaction with him. While we were drinking tea at a brother's, Mr. Edwards found me out. We talked freely and lovingly, till the time of preaching. I walked with him to the house. Mr. Crook was another of my hearers. My text was, “His blood be on us, and

on our children." The power of the Lord was present more than yesterday. I went to the Church-prayers, with several who have been long dealt with to forsake them utterly. They will stand the firmer, I hope, for their shaking.

Tues., September 28th. I set out with the Doctor and William Shent for York. The rain brought back poor William's ague. I preached from Hab. iii. 2: "O Lord, revive thy work." The crowd made our room excessively hot; but that did not hinder their attention.

Wed., September 29th. Our Preacher stationed here had quite left off preaching in the morning. Many told me I could not get a congregation at five: but I found it otherwise. The room was almost full while I explained, "Being made free from sin, and become the servants of God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." I insisted largely on freedom from sin, as the lowest mark of faith, and the necessity of labouring after holiness. The hearers appeared much stirred up.

I spent the day in conferring with all comers. The Doctor's house was open to all, and his heart also; his whole desire being to spread the Gospel.

Thur., September 30th. My subject was John v. 14: "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." I warned them against that sweet doctrine, "Once in grace, always in grace," but not in a controversial way; pointed out some of the infinite ways, whereby they might forfeit their pardon. I exhorted them to go to church, that they might be found of Jesus in the temple; and, above all, to pray always, that that word might be written on their hearts, "Go and sin no more."

The day was well spent in making up a difference which the sower of tares had occasioned among the principal members of the Society.

Between six and seven I got the Society together, with many out of the country, and for two hours showed them how they ought to walk. They gladly received instruction.

Fri., October 1st. I preached again to the awakened, and perceived the word take place. I breakfasted with T.

Brook, who has once more left the brethren. I went with him to the minster which he constantly frequents. I met, at his house, Miss T——, earnestly seeking salvation. The means of awakening her was Theron and Aspasio.

I heard that the young woman who cried out last night under convictions, was the same hour delivered into the glorious liberty of God's children.

I passed an hour at Mr. D.'s, and answered his candid objections. I had an opportunity of vindicating my old friend Benjamin Ingham. It is hard a man should be hanged for his looks,—for the *appearance* of Moravianism. Their spirit and practices he has as utterly renounced as we have: their manner and phrase cannot so soon be shaken off.

I found out *Mercy Bell*, and had sweet fellowship with her. I marvel not that the Friends (so fallen from their first simplicity) cannot receive her testimony.

We had a most triumphant watchnight. I began between seven and eight. The enemy did not like our employment, and stirred up his servants without to interrupt us; but our voices prevailed. We sung the "Hymns in a Tumult," with great calmness and consolation. Mr. Williamson's maid was deeply wounded. The shout of a King was in the midst of us; and the people thought it full early to part at eleven.

Sat., October 2d. The whole day was spent in singing, conference, and prayer. I attended the choir service. The people there were marvellously civil, and obliged me with the anthem I desired, Hab. iii., "a feast for a King," as Queen Anne called it. Mr. Williamson walked with me to his house in the face of the sun. I would have spared him; but he was quite above fear. A pious, sensible Dissenter clave to us all day, and accompanied us to the preaching. I discoursed on my favourite subject, "I will bring the third part through the fire." We glorified God in the fire, and rejoiced in hope of coming forth as gold.

Sun., October 3d. From five till near eight I talked closely with each of the Society; then, on Mr. W——n's request, preached on the ordinances from Isai. lxiv. 5: "In those is continuance, and we shall be saved." I dwelt longest on what had been most neglected,—family prayer,

public prayer, and the sacrament. The Lord set to his seal, and confirmed the word with a double blessing. I dismissed them at nine. Our Preachers had often kept them till near ten, and thereby hindered their going to church.

I received the sacrament at the minster. It was a solemn passover. They were forced to consecrate twice, the congregation being doubled and trebled through my exhortations and example. Glory be to God alone! I found great faith to pray for him that consecrated; and heard afterwards that it was Mr. B.; one who had known the Methodists from their rise at Oxford, and was no enemy to them. I expect (if I hold out myself) to meet that soul in paradise.

I went to Mr. W——n's church. He read prayers as one that felt them, and then beckoned me. According to our private agreement, I stepped up into the pulpit, when no one expected it, and cried, to a full audience, "The kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the Gospel." They were all attention. The word did not return void, but accomplished that for which it was sent. Neither is he that planted anything, neither is he that watereth.

Dr. Cockburn carried me in his chair to Acomb. I lost my voice in the rain, and could not, without much straining, cry, "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world." A Clergyman and the gentry of the place were present. The rain dispersed us in half-an-hour. I attempted to meet the Society at York, but could not speak to be heard. We got thereby a longer evening at the hospitable Doctor's. Mr. W. and his family, &c., were helpers of our joy.

Mon., October 4th. I took my leave in the words of the Apostle, "The grace of God which bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us," &c. From hence I strongly pressed the obedience of faith. We parted in body only.

Through God's blessing on my week's stay among them, I hope, 1. Peace and love are restored; 2. They will recover their rising at five; 3. They are brought back again to church, and sacrament, and family prayer.

Dr. Cockburn and his lady attended me to Tadcaster, where I found both voice and strength to point many earnest souls to the all-atoning Lamb. The gentry listened as well as the poor. Both dismissed me with blessings.

It rained as soon as we took horse. We were quickly wet to the skin, the high wind driving the storm full in our faces. I was most concerned for poor William Shent, and forced him to stop at the first house. There I reproved a countryman for swearing, and gave a word of advice, which was kindly taken. We took refuge again at Sea-croft; and enjoyed the last fair hour which brought us to Leeds by two.

I renewed my strength against preaching-time; after which I met the Leaders, and earnestly exhorted them to set a pattern to the flock.

Tues., October 5th. At five I preached in William Shent's shop. I breakfasted at Miss Norton's. There Mr. Edwards* assured me he "had never *desired* any one of our children to leave us." Doubtless they did it of their own mere motion: no one ever dealt or took any pains with them about it. No one ever spoke against the Church to unhinge them. They dropped into his mouth, (as our first children into the Count's,) without his ever suspecting it.

If he has robbed us of our children, I bless God to find he has not robbed us of our peace and love. He several times expressed his readiness to preach in our Societies. I only answered, the people could not trust him, that he would not do in every place as he has done in Leeds.

I endeavoured to treat him with due respect and love, according to our rule, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

I passed the day at Mr. Crook's, who told me his experience. I cannot doubt of his having known the pangs of the new birth. Our brethren question it, because he does not use all their phrases, and cannot follow all their violent counsels. I begged him to do nothing rashly; least of all, to go from his post, preaching everywhere like us.

I drank tea at a sister's, who has been as the troubled sea ever since the separation; and as rough towards all, espe-

* Mr. Edwards left the Methodist ministry, and formed an Independent church in Leeds, of which he became the Pastor.—EDIT.

cially her husband, as Mr. Edwards is smooth. I laboured to quiet her; and she was sensible of the great advantage Satan had gained over her. Alas for the man by whom the offence cometh!

I walked to Hunslet with William Shent, and heard Mr. Crook expound in the church. I dined with him, and was provoked by his zeal. Returning, I found — at my lodgings, and threw away some words on one, wiser in his own eyes than seven men that can render a reason. He entirely justified Mr. Edwards: therefore I can have no confidence in him, that he will not do, were it in his power, as Mr. Edwards has done.

Henry Thornton came to spend an hour or two with us, and we sharpened each other's countenance.

At six I met the Leaders, and inquired into the behaviour of each member of the Society. Upwards of forty Mr. Edwards has carried off; but not by *desiring* any to leave us. I carried them with me to prayers, and wished them to follow my example, by carrying the whole Society to church with them.

I returned to the room, and explained the believer's privilege, 1 Peter i.: "Kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation."

Thur., October 7th. After a most tempestuous night, I preached to a few, whom the hurricane could not keep from the word.

I had more talk with —, who frankly confessed, "if any of our Societies should desire him to take charge of them, as a distinct body, he should not refuse them." I told him plainly, that the ground of all such designs was pride: but my words were spoken into the air.

After church I set out in a storm for Seacroft; and rode on to Aberford. My old friend Mr. Ingham was labouring in the vineyard; but I had the happiness to find Lady Margaret at home, and their son Ignatius. She informed me that his round takes in above four hundred miles; that he has six fellow-labourers, and one thousand souls in his Societies, most of them converted. I sincerely rejoiced in his success. Ignatius would hardly be pacified at my not preaching. We passed an hour and an half very profitably, and set out again. The rain met and drove us to a tree for

shelter. We narrowly missed several heavy showers, and got safe back to Seacroft before night.

Soon after, our dearest brother Grimshaw found us, and brought a blessing with him. I preached from Luke xxi. : "Take heed to yourselves," &c. ; and farther enforced our Lord's warning on the Society. I strongly exhorted them to continue steadfast in fellowship with each other, and the whole Church of England. Our hearts were comforted and knit together.

Fri., October 8th. We had another blessed hour with them, before we left this lively people. I continued till one in conference with my worthy friend and fellow-labourer,—a man after my own heart ! whose love of the Church flows from his love of Christ. With such may my lot be cast in both worlds !

We spent an hour in intercession for the Church and nation. I exhorted the many persons present to continue instant in this prayer, and mark the answer and the end.

I rode with my faithful brother Grimshaw to Bramley. I preached in a large barn (now a convenient chapel) to a multitude of serious souls, who eagerly received our Lord's saying, "Look up, and lift up your heads," &c. They all seemed broad awake, when I called again in the morning, (Saturday, October 9th,) "Watch ye, therefore, and pray always," &c. Their spirit quickened mine. We had sweet fellowship together. I have no doubt but they will be counted worthy to escape, and to stand before the Son of man.

Returning to Leeds, I met my brother Whitefield, and was much refreshed by the account of his abundant labours. I waited on him to our room, and gladly sat under his word. I preached myself at Rothwell. Their large house was full, though it was an harvest-day. I warned them of the impending storm, with much freedom and faith for the sincere ; concluding with a warm exhortation to continue in the ship.

Sun., October 10th. From Isai. lxiv. 5, "In those is continuance, and we shall be saved," I earnestly pressed the duties of constant communicating, of hearing, reading, practising the word, of fasting, of private, family, and public prayer. The Society I advised to continue in fel-

lowship, and never more give place to the sower of tares, the divider of the brethren. I spoke healingly of the breach; told them how to behave toward Mr. Skelton,* and the rest who have rose up to draw away disciples after them; and insisted on that apostolical precept, "Let all your things be done in charity." I did not mention the author of the late division, being convinced he left us for bread.

The Spirit of love and union was in the midst of us. I came to Birstal before noon. My congregation was less by a thousand or two, through George Whitefield's preaching to-day at Haworth. Between four and five thousand were left to receive my warning from Luke xxi. After church we met again. Every soul seemed to hang on the word. Two such precious opportunities I have not enjoyed this many a day. It was the old time revived. A weighty spirit ran through the congregation; and they stood like men prepared to meet the Lord.

Mon., October 11th. After preaching at five to this solid people, I returned to Leeds, and spent an hour with the Leaders. They informed me that my late exhortations have stopped some who were on the point of going over to Mr. Edwards's Society, and brought others back to the Church-ordinances. A woman, in particular, after hearing me on Sunday morning, went to church, which she had long forsaken, and received a manifestation of Jesus Christ in the prayers. I earnestly pressed them to recommend to their brethren, both by advice and example, the neglected duties of family and public prayer; and to watch over the flock with all diligence.

Hearing Mr. Whitefield and Mr. Grimshaw were returning to our watchnight, I waited for them at their lodgings, with zealous, humble, loving Mr. Crook. It rained so hard, that Mr. Whitefield was agreeably surprised at eight to find our house as full as it could cram. They forced me to preach first; which I did from Zech. xiii.: "The third part I will bring through the fire." My brother George

* Charles Skelton was another of the Methodist Preachers, who at this time formed an Independent church out of the Methodist Societies, of which he became the Pastor. He settled in Southwark.
—EDIT.

seconded me in the words of our Lord: "I say unto all, Watch." The prayers and hymns were all attended with a solemn power. Few, if any, I hope, went unawakened away.

Tues., October 12th. I took my leave of Leeds in prayer at William Shent's. Some having ascribed the division to him, I examined that matter to the bottom, having talked largely with all parties, especially Miss Norton and Mr. Edwards himself. Upon the whole, I am convinced that the ground of all was, Miss Norton's hatred to William Shent. This induced her to draw away Mr. Edwards from us. He could not resist the temptation of a certain provision for his family. Interest blinded his eyes, so that the means to his end seemed right and honest to him, though base and treacherous to us. As for William Shent, I do not find he did more than every upright man would have done on the occasion. He watched to counteract them who were daily seducing our children. He gave early notice to my brother of their design, and thereby drew all their resentment upon himself; as every honest Preacher will *qui cum ingeniis conflictatur ejusmodi*. Since the separation (Mr. Edwards's friend informed me) he has behaved with such mildness and discretion, as has kept the rest of the flock together, when violence or harsh treatment might have scattered them all.

I preached in Wakefield at ten, to a quieter audience than I have ever met with there.

I took a friendly leave of Miss Norton, who assured me some of our ablest Preachers were entirely in Mr. Edwards's interest. *Nec nihil, nec omnia*.

I rode to Joseph Bennet's, near Dewsbury, and preached very awakeningly to a mixed, attentive congregation. My vehement exhortation to the Society was on the usual subject, "Continuance in the word," and in prayers, family and public. I passed the evening with Jonas E—d. I would gladly part with five hundred Methodists, to be ordained, and useful like him.

Wed., October 13th. The word at Birstal was clothed with power, both to awaken and to confirm. My principal concern is for the disciples, that their houses may be built on the rock, before the rains descend. I hear in most

places the effect of the word ; but I hearken after it less than formerly, and take little notice of those who say they receive comfort, or faith, or forgiveness. Let their fruits show.

I preached at night, and rejoiced in steadfast hope of being brought through the fire.

Thur., October 14th. I baptized a Dissenter's child, and set out with faithful Titus Knight for Halifax. A mixed multitude listened to the word : "When thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." I have not found so great freedom in any place as this, where I expected least.

I set out in hard rain for Bradford. My subject there was Hab. iii. 2: "O Lord, revive thy work," &c. Many Dissenters were present : some of them, I believe, were reached ; for I spake in irresistible love, and warned them to flee from the wrath to come.

Fri., October 15th. After preaching, I gathered into the fold a wandering sheep, whom J. Wh—d's pride and folly had scattered. Having lost her first love, she married an unconverted man ; whereupon the Society gave her up for lost. I rejoiced to find her miserable in prosperity, and restless to recover her only happiness.

I found comfort in the first lesson at church. (Wisdom v.) I could be glad to attend the public prayer constantly, for my own, as well as for example's, sake.

The preaching-house was filled with those that came from far. Our Lord did not send them empty away. A girl of fourteen (who had walked from Birstal) told me, she seemed carried under the word, as out of the body. What to call the manifestation of the Spirit then given her, time and temptation will show.

Near two hours more we rejoiced at a primitive love-feast.

Sat., October 16th. I breakfasted again with my lost sheep that is found, for whose sake chiefly I believe myself sent to Bradford. Last night at the love-feast she recovered her shield. I took my leave of the brethren in that promise, "He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved." I rode with faithful Thomas Colbeck to Keighley.

I found at four a large, handsome room well filled. I

did my office as a watchman, and delivered my own soul. Mr. Grimshaw assisted at the Society. I recommended family-religion with all my might. For near an hour and an half the cloud stayed on the assembly.

Sun., October 17th. We had no room to spare at six in the morning, while I commended them to God, and to the word of his grace. I preached a second time at Haworth, (Mr. Grimshaw reading prayers,) from Psalm xlii. 8: "O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord, what destruction he hath brought on the earth. He maketh wars to cease in all the world," &c. My mouth was opened to declare the approaching judgments, and the glory which shall follow, when the Lord is exalted in all the earth. The church, which had been lately enlarged, could scarce contain the congregation; who seemed all to tremble at the threatenings, or rejoice in the promises, of God.

We had a blessed number of communicants, and the Master of the feast in the midst. I prayed and exhorted afterwards. Our hearts were lifted up to meet Him in his glorious kingdom.

After an hour's interval we met again, as many as the church-walls could contain; but twice the number stood without, till the prayers were over. Then I mounted a scaffold, and, lifting up my eyes, saw the fields white unto harvest. We had prayed for a fair day, and had the petitions we asked. The church-yard, which will hold thousands, was quite covered. God gave me a voice to reach them all. I warned them of those things which shall come to pass, and warmly pressed them to private, family, and public prayer; enlarged on the glorious consequences thereof, even deliverance from the last plagues, and standing before the Son of man. I concluded, and began again; for it was an accepted time. I do not remember when my mouth has been more opened, or my heart more enlarged.

A young Preacher of Mr. Ingham's came to spend the evening with me at Mr. Grimshaw's. I found great love for him, and wished all *our* sons in the Gospel were equally modest and discreet.

Mon., October 18th. He accompanied us to Heptonstal; where I preached at ten on Isai. lxiv. 5: "In those is continuance, and we shall be saved." I was very faint when

I began : the more plainly did it appear that the power was not of man, but of God. I warned them of the wiles of the devil, whereby he would draw them away from the Church, and the other means of grace. I spake as the oracles of God, and God gave testimony, bowing the hearts of all present, except a few bigoted Baptists. We went on our way rejoicing to Ewood.

There the hard rain cut short my discourse from Ezek. ix. Mr. Allen could not leave us yet ; but rode with us next morning (Tuesday, October 19th) as far as Gawksholm. I stood on a scaffold at the foot of a *Welsh* mountain, having all the people in front, and called, "Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world." The word was as a two-edged sword. I knew not then, that several Baptists were present, a carnal, cavilling, contentious sect, always watching to steal away our children, and make them as dead as themselves. Mr. Allen informed me that they have carried off no less than fifty out of one Society, and that several Baptist meetings are wholly made out of old Methodists. I talked largely with Mr. Grimshaw, how to remedy the evil. We agreed, 1. That nothing can save the Methodists from falling a prey to every seducer but close walking with God, in all the commandments and ordinances, especially the word and prayer, private, family, and public ; 2. That the Preachers should be allowed more time in every place, to visit from house to house, after Mr. Baxter's manner ; 3. That a small treatise be written, to ground and preserve them against seducers, and lodged in every family.

We came to Bolton with the night. Above forty of this poor shattered people still keep together. Many of those without flocked to the word. In great bodily weakness I warned them to fly to the city of refuge ; tried to calm the spirits of our children ; and we were comforted together through hope of our Lord's appearing.

Wed., October 20th. I talked kindly to poor J. Whitford, who seemed quite sick of his separate congregation, so headstrong and untractable ; so like their humble slave and teacher ! His principles as well as spirit have cut off his retreat :

— *Vestigia nulla retrorsum,*

when once a Methodist Preacher has abused both ours and our children's confidence, by setting up for himself. This he could never think of, till the salt had lost its savour.

The rain quickened our pace to Manchester. I took up my lodgings at Mr. Philips's. My subject at night was, "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up." Many Arian and Socinian Dissenters were present, and gnashed upon me with their teeth, while I preached the coming of Jesus Christ, the one eternal self-existing God, to take vengeance on them, and on all his enemies, who would not have him to reign over them.

Thur., October 21st. I finished my discourse to our Lord's disciples. I parted with my right hand, my brother and bosom-friend, Grimshaw. I breakfasted at Mrs. F.'s, and rejoiced to find that, though she had left us, she had not utterly forsaken God. Her soul has suffered loss; yet her good desires remain. Here my old friend J. Bolton found me out, and confirmed his love to me.

From church I went to dine with our sister Rider, still waiting for the Consolation of Israel. I drank tea with Dr. Byrom, and was hard put to it to defend my brother's book against Mr. Law. We got at last to a better subject, and parted, not without a blessing.

At night I discoursed on Titus ii. 11. I spoke close and home on practical faith and relative duties; but more closely still to the Society.

It seems the famous Mr. Roger Ball is now among them, picking up their pence and their persons. They were snit with admiration of so fine a man, (Thomas Williams himself was nothing to him,) and invited him to settle with them. Another new Preacher they have also got, a young Baptist, who is gathering himself a meeting out of them, like the Baptist teachers who have borrowed so many of Mr. Grimshaw's children. Our Society in Manchester was upward of two hundred; but their itching ears have reduced them to half the number.

To these I showed the melancholy state of the members of the Established Church, who are the most unprincipled and ignorant of all that are called Protestants; and therefore exposed to every seducer who thinks it worth his while to turn them Dissenters, Moravians, or Papists. I

told them, "Of all the members of the Church of England the poor Methodists are most exposed, because serious, and therefore worth stealing; and of all the Methodists those of Manchester are in the greatest danger, because the most unsettled and unadvisable." I challenged them to show me one Methodist who had ever prospered by turning Dissenter. I asked, what would become of them when my brother should die; whether they would not then be scattered, and broken into twenty sects, old and new. To prevent this, I advised them, 1. To get grace, or the love and power of God, which alone could keep and stablish their hearts; 2. To continue in all the means of obtaining this, especially the word, and prayer of all kinds; to read the Scriptures daily; to go constantly to church and sacrament.

I make more allowance for this poor shattered Society, because they have been sadly neglected, if not abused, by our Preachers. The Leaders desired me not to let — come among them again; for he did them more harm than good, by talking in his *witty way* against the Church and Clergy. As for poor —, he *could* not advise them to go to church, for he never went himself; but some informed me, that he advised them *not* to go. When we set the wolf to keep the sheep, no wonder that the sheep are scattered.

Our brother Johnson tells me, since he sent the people back to church, two have received forgiveness in the prayers there; and two more in the sermon of a Church Minister. There are now three sound Preachers in these parts. If they continue steadfast, they may undo the great evil which the unsound Preachers have done, and confirm our children in their calling.

I cannot leave them in so unsettled a condition; and therefore intend, with God's leave, to spend another week among them. I talked with the Leaders, and earnestly pressed them to set an example to the flock, by walking in all the commandments and ordinances.

I wrote my thoughts to my brother as follows:—

"Mr. Walker's letter deserves to be seriously considered. One only thing occurs to me now, which might prevent in great measure the mischiefs which will probably ensue after our death; and that is, *greater, much greater delibera-*

tion and care in admitting Preachers. Consider seriously, if we have not been too easy and too hasty in this matter. Let us pray God to show us, if this has not been the principal cause, why so many of our Preachers have lamentably miscarried. Ought any new Preacher to be received before we know that he is grounded, not only in the doctrines we teach, but in the discipline also, and particularly in the communion of the Church of England? Ought we not to try what he can answer a Baptist, a Quaker, a Papist, as well as a Predestinarian or Moravian? If we do not insist on that *σφοδρῇ* for our desolate mother as a pre-requisite, yet should we not be well assured that the candidate is no enemy to the Church?

"Is it not our duty to stop J. C., and such like, from railing and laughing at the Church? Should we not now, at least, shut the stable-door? The short remains of my life are devoted to this very thing, to follow our sons (as C. P. told me we should you) with buckets of water, to quench the flame of strife and division, which they have or may kindle."

Fri., October 22d. After preaching I talked with several of the Society, particularly a young woman, who seemed quite overwhelmed with the love of Christ, which she received yesterday in private prayer. I went to St. Anne's prayers, and thence to the room. We began our first hour of intercession. Many more than I expected were present. I gave an exhortation, showing the end of our meeting every Friday, as Englishmen and members of the Church of England, to deprecate the national judgments, and to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. I have rarely known so solemn an assembly. They were pleased to hear, that we design to continue meeting every week.

I went thence to seek that which was lost, poor H. O. He made me very happy by his misery, and restlessness to return. Once more, I trust, there will be joy in heaven over him.

I began in the evening to expound the whole armour of God, Eph. vi. After I had done, the famous Mr. Ball lifted up his voice; and a magnificent voice it was. I bade our people depart in peace, which they did. The enemy roared some time in the midst of the room, (not congre-

tion,) threatening me, for scandalizing him, and depriving his family of their bread. I believe he is defrauded of his prey through my coming *in ipso temporis articulo*, when he promised himself a good provision out of our Society. No wonder Satan rages at his disappointment.

I met the Society in calm love. There was no farther need of my mentioning Satan's apostle ; for he has sufficiently showed himself. The snare is thereby broken, and the simple souls delivered. I lovingly exhorted them to stand fast in one mind and one spirit, in the old paths or ways of God's appointing. Henceforth they will not believe every spirit. The Lord stablish their hearts with grace !

Experience convinces me more and more, that the Methodists can never prosper, or even stand their ground, unless they continue steadfast in the ordinances. The Society here used to be scattered on the Lord's day in the fields, or sleeping in their houses. This invited all the beasts of the forest to devour them. Suffice the time that is past. We are not ignorant now of Satan's devices.

Sat., October 23d. I proceeded to expound the whole armour of God. We were a little too early for Mr. Ball and his friends, two of whom last night had laid violent hands on me. One *was* a sister of ours till her curiosity betrayed her into the hands of Mr. Ball.

I breakfasted at brother Barlow's, and rejoiced in the remembrance of his blessed sister, now in glory. For seven years she adorned the Gospel in all things.

I took horse with brother Phillips for Hatfield, which we reached by one. The sun shone all day without a cloud, to the great comfort of the poor husbandmen. I found at Hatfield just such a family as *was* once at Fonmon-castle. The master indeed was absent, but had left word that his church and house expected me.

I preached at seven to an house-full of the parishioners, on, "Repent ye, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out," &c. I did not spare them. They bore my plain speaking. The awakened were much comforted.

The voice of joy and thanksgiving is in the habitations of the righteous. I thought I was got back to Mr. Jones's

castle. We continued our triumph two hours longer, and could hardly part at last, and not without grudging our bodies their necessary rest.

Sun., October 24th. I spent from seven to eight in advising and praying with the sincere, whom Mr. B—— has divided into classes like ours. I read prayers at ten, and preached the one thing needful. The Lord filled my mouth with awakening words. I never spake more convincingly. All seemed to feel the sharp two-edged sword.

The church was fuller than was ever known in a morning; but in the afternoon it was crowded every corner of it. I tasted the good word while reading it. Indeed the Scripture comes with double weight to me in a church. If any pity me for my bigotry, I pity them for their blind prejudice, which robs them of so many blessings.

My text was Lam. i. 12: "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold," &c. The love of Christ crucified melted many hearts. I addressed myself by turns to the unawakened, the sincere, and the backsliders. For an hour God enabled me to speak with convincing and comforting power. After the Psalm I began again, and recapitulated the whole. Why does God always accompany the word with a double blessing when preached in the church? Is it a sign that he is leaving or that he is returning to it? I have never been more assisted since I left Bristol, than in this church, and Mr. Crook's, and Mr. Williamson's. Those of the Methodist Preachers who have faith and patience, may, by and by, have all the churches in England opened to them. I got another blessed, lively hour with the Society. Then my whole stock of strength was exhausted.

Mon., October 25th. From six to seven I warned and exhorted them with many tears, tasting the bitterness of life, and the various evils we are still to be brought through. By eleven I returned to Manchester.

Here I rejoiced to hear of the great good Mr. Whitefield has done in our Societies. He preached as universally as my brother. He warned them everywhere against apostasy; and strongly insisted on the necessity of holiness *after* justification, illustrating it with this comparison: "What good would the King's pardon do a poor malefactor dying

of a fever? So, notwithstanding you have received forgiveness, unless the disease of your nature be healed by holiness, ye can never be saved." He beat down the separating spirit, highly commended the prayers and services of our Church, charged our people to meet their bands and classes constantly, and never to leave the Methodists, or God would leave them. In a word: he did his utmost to strengthen our hands, and deserves the thanks of all the churches, for his abundant labour of love.

I consulted the Leaders what could be done for this unstable people. Richard Barlow and the rest ascribed their fickleness to their neglect of the means, particularly going to church; "and when we advised them to it, they would answer us, 'The Preachers do not advise us to go, neither do they go themselves.'" Nay, some spoke against it, even those we most confided in. My brother and I must wink very hard not to see the hearts of such men.

Tues., October 26th. My *former* friend Mr. Clayton read prayers at the old church, with great solemnity.

I spent the day in writing letters at sister Fanshaw's, whom I have received again into the fold. She had never left us in heart; but the cares of the world interrupted her outward fellowship. She seems now resolved to live and die with the poor afflicted people of God.

I made up a quarrel of many months' standing between two sisters. The occasion of it was absolutely nothing. Such is the subtlety of our adversary!

After preaching I examined three of the most wavering classes, and persuaded all, except the Dissenters, to go back to church and sacrament. The treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously. Even *before* our departure the grievous wolves are entered in, not sparing the flock. How much more, *after* our departure, will men arise of ourselves, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them!

Wed., October 27th. I preached from Rom. vi. 22: "But now being made free from sin, and become the servants of God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." The Lord confirmed his word with a double blessing.

I went, with J. Haughton, to the old church, as usual. I preached at six; then met, and lovingly reprov'd, the

Society. I talked with more of the classes, and could find only two who would not take advice. Amalek had smote the hindmost: so I let Amalek take them, at least while they prefer Mr. Ball to all the Methodists. The rest, a few Dissenters excepted, determined to live and die with us in the communion of the Church of England.

Thur., October 28th. Mr. Fanshaw dragged his feeble body to the early preaching. After all his wanderings and backslidings, we have received him again, as we trust, for ever.

I preached at noon near Davy-Hulme, with great enlargement, to a simple-hearted people, who made me some amends for my long exercise at Manchester.

I passed the remainder of the day with some Manchester friends, who are not of the Society. The unsteadiness of our children has kept many from venturing among us.

I began our watchnight exactly at seven, and concluded a quarter before eleven. Hereby we had more time with less inconvenience; and the whole congregation stayed from first to last. I expounded the ten virgins. The solemn power of God rested upon us. It was one of the happiest nights I have known.

I was constrained to write the following letters:—

TO MR. GRIMSHAW.

“Manchester, October 29th.

“I COULD not leave this poor shattered Society so soon as I proposed. They have not had fair play from our treacherous sons in the Gospel; but have been scattered by them as sheep upon the mountains. I have once more persuaded them to go to church and sacrament, and stay to carry them thither the next Lord’s day.

“Nothing but grace can keep our children, after our departure, from running into a thousand sects, a thousand errors. Grace, exercised, kept up, and increased in the use of all the means, especially family and public prayer, and sacrament, will keep them steady. Let us labour, while we continue here, to ground and build them up in the Scriptures, and all the ordinances. Teach them to handle well the sword of the Spirit, and the shield of faith. Should I live to see you again, I trust you will assure me, there is not a member of all your Societies but reads the

Scripture daily, uses private prayer, joins in family and public worship, and communicates constantly. 'In those is continuance, and we shall be saved.'"

"TO MY BELOVED BRETHREN AT LEEDS, &c.

"GRACE and peace be multiplied! I thank my God, on your behalf, for the grace which is given unto you, by which ye stand fast in one mind and in one spirit. My Master, I am persuaded, sent me unto you at this time to confirm your souls in the present truth, in your calling, in the old paths of Gospel-ordinances. O that ye may be a pattern to the flock for your unanimity and love! O that ye may continue steadfast in the word, and in fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers, (private, family, and public,) till we all meet around the great white throne!

"I knew beforehand that the Sanballats and Tobiahs would be grieved when they heard there was a man come to seek the welfare of the Church of England. I expected they would pervert my words, as if I should say, '*The Church could save you.*' So, indeed, you and they thought, till I and my brethren taught you better, and sent you *in* and *through* all the means to Jesus Christ. But let not their slanders move you. Continue in the old ship. Jesus hath a favour for our Church; and is wonderfully visiting and reviving his work in her. It shall be shortly said, 'Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her.' (Isai. lxvi. 10, &c.)

"Blessed be God, ye see your calling. Let nothing hinder your going constantly to church and sacrament. Read the Scriptures daily in your families, and let there be a church in every house. The word is able to build you up; and if ye watch and pray always, ye shall be counted worthy to stand before the Son of man.

"Watch ye, therefore, stand fast in the faith, quit yourselves like men, be strong: let all your things be done in love. I rejoice in hope of presenting you all in that day. Look up, for your eternal redemption draweth near."

As the people here leave work at twelve, we pitched upon that hour for our intercession. Many flocked to the

house of mourning ; and again the Lord was in the midst of us, making soft our hearts, and helping our infirmity to pray. We never want faith in praying for King George, and the Church of England.

I recovered another straggler ; as I do every day. The enemy has had a particular grudge to this Society. His first messenger to them was a *still sister*, who abounded in visions and revelations. She came to them as in the name of the Lord, and forbade them to pray, sing, or *go to church*. Her extravagance at last opened their eyes, and delivered them from the snare of mysticism. Then the Quakers, the predestinarians, the dippers, desired to have them to sift them like wheat. They were afterwards thrust sore at by Mr. Bennet, Williams, Wheatley, Cudworth, Whitford, Ball. It is a miracle that two of them are left together ; yet, I am persuaded, the third part will be brought through the fire.

I examined more of the Society. Most of them have known the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ : several received it at church ; one in the Litany, another in the Lord's Prayer. With that word, "Thy kingdom come," Christ came into his heart. To many he has been made known in the breaking of bread.

Sat., October 30th. I dined with my candid friend and censor Dr. Byrom. I stood close to Mr. Clayton in church, (as all the week past,) but not a look would he cast towards me ;

"So stiff was his parochial pride,"

and so faithfully did he keep his covenant with his eyes, not to look upon an old friend when called a Methodist.

Sun., October 31st. I spake from five to seven with the rest of the classes. I left out Richard Glover, with his second wife, whom he has married, contrary to my advice, when his first was scarce cold in her grave. This scandalous practice, seldom named among the Heathen, should never be tolerated among Christians. I refused tickets to James and Eliz. Ridgworth, till they should have enough of Mr. Ball. All the others were willing to follow my advice, and go constantly to church and sacrament. The Dissenters I sent to their respective meetings.

At seven I found freedom to explain and enforce Isai. lxiv. 5: "In those is continuance, and we shall be saved." It struck eight before I had got half through my subject.

I breakfasted with a wanderer, and brought him back to his brethren. We were all at the old church; heard a good sermon from Mr. Clayton on constant prayer; and joined to commemorate our dying Lord. Mr. M——, the senior Chaplain, sent for me up to the table, to administer first to me, with the other Clergy. I know not when I have received a greater blessing. The addition of fourscore communicants made them consecrate twice or thrice. A few of our Dissenting brethren communicated with us, and confessed to me afterwards, that the Lord met them at his table. It was a passover much to be remembered. We renewed our solemn covenant with God, and received fresh strength to run the race set before us.

I dined at Adam Oldham's. The first *was* become last; but is now, I hope, becoming first again. I re-admitted both him and his wife into the Society, with several others, who were fallen off.

From the new church I walked to our crowded room; and once more *preached up* the ordinances. Now the long-delayed blessing came: the skies as it were poured down righteousness. The words I spoke were not my own; therefore they made their way into many hearts.

I received double power to exhort the Society, (now upwards of one hundred and fifty members,) and *believed for them* that they will henceforth walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Mon., November 1st. I met about a score of the Dissenters at four, and administered the Lord's supper, to the great consolation of us all.

I took my leave in the promise we wait for, "I will bring the third part through the fire;" and left a blessing behind me. Mr. Philips attended me as far as Stone. The heavens smiled upon us all day.

Tues., November 2d. I took horse at seven, and came safe by two to my old friend Francis Ward, in Wednesday.

At night I enforced the divine counsel, Isai. xxvi. 20: "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut

thy doors about thee : hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity."

I found much freedom of love among my oldest children, and they readily received my warnings ; which I repeated the next morning (Wednesday, November 3d) from Psalm xlv. I employed the morning in visiting the sick and shut up. Three or four stragglers I gathered in. I comforted our sister Spittle, left with five small children by her husband, who was lately killed in a coal-pit, by the earth falling in. No death could be sudden to him. John Eaton was killed by falling into a pit. His daughter Edge told me, she was warned by a repeated dream of his death ; and begged him in vain not to go out that morning.

While I was talking with her, a woman came in, and accosted me in such a bold, violent manner, that I told her I did not like her spirit. This raised and called it forth. She quickly *showed* herself a Nicolaitan, by her boisterous, shocking Antinomian *assurance*. I told her she was a false witness for God ; to which she horribly answered, "If I am a liar, God himself is a liar." I shut up the discourse with, "Get thee behind me, Satan !"

I was much assisted, both at one and at seven, to warn many listening souls of the flood coming. There was great life in the Society. *All* the first, I am confident, shall not become last.

Thur., November 4th. I left that promise upon their hearts, "I will bring the third part through the fire ;" and took horse with James Jones. I encouraged the remnant at Birmingham with the same words ; and rode on to Worcester.

About a score I had left here some years ago ; twelve of whom are fallen off to the Quakers, seeking the living among the dead. I described the last times to between forty and fifty at our sister Blackmore's ; and it was a solemn time of refreshing.

Fri., November 5th. I set out before day with faithful John Dornford. We lodged at Cambridge inn ; and, by eleven on Saturday morning, November 6th, God brought me safe to my friends in Bristol.

THE REV. CHARLES WESLEY'S ACCOUNT OF HIS TWO SONS.

CHARLES was born December 11th, 1757. He was two years and three quarters old, when I first observed his strong inclination to music. He then surprised me by playing a tune readily, and in just time. Soon after, he played several, whatever his mother sung, or whatever he heard in the streets.

From his birth she used to quiet and amuse him with the harpsichord; but he would never suffer her to play with one hand only, taking the other and putting it on the keys, before he could speak. When he played himself, she used to tie him up by his back-string to the chair, for fear of his falling. Whatever tune it was, he always put a true bass to it. From the beginning he played without study, or hesitation; and, as the learned declared, perfectly well.

Mr. Broadrip* heard him in petticoats, and foretold he would one day make a great player. Whenever he was called to play to a stranger, he would ask, in a word of his own, "Is he a musicker?" and if answered, "Yes," he played with all readiness.

He always played *con spirito*. There was something in his manner above a child, which struck the hearers, whether learned or unlearned.

At four years old I carried him with me to London. Mr. Beard† was the first that confirmed Mr. Broadrip's

* His name is spelled Broderip in the Dictionary of Musicians, two volumes, 8vo., London, 1825. He is there said to have been of Bristol, and "was a good composer of Protestant church music."
—EDIT.

† He was an English singer of great celebrity, having a rich tenor voice. His second wife was the daughter of Mr. Rich, the patentee of Covent-garden theatre. The mother of this lady, it will be recollected, received the truth under Mr. Charles Wesley's ministry, and was long his personal friend. In this way the introduction of young Wesley to the great professional vocalist is easily accounted for (Dictionary of Musicians.)—EDIT.

judgment of him, and offered to get him admitted among the King's singing-boys; but I had then no thoughts of bringing him up a musician.

A gentleman carried him next to Mr. Stanley,* who expressed his pleasure and surprise at hearing him, and declared he had never met one of his age with so great a propensity to music. The gentleman told us he never before believed what Handel used to tell him of himself, and his own love of music, in his childhood.

Mr. Madan† presented my son to Mr. Worgan,‡ who was extremely kind to him, and, as I then thought, partial. He told us he would prove an eminent master, if he was not taken off by other studies. He frequently entertained him on the harpsichord. Charles was greatly taken with his bold, full manner of playing, and seemed even then to catch a spark of his fire.

At our return to Bristol, we left him to ramble on till he was near six. Then we gave him Mr. Rooke for a master: a man of no name, but very goodnatured; who let him run on *ad libitum*, while he sat by, more to observe than to control him.

Mr. Rogers, the oldest organist in Bristol, was his first and very great friend. He often set him upon his knee, and made him play to him, declaring he was more delighted to hear him than any of his scholars, or himself.

I always saw the importance (if he was to be a musician) of placing him under the best master that could be got, and

* John Stanley, bachelor of music, lost his sight when he was two years old, by falling on a marble hearth with a china bason in his hand. Few professors have spent a more active life in every branch of his art than this extraordinary musician, who was not only a most neat, pleasing, and accurate performer, but a natural and agreeable composer, and an intelligent instructor. (Dictionary of Musicians.) —EDIT.

† Minister of the Lock Hospital.—EDIT.

‡ Worgan was a doctor of music, and was greatly admired, both as an organist and composer. As his body was carried for interment into the church of St. Mary Axe, London, "Mr. Charles Wesley, one of his favourite pupils, played the *Dead March in Saul* on the organ; and the instrument, which in the doctor's time had fascinated thousands, thundered forth a volley, as its unconscious master descended into the grave." —EDIT.

also one who was an admirer of Handel, as my son preferred him to all the world. But I saw no likelihood of my being ever able to procure him the first masters, or of purchasing the most excellent music, and other necessary means of acquiring so costly an art.

I think it was at our next journey to London, that Lady Gertrude Hotham heard him with much satisfaction, and made him a present of all her music. Mrs. Rich had before given him Handel's songs; and Mr. Beard, Scarlatti's Lessons, and Purcell. Sir Charles Hotham was particularly fond of him; promised him an organ, and that he should never want any means or encouragement in the pursuit of his art. But he went abroad soon after, and was thence translated to the heavenly country.

With him Charles lost all hope and prospect of a benefactor. Nevertheless, he went on with the assistance of nature, and his two favourite authors, Handel and Corelli, till he was ten years old. Then Mr. Rogers told me it was high time to put him in trammels; and soon after, Mr. Granville at Bath, an old friend of Handel's, sent for him. After hearing him, he charged him to have nothing to do with any great master; "who will utterly spoil you," he added, "and destroy anything that is original in you. Study Handel's Lessons, till perfect in them. The only man in London who *can* teach you them is Kelway; * but he *will* not, neither for love nor money."

Soon after we went up to town. Charles, notwithstanding Mr. Granville's caution, had a strong curiosity to hear the principal masters there. I wanted their judgment and advice for him. Through Mr. Bromfield's recommendation, he first heard Mr. Keeble, (a great lover of Handel,) and his favourite pupil Mr. Burton. Then he played to them. Mr. Burton said "he had a very brilliant finger:" Mr. Keeble, that "he ought to be encouraged by all the lovers of music; yet he must not expect it, because he was not born in Italy." He advised him to pursue his studies of Latin, &c., till he was fourteen, and then to apply himself in earnest to harmony.

* Joseph Kelway was the organist of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. His playing was so excellent, that Handel is said to have often gone to the church for the purpose of hearing him.—EDIT.

Mr. Arnold * treated him with the utmost affection ; said, he would soon surpass the masters ; and advised him not to confine himself to any one author, but study what was excellent in all.

Dr. Arne's † counsel was, like Mr. Keeble's, to stay till he was fourteen, and then deliver himself up to the strictest master that could be got.

Vento confessed "he wanted nothing but an *Italian* master."

Giardini, urged by Mr. Madan, at last owned "the boy played well ;" and was for sending him to Bologna, or—Paris !

They all agreed in this, that he was marked by nature for a musician, and ought to cultivate his talent. Yet still I mistrusted them, as well as myself, till Mr. Bromfield carried us to Mr. Kelway. His judgment was decisive, and expressed in more than words ; for he invited Charles to come to him whenever he was in London, and generously promised to *give* him all the assistance in his power.

He began with teaching him Handel's Lessons ; then his own, and Scarlatti's, and Geminiani's. For near two years he instructed him gratis, and with such commendations as are not fit for me to repeat. Meantime Charles attended the oratorios and rehearsals, through the favour of Mr. Stanley, and invitation of Mr. Arnold.

As soon as he was engaged with Mr. Kelway, his old friend Mr. Worgan kindly offered to take him without money, under his auspices, (as he expressed himself,) and to train him up in his art. Such a master for my son was the height of my ambition ; but Mr. Kelway had been beforehand with him.

Mr. Worgan continued his kindness. He often played, and sung over to him, whole oratorios. So did Mr. Bat-tishill. Mr. Kelway at one time played over to him the *Messiah*, on purpose to teach him the time and manner of

* Dr. Samuel Arnold is well known to have been one of the most eminent musical composers of his age. He is the author, among other publications, of four volumes of cathedral music.—EDIT.

† Dr. Thomas Augustus Arne was bred to the profession of the law, which he early quitted for music, and was long one of the most popular composers of the age in which he lived. He died in the year 1778.—EDIT.

Handel. For three seasons Charles heard all the oratorios, comparing the performers with each other, and both with Mr. Worgan and Mr. Kelway.

He received great encouragement from Mr. Savage. Mr. Arnold was another father to him. Mr. Worgan gave him many lessons in thorough-bass and composition. Mr. Smith's curiosity drew him to Mr. Kelway's to hear his scholar, whom he bade go on and prosper, under the best of masters. Dr. Boyce came several times to my house to hear him; gave him some of his own music, and set some hymns for us; asked if the King had heard him; and expressed much surprise when we told him, No. His uncle enriched him with an inestimable present of Dr. Boyce's Cathedral Music.

It now evidently appeared that his particular bent was to church-music. Other music he could take pleasure in, (especially what was truly excellent in the Italian,) and played it without any trouble; but his chief delight was the oratorios. These he played over and over from the score, till he had them all by heart, as well as the rest of Handel's music, and Corelli, and Scarlatti, and Geminiani.

These two last years he has spent with his four classical authors, and in composition. Mr. Kelway has made him a player, that is certain; but he knows the difference betwixt that and a musician; and can never think himself the latter, till he is quite master of thorough-bass.

Several have offered to teach it him. One eminent master, (besides Mr. Worgan,) equally skilled in Handel's and the Italian music, told me, he would engage to make him perfect master of harmony in half a year. But as I waited, and deferred his instruction in the practical part, till I could find the very best instructor for him, so I keep him back from the theory. The only man to teach him that, and sacred music, he believes to be Dr. Boyce.

EXTRACT OF A JOURNAL RELATIVE TO MR. KELWAY AND CHARLES.

MONDAY, August 14th, 1769. At one Mr. Bromfield met us at Mr. Kelway's house, having promised my son the hearing of him. He highly entertained us with one of

Handel's lessons, and one of his own. Then he made Charles play. Some of the words wherein he expressed his surprise were, "I never saw one carry his hand so well. It is quite a picture. It is a gift from God. How would Handel have shook his sides, if he could have heard him!"

He confirmed the advice Mr. Granville had given him at Bath: "Let him have no great master. B—— or A—— would ruin him."

At parting he said, "Come to me as often as you will, whenever you are in town; and I will assist you all I can." He stroked, embraced, and praised him immoderately, and appointed him to come on Monday.

Mon., August 21st. Mr. Kelway gave him his first lesson, (the first of Handel's,) and much commendation. "You have a better hand," said he, "than any of the masters. They would hurt instead of helping you. B—— or A—— would utterly spoil you in one month."

Thur., August 24th. He was quite pleased with his scholar; warned him against Handel's enemies, and modern musicians; said to me, "If any great master had taught him one year, it would cost me two to unteach him those lessons."

He made him a present of his own Sonatas, with Handel's Overtures, and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*.

Thur., September 14th. Mr. Kelway to Charles: "You will be an honour to me. Handel's hands did not lie on the harpsichord better than yours." [His word was, "Not so well."]

Mon., September 18th. Kelway to Charles: "Was you my own son, I could not love you better. Go on, and mind none of the musicians, but Handel. You should not hear others. Come to me, and I will instruct you the best I can. You have a divine gift."

To me he said, "There are not two masters in town can play these two adagios. One cannot hear him play four bars without knowing him to be a genius. He has the very spirit of Scarlatti."

Thur., September 21st. While Charles was playing, he cried out, "It is here,—in his heart, or he could not play thus." Then, starting up, "I will maintain it, before all the world, that there is not a master in London can play

this sonata as he does. The King would eat up this boy. I *must* carry him some morning to St. James's. I am greatly obliged to Mr. Bromfield for bringing him to me. He need not (as Mr. Keeble told him) study eight hours a day. Let him only go on as he has begun, and he will soon excel them all. I have no trouble in teaching him : it is pure pleasure." To him he said, "My dear, let not the world debauch you. Some decry music for being old. They may as well object to an antique statue, or painting. But B., and A., and G., have cut the throat of music : true music is lost."

Mon., September 25th. "Handel once asked me, 'Mr. Kelway, why don't you keep company with other musicians?' 'Nay, Mr. Handel,' said I, 'why don't you?' He replied, 'Because I don't care to dirty myself.'"

To me Mr. Kelway said, "You must take great delight in this boy. I am sure he is of a sweet disposition. His very soul is harmony." "All that I can say of him," said I, "is, that you have him uncorrupted." "Uncorrupted!" answered he : "he is purity itself : he is a miracle!" To him, "You will not be vain, my dear : it is a divine gift ; and I hope you will make a proper use of it."

While he went on playing, Mr. Kelway said, "He teaches me my own music." To him, "My dear boy, I will do for you all in my power ; first, for Mr. Bromfield's sake ; then for your sake, and my own. I am better pleased to teach you for nothing, than if I had ever so much money with you."

"You are to uphold music. Not one of my scholars could have learned that in a year, which you have learned in ten lessons." A gentleman (Mr. Brown) coming in, and hearing him, cried, "Why, the boy *feels* every note." He then shook him by the hand, with, "Go on, young gentleman ; and, by and by, you will be one of the first masters."

Thur., September 28th. Mr. Worgan came to meet us, at a friend's in the city. After hearing Charles play, he generously said, "I will take him, from this time, under my own auspices, and *freely* teach him all I know myself." I should have thankfully accepted of his offer, had not Mr. Kelway been beforehand with him.

him better and better. He has it from God. He is an heaven-born child."

Tues., December 12th. "This boy consoles me. He raises my spirits whenever I hear him. He has more taste and feeling than all our band."

Fri., December 29th. "He plays this [K.'s sixth sonata] beyond all that I could have hoped." To my sister he observed, (as, before, to others,) "It is the gift of God. No man in London can play like him. What colouring! What lights and shades! I could *cry* to hear him."

Tues., January 2d, 1770. "Handel used to tell me, 'The musicians are all impostors.' Geminiani said, he studied Corelli every day of his life; and that *one particular song* in Otho he could play from morning till night."

Fri., January 5th. "He is an old man at the instrument. He is not a boy." To Mr. M——n he said, "He is the greatest genius in music I have ever met with."

Fri., January 12th. Charles was so transported in playing, that, as he afterwards told me, he did not know where he was, or that there was any person in the room but himself.

Tues., January 16th. "Sir," said Kelway to me, "you have got a Scarlatti in your house, as well as the King of Spain. Never have I heard a boy play with such spirit and feeling. Here sit I, to hear myself. I never took such pleasure in my own music. His play is a cordial to me. He will be the restorer of music. Miss B. asked me, 'What shall I give him, for playing to me?' I answered her, 'Yourself.' How would Handel and Geminiani have embraced him! I love him, Sir, as well as you can do."

Wed., February 7th. "He is Scarlatti all over. Play thus, my dear boy, and revenge my quarrel. He plays as well as me already."

Wed., February 21st. Mr. Kelway coming to my house, to teach Miss Hill and Charles, I paid him forty-five guineas, for an harpsichord of Mahew's. Miss B., he told us, was to have given fifty guineas for it; but he favoured Charles.

Wed., March 7th. In walking with Mr. Kelway from my house, I asked him whether, on our return to Bristol,

I should not have Mr. Br—— to my son. He answered, "No. He can learn nothing from B., though B. may from him. If any man would learn to play well, let him hear that boy. Miss Hill does not know what an advantage she has in hearing him. I can find no fault with him."

Sat., April 7th. We took our leave of Mr. Kelway, who has now bestowed upon Charles sixty-five lessons.

Thur., February 7th, 1771. The day after my return to London, I waited upon Mr. Kelway, who received me with great kindness, and appointed Charles to come on Saturday following.

Sat., February 9th. Charles played over his Sonatas. His master was much pleased to find, that, in ten months' absence, he had forgot nothing.

Fri., March 15th. While Charles was playing, Mr. Kelway surprised me, by saying, "He plays my Lessons better than I can."

Tues., April 2d. "Now he never can be spoiled by the fashionable music.

"If they never should sell, yet I am glad I published my Sonatas, for his sake. There is no man can play them like him."

Fri., April 5th. Walking about, as delighted with his pupil, at last he stopped, made him a low bow, and said, "Sir, you do me great honour. It puts me into a good humour to hear you."

Fri., April 12th. "There is no music in London like this boy's play. There is not a man in Italy can play so well. It is not I, Charles, but God who has given it you; and I heartily thank you for this lesson: it composes and makes me happy."

Fri., May 24th. I paid Mr. Kelway six guineas for twelve of his second set of Sonatas, which Charles impatiently waits for.

Tues., May 28th. Charles was happy in making his master so; but Mr. Kelway was very angry at G——i, for his cool approbation of his scholar. "G——i does not so much as know what is in this boy; neither does any master in London."

Wed., July 3d. Mr. Kelway gave him his hundred and fourth lesson; which makes a year complete. "No other,"

he assured me, "could have learnt so much in many years. People," he added, "would not believe it, unless he had a particular account of the Lessons." This, therefore, at his request, I gave him, extracted from my Journal.

Glorying in his scholar, he said, "They say I cannot communicate my skill: but I dare maintain, there is not such a player as this boy in England; nor yet in France, or Spain, or Italy." He could carry it no farther, unless he had repeated his former words to Mr. Bromfield: "That there was not such another boy upon earth." *Abi, patris-sas*; more than even the father himself.

Wed., July 10th. "It would be worth the masters' while to pay this boy for playing to them. If Mansoli was here, he would eat him up."

Wed., August 7th. Mr. Kelway began teaching him Geminiani's Lessons for the Harpsichord; having, he thinks, made him perfect in Scarlatti's music.

Wed., August 28th. "Geminiani, if now alive, would carry this boy with him everywhere. He plays quite as well as I."

Wed., September 11th. I carried Mr. Russel, the painter, to Mr. Kelway. He told me afterwards, that he knew the finest passages by the change of Charles's colour. Mr. Kelway, being asked to play, said, in jest, "How shall I play after my scholar?" However he did play, and most inimitably.

Sat., September 28th. Again he said, "If Handel and Geminiani were alive, they would be mad at hearing this boy."

Wed., October 9th. Pointing to Geminiani's picture, he said, "O what would that man have said, if he could have heard Charles! No man in London can play this prelude."

Wed., October 23d. "No one can play this prelude like him; no, not I myself." He added, as in a rapture, "This is too much to bear!"

ACCOUNT OF CHARLES WESLEY.

PRINTED IN THE PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE
YEAR 1781.

BY DAINES BARRINGTON.

CHARLES * was born in Bristol, December 11th, 1757. He was two years and three quarters old, when I first observed his strong inclination to music. He then surprised me by playing a tune on the harpsichord readily, and in just time. Soon after, he played several, whatever his mother sung, or whatever he heard in the streets.

From his birth she used to quiet and amuse him with the harpsichord ; but he would not suffer her to play with one hand only, taking the other and putting it on the keys, before he could speak. When he played himself, she used to tie him up by his back-string to the chair, for fear of his falling. Whatever tune it was, he always put a true bass to it. From the beginning he played without study or hesitation ; and, as the masters told me, perfectly well.

Mr. Broadrip † heard him in petticoats, and foretold he would one day make a great player. Whenever he was called to play to a stranger, he would ask, in a word of his own, "Is he a musicker?" and if answered, "Yes," he played with the greatest readiness.

He always played *con spirito*. There was something in his manner above a child, which struck the hearers, learned or unlearned.

At four years old I carried him with me to London. Mr. Beard was the first who confirmed Mr. Broadrip's judgment of him, and kindly offered his interest with Dr. Boyce, to get him admitted among the King's boys ; but I had then no thoughts of bringing him up a musician.

A gentleman carried him next to Mr. Stanley, who expressed much pleasure and surprise at hearing him, and declared he had never met one of his age with so strong a propensity to music. The gentleman told us, he never

* I was favoured with this account of his eldest son, by the Rev. Mr. Charles Wesley.

† Organist at Bristol.

before believed what Handel used to tell him of himself, and his own love of music, in his childhood.

Mr. Madan presented my son to Mr. Worgan, who was extremely kind, and, as I then thought, partial, to him. He told me he would prove an eminent master, if he was not taken off by other studies. Mr. Worgan frequently entertained him with the harpsichord. Charles was greatly taken with his bold, full manner of playing, and seemed even then to catch a spark of his fire.

At our return to Bristol, we left him to ramble on till he was near six. Then we gave him Mr. Rooke for a master, a man of no name, but very good-natured ; who let him run on *ad libitum*, while he sat by, more to observe, than to control, him.

Mr. Rogers, the oldest organist in Bristol, was one of his first friends. He often set him on his knee, and made him play to him, declaring he was more delighted in hearing him than himself.

What follows contains the strongest and fullest approbation of Mr. Charles Wesley's manner of playing on the organ, by the most eminent professors ; to which commendation they, who have the pleasure of hearing him at present, will give the most ample credit.

I received the following account of his son Samuel from the Rev. Mr. Charles Wesley :—

Samuel was born on St. Matthias's day, February 24th, 1766, the same day which gave birth to Handel, eighty-two years before. The seeds of harmony did not spring up in him quite so early as in his brother ; for he was three years old before he aimed at a tune.* His first were, " God save great George our King," Fischer's Minuet, and such like, mostly picked up from the street-organs. He did not put a true bass to them till he had learned his notes.

* His mother, Mrs. Wesley, however, has given me the following most convincing proof that he played a tune when he was but two years eleven months old, by producing a quarter guinea, which was given to him by Mr. Ady, for this extraordinary feat, wrapped in a piece of paper, containing the day and year of the gift, as well as the occasion of it. Mrs. Wesley had also an elder son, who died in his infancy, and both sung a tune, and beat time, when he was but twelve months old.

While his brother was playing, he used to stand by, with his childish fiddle, scraping and beating time. One, observing him, asked me, "And what shall this boy do?" I answered, "Mend his brother's pens." He did not resent the affront as deeply as Marcello did : so it was not indignation which made him a musician.*

Mr. Arnold was the first who, hearing him at the harpsichord, said, "I set down Sam for one of my family." But we did not much regard him, coming after Charles. The first thing which drew our attention was, the great delight he took in hearing his brother play. Whenever Mr. Kelway came to teach him, Sam constantly attended, and accompanied Charles *on the chair*. Undaunted by Mr. Kelway's frown, he went on ; and when he did not *see* the harpsichord,† he crossed his hands on the chair, as the other on the instrument, without ever missing a time.

He was so excessively fond of Scarlatti, that if Charles ever began playing his lesson before Sam was called, he would cry and roar as if he had been beat. Mr. Madan, his godfather, finding him one day so belabouring the chair, told him he should have a better instrument by and by.

I have since recollected Mr. Kelway's words, "It is of the utmost importance to a learner *to hear the best music* ;" and, "If any man would learn to play well, let him hear Charles." Sam had this double advantage from his birth. As his brother employed the evenings in Handel's Oratorios,

* This alludes to a well-known story in the musical world. Marcello, the celebrated composer, had an elder brother, who had greatly distinguished himself in this science ; and being asked what should be done with little Marcello, he answered, "Let him mend my pens ;" which piqued the boy so much, that he determined to exceed his elder brother.

† Incredible as this may appear, it is attested by the whole family ; and that he generally turned his back to his brother while he was playing. I think, however, that this extraordinary fact may be thus accounted for : There are some passages in Scarlatti's Lessons which require the crossing of hands (or playing the treble with the left, and the bass with the right) ; but as what calls for this unusual fingering produces a very singular effect, the child must have felt that these parts of the composition could not be executed in any other way. It is possible, indeed, that he might have observed his brother crossing hands at these passages, and imitated him by recollecting that they were thus fingered.

Sam was always at his elbow, listening and joining with his voice. Nay, he would sometimes presume to find fault with his playing, when we thought he could know nothing of the matter.

He was between four and five years old when he got hold of the Oratorio of Samson, and by that alone taught himself to read words. Soon after he taught himself to write. From this time he sprung up like a mushroom ; and, when turned of five, could read perfectly well, and had all the airs, recitatives, and choruses of Samson, and the Messiah, both words and notes, by heart.

Whenever he heard his brother begin to play, he would tell us whose music it was, whether Handel, Corelli, Scarlatti, or any other, and what part of what lesson, sonata, or overture.

Before he could write, he composed much music. His custom was to lay the words of an Oratorio before him, and sing them all over. Thus he set (extempore for the most part) Ruth, Gideon, Manasses, and the Death of Abel. We observed, when he repeated the same words, it was always to the same tunes. The airs of Ruth, in particular, he made before he was six years old ; laid them up in his memory till he was eight ; and then wrote them down.

I have seen him open his Prayer-Book, and sing the *Te Deum*, or an anthem from some psalm, to his own music, accompanying it with the harpsichord. This he often did, after he had learnt to play by note, which Mr. Williams, a young organist of Bristol, taught him between six and seven.

How and when he learnt counterpoint, I can hardly tell ; but, without being ever taught it, he soon wrote in parts.

He was full eight years old, when Dr. Boyce came to see us, and accosted me with, "Sir, I hear you have got an English Mozart in your house : young Linley tells me wonderful things of him." I called Sam to answer for himself. He had by this time scrawled down his Oratorio of Ruth. The Doctor looked over it very carefully, and seemed highly pleased with the performance. Some of his words were, "These airs are some of the prettiest I have seen. This boy writes by nature as true a bass as I can do

by rule and study. There is no man in England has two such sons," &c. He bade us let him run on *ad libitum*, without any check of rules or masters.

After this, whenever the Doctor visited us, Sam ran to him with his song, sonata, or anthem, and the Doctor examined them with astonishing patience and delight.

As soon as Sam had quite finished his Oratorio, he sent it as a present to the Doctor, who immediately honoured him with the following note :—

“TO MR. SAMUEL WESLEY.

“DR. BOYCE’S compliments and thanks to his very ingenious brother-composer, Mr. Samuel Wesley, and is very much pleased and obliged by the possession of the Oratorio of Ruth ; which he shall preserve, with the utmost care, as the most curious product of his musical library.”

For the year that Sam continued under Mr. Williams, it was hard to say which was the master, and which the scholar. Sam chose what music he would learn, and often broke out into extempore playing, his master wisely letting him do as he pleased.

During this time, he taught himself the violin : a soldier assisted him about six weeks, and, some time after, Mr. Kingsbury gave him twenty lessons. His favourite instrument was the organ.

He spent a month at Bath, while we were in Wales ; served the Abbey on Sundays ; gave them several voluntaries ; and played the first fiddle in many private concerts.

He returned with us to London greatly improved in his playing. There I allowed him a month for learning all Handel’s Overtures. He played them over to me in three days. Handel’s Concertos he learned with equal ease, and some of his Lessons, and Scarlatti’s. Like Charles, he mastered the hardest music, without any pains or difficulty.

He borrowed his Ruth to transcribe for Mr. Madan. Parts of it he played at Lord Le Despenser’s, who rewarded him with some of Handel’s Oratorios.

Mr. Madan now began carrying him about to his musical friends. He played several times at Mr. Wilmot’s, to many of the nobility, and some eminent masters and judges of music. They gave him subjects and music which he had

never seen. Mr. Burton, Mr. Bates, &c., expressed their approbation in the strongest terms. His extemporary fugues, they said, were just and regular, but could not believe that he knew nothing of the rules of composition.

Several companies he entertained for hours together with his own music. The learned were quite astonished. Sir John Hawkins cried out, "Inspiration! inspiration!" Dr. C—— candidly acknowledged, "He has got that which we are searching after;" although at first, out of pure good-nature, he refused to give him a subject. An old musical gentleman, hearing him, could not refrain from tears.

Dr. Burney was greatly pleased with his extemporary play, and his pursuing the subjects and fugues which he gave him; but insisted, like the rest, that he must have been taught the rules.

Mr. S. and Mr. Burney expressed the same surprise and satisfaction. An organist gave him a sonata he had just written, not easy, nor very legible. Sam played it with great readiness and propriety, and better (as the composer owned to Mr. Madan) than he could himself.

Lord Barrington, Lord Aylsbury, Lord Dudley, Sir Watkin W. Wynne, and other lovers of Handel, were highly delighted with him, and encouraged him to hold fast his veneration for Handel and the old music. But old or new was all one to Sam, so it was but good. Whatever was presented, he played at sight, and made variations on any tune; and, as often as he played it again, made new variations. He imitated every author's style, whether Bach, Schobert, Handel, or Scarlatti himself.

One showed him some of Mozart's music, and asked him how he liked it. He played it over, and said, "It was very well for one of his years."

He played to Mr. Kelway, whom I afterwards asked what he thought of him. He would not allow him to be comparable to Charles; yet commended him greatly, and told his mother, it was a gift from heaven to both her sons; and as for Sam, he never in his life saw so free and *dégagé* a gentleman! Mr. Madan had often said the same, that Sam was everywhere as much admired for his behaviour as for his play.

Between eight and nine he was brought through the

small-pox, through Mr. Bromfield's assistance ; whom he therefore promised to reward with his next oratorio.

If he loved anything better than music, it was regularity. He took to it himself. Nothing could exceed his punctuality. No company, no persuasion, could keep him up beyond his time. He never could be prevailed on to hear any opera or concert by night. The moment the clock gave warning for eight, away ran Sam in the midst of his most favourite music. Once he rose up after the first part of the Messiah with, "Come, mamma, let us go home, or I shall not be in bed by eight."

When some talked of carrying him to the Queen, and I asked him if he was willing to go, "Yes, with all my heart," he answered ; "but I won't stay beyond eight."

The praises bestowed so lavishly upon him did not seem to affect, much less to hurt, him ; and whenever he went into the company of his betters, he would much rather have stayed at home ; yet when among them, he was free and easy ; so that some remarked, "he behaved as one bred up at court, yet without a courtier's servility."

On our coming to town this last time, he sent Dr. Boyce the last anthem he had made. The Doctor thought, from its correctness, that Charles must have helped him in it ; but Charles assured him that he never assisted him, otherwise than by telling him, if he asked, whether such or such a passage were good harmony. And the Doctor was so scrupulous, that when Charles showed him an improper note, he would not suffer it to be altered.

Mr. Madan now carried him to more of the first masters. Mr. Abel wrote him a subject, and declared not three masters in town could have answered it so well.

Mr. Cramer took a great liking to him, offered to teach him the violin, and played some trios with Charles and him. He sent a man to take measure of him for a fiddle ; and is confident a very few lessons will set him up for a violinist.

Sam often played the second, and sometimes the first, fiddle, with Mr. Treadway, who declared, "Giardini himself could not play with greater exactness."

Mr. Madan brought Dr. N—— to my house, who could not believe that a boy could write an oratorio, play

at sight, and pursue any given subject. He brought two of the King's boys, who sang over several songs and choruses in Ruth. Then he produced two bars of a fugue. Sam worked this fugue very readily and well, adding a movement of his own, and then a voluntary, on the organ, which quite removed the Doctor's incredulity.

At the rehearsal at St. Paul's, Dr. Boyce met his brother Sam, and, showing him to Dr. H., told him, "This boy will soon surpass you all." Shortly after, he came to see us, took up a *Jubilate* which Sam had lately wrote, and commended it as one of Charles's. When we told him whose it was, he declared he could find no fault in it; adding, there was not another boy upon earth who could have composed this; and concluding with, "I never yet met with that person who owes so much to nature as Sam. He is come among us, dropped down from heaven."

*Ore puer, puerique habitu, sed corde sagaci.
Æquabat senium.*—SILIUS ITALICUS, lib. viii.

"In looks and garb a boy; in judgment sage
Beyond his years, and wise as hoary age."

I HAD first an opportunity of being witness of Master Samuel Wesley's great musical talents at the latter end of 1775, when he was nearly ten years old.

To speak of him first as a performer on the harpsichord, he was then able to execute the most difficult lessons for the instrument at sight; for his fingers never wanted the guidance of the eye, in the most rapid and desultory passages. But he not only did ample justice to the composition in neatness and precision, but entered into its true taste, which may be easily believed by the numbers who have heard him play extemporary lessons in the style of most of the eminent masters.

He not only executed crabbed compositions thus at sight, but he was equally ready to transpose into any keys, even a fourth;* and if it was a sonata for two trebles and a

* Most musicians, when they transpose, conceive the succession of notes to be written in a clef in which they have been used to practise, as the bass clef, tenor clef, &c.; but the transposition of a

bass, the part of the first treble being set before him, he would immediately add an extemporary bass and second treble to it.

Having happened to mention this readiness in the boy to Bremner, (the printer of music in the Strand,) he told me that he had some lessons, which were supposed to have been composed for Queen Elizabeth, but which none of the harpsichord masters could execute, and would consequently gravel the young performer. I, however, desired that he would let me carry one of these compositions to him, by way of trial, which I accordingly did; when the boy immediately placed it upon his desk, and was sitting down to play it; but I stopped him, by mentioning the difficulties he would soon encounter, and that therefore he must cast his eye over the music before he made the attempt.

Having done this very rapidly, (for he is a devourer of a score, and conceives at once the effect of the different parts,) he said, Bremner was in the right, for that there were two or three passages which he could not play at sight, as they were so queer and awkward; but that he had no notion of not trying; and though he boggled at these parts of the lesson, he executed them cleanly at the second practice.

I then asked him how he approved of the composition; to which he answered, "Not at all, though he might differ from a Queen; and that attention had not been paid to some of the established rules." He then pointed out the particular passages to which he objected, and I stated them to Bremner, who allowed that the boy was right; but that some of the great composers had occasionally taken the same liberties.

The next time I saw Master Wesley, I mentioned Bremner's defence of what he had blamed; on which he immediately answered, that "when such excellent rules were broken, the composer should take care that these licences produced a good effect; whereas these passages had a very bad one." I need not dwell on the great penetration,

fourth belongs to no clef, except that which the Italians term *mezzo soprano*, or an intermediate clef between the treble and counter-tenor, and which, not being ever marked in our compositions, cannot be fancied by an English performer, when he is obliged to transpose a fourth.

acuteness, and judgment, of this answer. Lord Mornington, indeed, who hath so deep a knowledge of music, hath frequently told me, that he always wished to consult Master Wesley upon any difficulty in composition, as he knew no one who gave so immediate and satisfactory information.

Though he was always willing to play the compositions of others, yet for the most part he amused himself with extemporary effusions of his own most extraordinary musical inspiration, which unfortunately were totally forgotten in a few minutes ; whereas his memory was most tenacious of what had been published by others.

His invention in varying passages was inexhaustible ; and I have myself heard him give more than fifty variations on a known, pleasing melody, all of which were not only different from each other, but showed excellent taste and judgment.

This infinite variety probably arose from his having played so much extempore, in which he gave full scope to every flight of his imagination, and produced passages which I never heard from any other performer on the harpsichord.

The readiness of his fingering what was most difficult to be executed on the instrument, and in the only proper manner, was equal to his musical fancy ; of which I will mention the following proof :—

Since the comic Italian operas have been performed in England, there is frequently a passage in the bass which consists of a single note, to be, perhaps, repeated for two or three bars at quick and equal intervals, and which cannot be effected on the harpsichord by one finger, as any common musician would attempt to do it, but requires a change of two.

I laid an opera song before Master Wesley with such a passage, and, happening to be at the other end of the room when he came to this part of the composition, I knew from the execution that he must have made use of such a change of two fingers, the necessity of which that eminent professor of music, Dr. Burney, had shown me. On this I asked him from whom he had learnt this method of fingering ; to which his answer was, “from no one ; but that it was impossible to play the passage with the proper effect in any other manner.”

In his extemporary compositions, he frequently hazarded bold and uncommon modulations, so that I have seen that most excellent musician, Mr. Charles Wesley, his elder brother,* tremble for him. Sam, however, always extricated himself from the difficulties in which he appeared to be involved in the most masterly manner, being always possessed of that serene confidence which a thorough knowledge inspires, though surrounded by musical professors, who could not deem it arrogance.

And here I will give a proof of the goodness of his heart, and delicacy of his feelings.

I had desired him to compose an easy melody in the minor third, for an experiment on little Crotch; and that he would go with me to hear what that very extraordinary child was capable of. Crotch was not in good humour, and Master Wesley submitted, among other things, to play upon a cracked violin, in order to please him; the company, however, having found out who he was, pressed him very much to play upon the organ, which Sam constantly declined. As this was contrary to his usual readiness in obliging any person who had curiosity to hear him, I asked him afterwards what might be the occasion of his refusal; when he told me, that he thought it would look like wishing to shine at little Crotch's expense.

Every one knows that any material alteration in the construction of an organ, which varies the position of certain notes, must, at first, embarrass the player, though a most expert one. I carried Sam, however, to the Temple-organ, which hath quarter-notes, with the management of which he was as ready as if he had made use of such an instrument all his life. I need scarcely say how much more difficult it must be to play passages which must be executed, not by the fingers, but the feet. Now the organ at the Savoy hath a complete octave of pedals, with the half-notes; on which part Sam appeared as little a novice

* Mr. Charles Wesley hath composed some singular pieces for two organs, which would have great merit if performed by others, but have still more so when executed by the two brothers, as they are so well acquainted with each other's manner of playing, and are so amazingly accurate in the precision of their time. Such as have heard the two Pla's in duets for the hautboys, may well conceive the effect of these compositions from the Wesleys.

as if he had been accustomed to it for years. Nay, he made a very good and regular shake on the pedals, *by way of experiment*; for he had too much taste and judgment to suppose that it would have a good effect.

He was able to sing at sight (which commonly requires so much instruction, even with those who are of a musical disposition) from the time of first knowing his notes. His voice was by no means strong; and it cannot yet be pronounced how it may turn out. His more favourite songs were those of Handel, composed for a bass voice, as, "Honour and arms," &c.*

He has lately practised much upon the violin, on which he bids fair to be a capital performer. Happening one day to find him thus employed, I asked him how long he had played that morning. His answer was, "Three or four hours; which Giardini had found necessary."

The delicacy of his ear is likewise very remarkable, of which I shall give an instance or two.

Having been at Bach's concert, he was much satisfied both with the composition and performers; but said, "The musical pieces were ill-arranged,† as four had been played successively, which were all in the same key."

He was desired to compose a march for one of the regiments of guards; which he did to the approbation of all who ever heard it; and a distinguished officer of the royal navy declared, that it was a movement which would probably inspire steady and serene courage when the enemy was approaching.

As I thought the boy would like to hear this march performed, I carried him to the parade at the proper time, when it had the honour of beginning the military concert. The piece being finished, I asked him whether it was executed to his satisfaction; to which he replied, "By no means;" and I then immediately introduced him to the band, (which consisted of very tall and stout musicians,)

* Having heard him sing, "Return, O God of hosts," and an Italian air, since this sheet was in the press, I can now venture to pronounce, that his voice is a pleasing counter-tenor, and that his manner is excellent. Without any practice, also, he hath acquired an even and brilliant shake.

† It is supposed that this was a mere accident in the person who made out the musical bill of fare.

that he might set them right. On this, Sam immediately told them that they had not done justice to his composition; to which they answered the urchin, with both astonishment and contempt, by, "Your composition!" Sam, however, replied, with great serenity, "Yes, my composition;" which I confirmed. They then stared, and severally made their excuses, by protesting that they had copied accurately from the manuscript which had been put into their hands. This he most readily allowed to the hautboys and bassoons, but said it was the French horns that were in fault; who making the same defence, he insisted upon the original score being produced, and, showing them their mistake, ordered the march to be played again, which they submitted to with as much deference as they would have shown to Handel.

This concert of wind instruments begins on the parade, about five minutes after nine, and ends at five minutes after ten, when the guard proceeds to St. James's.

I stayed with him till this time, and asked him what he thought of the concluding movement; which, he said, deserved no commendation, but that it was very injudicious to make it the finishing piece; because, as it must necessarily continue till the clock of the Horse-Guards had struck ten, it should have been recollected, that the tone of the clock did not correspond with the key-note of the march.

I shall now attempt to give some account of this most extraordinary boy, considered as a composer; and, first, of his extemporary flights.

If left to himself, when he played on the organ, there were oftener traces of Handel's style, than any other master; and if on the harpsichord, of Scarlatti. At other times, however, his voluntaries were original and singular.

After he had seen or heard a few pieces* of any composer, he was fully possessed of his peculiarities, which, if at all striking, he could instantly imitate at the word of

* I asked him once to imitate Lord Kelly's style. This he declined, as he had never heard any composition of his Lordship's, except the Overture to the Maid of the Mill, which he highly approved of, however, for its brilliancy and boldness.

command, as well as the general flow and turn of the composition. Thus I have heard him frequently play extemporary lessons, which, without prejudice to their musical names, might have been supposed those of Abel, Vento, Schobert, and Bach.

But he not only entered into the style of the harpsichord masters, but that of solo players on other instruments.

I once happened to see some music wet upon his desk, which, he told me, was a solo for a trumpet. I then asked him if he had heard Fischer on the hautboy, and would compose an extempore solo, proper for him to execute. To this Sam readily assented, but found his little legs too short for reaching the swell of the organ, without which the imitation could not have its effect. I then proposed to touch the swell myself, on his giving me the proper signals; but to this he answered, that I could neither do this so instantaneously as was requisite, nor should I give the greater or less force of the swell (if a note was dwelt upon) which would correspond with his feelings. Having started this difficulty, however, he soon suggested the remedy, which was the following :—

He stood upon the ground with his left foot, while his right rested upon the swell; and thus literally played an extemporary solo, *stans pede in uno*; the three movements of which must have lasted not less than ten minutes, and every bar of which Fischer might have acknowledged for his own. Every one who hath heard that capital musician, must have observed a great singularity in his cadences, in the imitation of which, Sam succeeded as perfectly as in the other parts of the composition. After this, I have been present when he hath executed thirty or forty different solos for the same instrument, to the astonishment of several audiences, and particularly so to that eminent performer on the hautboy, Mr. Simpson.

Having found that the greater part of those who heard him would not believe but that his voluntaries had been practised before, I always endeavoured that some person present (and more particularly so if he was a professor) should give him the subject upon which he was to work; which always afforded the convincing and irrefragable

proof, as he then composed upon the ideas suggested by others; to which ordeal, it is believed, few musicians in Europe would submit. The more difficult the subject, (as, if it was two or three bars of the beginning of a fugue,) the more cheerfully he undertook it, as he always knew he was equal to the attempt, be it never so arduous.

I once carried that able composer, Mr. Christopher Smith, to the boy, desiring that he would suggest the subject; which Sam not only pursued in a masterly manner, but fell into a movement of the minor third, which might be naturally introduced. When we left Mr. Wesley's house, Mr. Smith, after expressing his amazement, said, that what he had just heard should be a caution to those who are apt to tax composers as plagiarists; for though he had wrote on the same subject, and the music had never been seen by any one, this wonderful boy had followed him, almost note by note. Baumgarten found the same, upon a like trial of what he had never communicated to any one.

I can refer only to one printed proof of his abilities as a composer, which is a set of Eight Lessons for the Harpsichord, and which appeared in 1777, about the same time that he became so known to the musical world, that his portrait was engraven, which is a very strong resemblance. Some of these lessons have passages which are rather too difficult for common performers; and therefore they are not calculated for a general vogue.

His father, the Rev. Mr. Wesley, will permit any one to see the score of his Oratorio of Ruth, which he really composed at six years old, but did not *write* till he was eight. His quickness, in thus giving utterance to his musical ideas, is amazingly great; and, notwithstanding the rapidity, he seldom makes a blot or a mistake.

Numbers of his other compositions, and almost of all kinds, may be likewise examined; particularly an anthem on the following words, which I selected for him, and which has been performed at the Chapel-Royal, and St. Paul's:—

1. "O Lord God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry at the prayer of thy people?"
2. "Turn thee again, O Lord, and we shall be saved."

3. "For thou art a great God, and a great King above all gods."

This first part of this anthem was composed for a single voice ; the second, a duet, for two boys ; and the third, a chorus. With regard to the merits, I shall refer to that most distinguished singer of cathedral-music, the Rev. Mr. Mence, who has frequently done it ample justice.