

I spoke of them in the words of St. John. He melted us into tears of love. I knew not how to leave them, so many testified that they then tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.

Tues., November 6th. I was called to a woman at Bedminster. I have seldom seen a soul more deeply plunged in the spirit of bondage, or under stronger pangs of the new birth. She received immediate relief in prayer; and came at noon to tell me that her yoke was wholly broken off.

PART V.

FROM MARCH 14TH, 1740, TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1740.*

FRI., March 14th. By eleven I reached Gloucester, where the very last spark, I think, is gone out. In the evening I preached to a few people in Mr. Whitefield's field, on Isai. liii. 1: "Who hath believed our report?" I was a little revived just before by Mrs. Wynn of Painswick telling me, she and two more of her family had lately received forgiveness. There was more stirring among the dry bones than I expected.

Sat., March 15th. Between two and three we came to Bengeworth. I sent for Mr. Seward. Answer was returned that he had taken physic, but would send his brother Henry to me. Mr. Henry followed me to Mr. Canning's, and fell upon me without preface or ceremony: I was the downfall of his brother, had picked his pocket, ruined his family, come now to get more money, was a scoundrel, rascal, and so forth, and deserved to have my gown stripped over my ears. He concluded with threatening how he would beat me, if he could but catch me on Bengeworth-Common. I spoke little, and with temper.

All letters, I find, have been intercepted since Mr. Seward's illness; his fever called madness, his servants set over him as spies, &c. Be sure he is to know nothing of my being here; but I mean to give him an hint of it to-morrow, by shouting from the top of his wall.

* No record of Mr. Charles Wesley's labours during the months of December, 1739, and January and February of this year, has been preserved.—EDIT.

Sun., March 16th. I preached the law and Gospel last night, from Isai. xl., with much freedom and power: appointed the usual place for preaching. Mr. Henry came to dissuade me; said, "Four Constables are ordered to apprehend you, if you come near my brother's wall: so come at your peril."

I walked toward the place. An officer from the Mayor met and desired me to come to him. I said I would first wait upon my Lord, and then upon him, whom I revered for his office's sake. I went on. Mr. Henry met me with threats and revilings. I began singing,

"Shall I, for fear of feeble man,
Thy Spirit's course in me restrain?"

He ran about raving like a madman, and quickly got some men for his purpose; who laid hold on me. I asked by what authority? Where was their warrant? Let them show that, I would save them the trouble of using violence. They said they had none, but I should not preach there; and hurried me away amid the cries of the people. Truly their tongues were set on fire of hell. Henry cried, "Take him away, and duck him." I broke out into singing with T. Maxfield, and let them carry me whither they would. At the bridge in the lane they left me. There I stood, out of the liberty of the Corporation, and gave out,

"Angel of God, whate'er betide,
Thy summons I obey!"

Some hundreds they could not frighten from hearing me, on, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Never did I feel so much what I spoke. The word did not return empty; as the tears on all sides testified.

Then I waited upon Mr. Mayor: the poor sincere ones followed me trembling. He was a little warm at my not coming before. I gave him the reason, and added, that I knew no law of God or man which I had transgressed; if there was any such, desired no favour. He said he should not have denied me leave to preach, even in his own yard; but Mr. Henry Seward and the 'Pothecary had assured him, it would quite cast his brother down again. I said it would rather restore him; for our Gospel was life from the dead.

A lawyer began declaiming against my making the poor gentleman mad. I granted, "You fools must count his life madness." Here a Clergyman spoke much,—and nothing. As near as I could pick out his meaning, he grumbled at Mr. Whitefield's speaking against the Clergy in his Journal. I told him, if he himself was a carnal, worldly-minded Clergyman, *I* might do what he would call railing,—warn God's people to beware of false Prophets. I did not say, because I did not know him, that he *was* one of those shepherds that fed themselves, not the flock; of those dumb dogs that could not bark; of those greedy dogs that could never have enough: if he was, I was sorry for him, and must leave that sentence of Chrysostom with him, "Hell is paved with the skulls of Christian Priests."

He charged me with making a division in Mr. Seward's family. I asked, "Are you a Preacher of the Gospel, and do not know the effect it has among men? 'There shall be five in an house, two against three, and three against two.'" He laughed, and cried to his companion, "Did not I tell you he would bring that?" I urged the necessity of persecution, if one of a family was first awakened. "Awakened!" said he, "I don't know what you mean by that." "I mean, your speaking truth, when you tell God the remembrance of your sins is grievous to you, the burden intolerable." I turned from him, and asked the Mayor, whether he approved the treatment I had met with. He said, "By no means;" and if I complained, he would bind the men over to answer it at the sessions. I told him I did not complain, neither would I prosecute them, as they well knew. I assured him, I had waited upon him, not out of interest, for I wanted nothing of him; not out of fear, for I had done no wrong, and wanted no human support: but out of true respect, and to show him I believed the powers that be are ordained of God.

In church the Minister I had talked with, Mr. Pr., seemed utterly confounded at the Second Lesson, John iii. That saying in the Epistle, likewise, was sadly inconsistent with some of his: "But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now." In his pulpit, (Nicodemus's stronghold,) he strained hard to draw a parallel between the Pharisees and

Methodists. I suppose because we preach self-justification. In the evening I preached without interruption, "The blind receive their sight," &c. Our Lord was present. None stirred for the rain. The school-house was crowded at seven. I spoke convincingly, to some scoffers in particular, who could not long stand it.

"Sing ye to our God above
Praise eternal as his love!"

We have seen wonderful things to-day.

Mon., March 17th. My yesterday's treatment has provoked many to love. They receive me the more gladly into their houses, because Mr. Seward's is shut against me.

I breakfasted at a loving Quaker's. I preached at three by the river's side, on, "Blow ye the trumpet in Sion, sound an alarm in my holy mountain," &c. (Joel ii. 1.) God put strong words into my mouth, and inclined the people's hearts to hearken.

Mr. Henry Seward, mad with passion at my stay, spreads the news of it everywhere, and much increases my audience. To-night I proceeded in the beatitudes. When I came to the last, "Blessed are they which are persecuted," our enemies, not knowing the Scriptures, fulfilled them. A troop poured in from a neighbouring alehouse, and set up their champion, a schoolmaster, upon a bench over against me. For near an hour he spake for his master, and I for mine; but my voice prevailed. Sometimes we prayed, sometimes sang and gave thanks. The Lord our God was with us, and the shout of a King was amongst us. In the midst of tumult, reproach, and blasphemy, I enjoyed a sweet calm within, even while I preached the Gospel with most contention. These slighter conflicts must fit me for greater.

Tues., March 18th. Last night's disturbance, we now hear, was contrived at the alehouse by the 'Squire and Rector.

I preached at the usual place, from Isai. xi.: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb," &c. I set my eyes on the man that had been most violent with me on Sunday, and testified my love. He thanked me, and seemed melted.

While I was concluding, my friend the schoolmaster set up his throat. We had recourse to singing, which quite

spoiled his oration. Henry had kept him in town, warm with drink, for this purpose. I could hardly restrain the people from falling upon him.

I went up to my other rough friend, the Sergeant, and shook him by the hand with hearty good-will. He could not well tell how to take it; said he had only done what he was ordered, and seemed glad to get out of my hands.

Some had come merely to make a riot; but my God was stronger than theirs.

I had a message before preaching from Mr. P——, the Minister, that if I did not immediately quit the town, Mr. Henry Seward could easily raise a mob; and then let me look to myself.

Mr. Canning and others dissuaded me from going to the Society; for my enemies were resolved to do me a mischief, which I ought to avoid, by going out of the way for a while. I answered in the words of Nehemiah, "Should such a man as I flee?" not in self-confidence, (for I am naturally afraid of everything,) but I was told in the morning Psalms, "Whoso dwelleth under the shadow of the Most High, shall abide under the defence of the Almighty," &c.

I went, and set upon the opposers; bade them glory of me, for they had terrified me now. I was really afraid—to leave Evesham. I durst no more do it, than forsake my Captain, or deny my Master, while any one of them opened his mouth against the truth. No man answered a word, or offered to disturb me in my following exhortation. Many were convinced: Mrs. Canning was in the depth of mourning. We spent an hour in songs of triumph. Some Quakers joined us, and found their giving God praises with their lips did not at all obstruct the melody of the heart.

I received great comfort from those words in the first Lesson, "Then the men of the city said to Joash, Bring out thy son that he may die, because he hath cast down the altar of Baal. And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? Will ye save him? If he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar."

In the afternoon there was none to plead for him, or to molest me in the work of God, while I showed God's

method of saving souls : " For he maketh sore, and bindeth up ; he woundeth, and his hands make whole." The tears that were shed gave comfortable evidence that my labour has not been in vain.

Wed., March 19th. I laboured to convince my many hearers of sin, from the law, as interpreted by our Lord. The floods began to lift up their voice : I went and stood by the door : the enemy still murmured without, and attempted to force their way in. I turned upon them, and invited them to Christ, till all their opposition ceased. I then took my leave of the little flock ; but for no long season.

After much wandering, by three we found out Mr. Morgan. They received us very affectionately. Mrs. Morgan was very open. God gave her a kind prejudice in my behalf. She related what passed the week they spent at Mr. Bray's. He urged her to cast off all the means of grace : not to go to church, or sacrament ; not to read the Scriptures ; not to pray in private, but *be still* ; and the " new light," as he called it, would come of itself. She would very soon have it, he promised her, for he felt her spirit. The effect of his discourse was, it made her utterly regardless of religion ; for the new light would come, she thought, when it would. Mr. Morgan they dissuaded from family prayer, or preaching, till he should receive it. George Whitefield, they told her, was quite in the dark, and had done great mischief by preaching : so had my brother and I ; but of me they had great hopes. Mrs. Eusters and Mrs. Vaughan were also brought to bear their testimony against the ordinances, and spoke much concerning the pernicious use of them.

Great was the offence which these two poor souls took at our London friends. Mrs. Morgan they dealt with apart, and would have her go to Germany, setting her against her husband. He complains, that since she came under their teaching, she has lost all desire of being a Christian. I can never enough thank God for this unexpected warning against their diabolical stillness. Was I engaged in the devil's service to turn back an awakened soul, I would send him to them for instruction.

We spent the evening in defacing bad impressions, and mutual unmystical exhortation. Next morning we left our

weaker friend, delivered out of the snare of the devil, we trust, and again resolved to work out her salvation.

Mr. Morgan attended us as far as Woodstock, and was astonished at Thomas Maxfield's experience. By three we got to Oxford, where the little flock is kept together by our brother Viney ; whose stillness does not yet consist in trampling upon God's ordinances.

Sat., March 22d. We returned to Mr. Morgan, having before agreed that I should preach in his churches, and then once more look the world in the face at Evesham. He now told me more of J. Bray, and his new guides. John advised him first to get preferment, and then declare himself. They caressed all his natural inclinations, on condition he would come into their notion of stillness. They taught him a Christianity which had no cross in it, no work of faith, no patience of hope, no labour of love.

Sun., March 23d. I read prayers and preached once more in a church at Westcot. It was full of attentive hearers ; my text, "What must I do to be saved?" I never spoke with greater plainness. Many seemed pricked at the heart. Mrs. M—— cried all sermon-time. I went home full of comfort. I preached at Idbury, to a much larger congregation, from our Lord's invitation, "Come unto me, all that labour," &c. I never preached more closely. I returned to Westcot, and showed the legal and evangelical states from 2 Tim. i. 7 : "God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Still our Lord was faithful to his promise, "Lo, I am with you."

Mon., March 24th. I returned to Evesham, and met Mr. Henry. He asked me to step into the Crown. I answered, I did not frequent taverns. "What business have you with my brother?" "Can you imagine, if I have any business with him, as a Christian, I shall communicate it to you?" "Why not to me?" "Because you are a natural man." "Why, are not you a natural man as well as I?" "You are a *mere* natural man, in your sins and in your blood." "What do you mean by that? I say, have you any particular business?" "I have business at present, somewhat different from talking with you."

Tues., March 25th. News was brought us, that Mr.

Benjamin Seward was carrying out to Badsey, there to be secured, no doubt, till I turn my back on Evesham. I walked out that way, and met Henry. He excused his past behaviour; said anger was rooted in his nature. "But, indeed, Sir, you are the downfall of my brother Benjamin: he has certainly been out of his senses." "Yes; and so have I been before now in a fever." "O, but we all really think him mad through means of you gentlemen." "Very likely you may. And if it should ever please God to make *you* a Christian, you will be thought mad too." "God make me a Christian! I am a better Christian than you are." "You was once in the way of being one, but you have stifled your convictions." "I say, I am a better Christian than you are. I have good Ministers and the Scriptures to teach me." "Yes; and those Scriptures say, a man that loves money, is no more a Christian than an adulterer." "What, Sir! must not a man love money? How shall he go to market without it? Not that I value it, not I.—But what do you mean by making divisions in our family? You come now to get money." "Indeed, Sir, you know not what I come for. You cannot tell what to make of me. You have no standard to measure me by but yourself. I don't wonder at your outcries. Micah cried after them that ran away with his gods, and should they ask him what ailed him? Money is your god; and you think I come to rob you of it." He rode to a good convenient distance, then, turning back, cried out, "You are a rascal, and a villain, and a pickpocket!" and, setting spurs to his horse, rode off as fast as he could. Brother Maxfield and I walked on, calmly praising God.

Mr. Canning's little daughter told us, she had watched in the lane, and put a note into Mr. Benjamin's hand. Soon after his chariot stopped at our door, and I went out, and found my friend. He invited me to his house. Henry was upon the coach-box, a place he full well became; and which nothing could make uneasy to him but my presence. Yesterday he told me, I should never see his brother, and to-day he himself brings him to me.

I dined at Mr. Keech's, who is somewhat awakened, his daughter more so, his wife a true mourner. I drank tea with one that *was* a sinner, but now looks unto Jesus.

I walked out with brother Maxfield to the river-side, and spent a comfortable hour in prayer and singing. Then we went to Mr. Benjamin Seward's; found Henry and his wife with him; both surprisingly civil, and full of apology. Henry begged my pardon; and waited upon me to the gate.

I finished Matt. v. with the Society. All was quiet till the last hymn. Then I heard the enemy roaring, and gave out another. They left off first; and the people departed, not all, I hope, in peace; for the strong man armed is disturbed in many.

Wed., March 26th. I breakfasted at Mr. Seward's. We were all diverted at Mr. Henry's making, and continually breaking, his promise not to be angry. Who maketh me to differ?

I expounded John iii.; and was much assisted in the application. A poor harlot spoke out, after her manner; but the devil durst not let her stay. He soon hurried her out of the reach of the Gospel, as he did two or three more; who, as soon as they had spoken a word for him, made off.

Thur., March 27th. I finished John iii. in as strong words as I could speak. What a stony heart has the natural man, till the hammer of God's word breaks the rock in pieces!

Fri., March 28th. I met Mr. Henry at his brother's; and, with all plainness of love, endeavoured to convince him of sin. Never have I found a man of so little sense, with so many evasions. I simply told him, that if he died in his present condition, he must die eternally; that he raged in vain; my hook was within him; I had warned the sinner, and delivered my own soul. "Your hook!" cried he; "what do you mean by your hook?" Benjamin answered, smiling, "You know, brother, Mr. Wesley is a fisher of men." As a Minister, I added, I now showed him *his* lost estate, and that whether he would hear, or whether he would forbear.

In the school-house I summed up all I had said, and encouraged them to build up one another; promising to see them again, when the Lord directed my way to them. We had a few noisy *ἀγοραῖοι* to quicken us. Our parting was as it ought to be.

Sat., March 29th. I took my leave of Mr. Seward. Henry fell upon me, for advising his brother to keep up the Society ; "rogue, rascal, villain, pickpocket," were the best titles he could afford me. Mr. Benjamin interposed. I begged him not then to answer a fool according to his folly. Henry started up, and courageously took me by the nose. The cries of Mrs. Seward stopped any farther violence. I was filled with comfort ; felt the hand of God upon me, and sat still. I said to Mrs. Seward, "Be not disquieted, Madam : I have learned to turn the other cheek." Henry was as the troubled sea : Benjamin perfectly composed ; said to me, "You have now received one mark of Christ ;" to his brother, "Was I what you are, I should turn you out of my house this moment." I would not let him proceed ; begged Mrs. Seward's pardon for the disturbance I had been the innocent occasion of ; and departed, rejoicing that I was counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of Christ.

I came to Westcot ; found M. Morgan hungering and thirsting for righteousness : the last was become first. They desired me to expound the lesson, St. Paul's Epistle to Philemon. In speaking to the fifteenth verse, "For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever," the Spirit was present in his demonstration. Brother Maxfield felt it ; and told me, he *knew* Mrs. M. had received the blessing. She retired to prayer ; informed us afterwards that she had been filled with inexpressible comfort, from an assured sense of pardon ; that, while she was praying, a sudden damp came over her, for having blasphemously thought her sins forgiven. She knew not then, though we did, from whence this fear proceeded.

Sun., March 30th. My late discourses have worked differently. Some are wounded, some hardened : I hear of no neutrals. The word has turned them upside down.

In the pulpit I opened the book on, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor." I described our Lord's prophetic office, and the persons on whom alone he could perform it. We returned from the altar with the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among such as keep holiday. Mrs. M. felt every word we sang.

From hence we hasted to the meat which the world knoweth not of. Idbury church and churchyard were full. I showed them wherein holiness consisted ; answered their objections, dividing to them the word of truth, both law and Gospel. Many were pierced to the dividing asunder their soul and spirit. One woman the commandment plainly slew ; and she was carried off in a fit. O that all hardened sinners were so wounded in spirit !

We hasted back to Westcot; where I preached the pure Gospel from the good Samaritan. Surely he was in the midst, pouring in his oil and wine.

I adjourned to Mr. Morgan's. His house was crowded as a Minister's ought to be. In the morning I had thoughts of expounding Rom. vii. And now a woman told me, she had read that Mr. W. Seward had been convinced by my explaining Rom. vii., and therefore begged me to expound it now. I did so, with great assistance. The woman heard, as her tears confessed, her own state, not St. Paul's, described. Another serious Dissenter was equally moved.

Mon., March 31st. I got, well weary, to Oxford.

Tues., April 1st. I encouraged C. Graves against the fear of man, which had almost separated him from the despised followers of Christ. I preached to the Society "Christ, our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption." Brother Viney allows we speak the same words with him : if he disallowed it, it makes no matter with me.

Thur., April 3d. I reached London by two, and found my brother Hall quite cold and unconcerned. He seems never to have heard of the Gospel, or that God is reviving his work in these latter days.

At the Foundery I preached on, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." We joined to meet in the name of Jesus. My heart was enlarged in prayer for the infant Society.

I talked with poor perverted Mr. Simpson. The still ones have carried their point. He said some were prejudiced against the Moravian brethren; and particularly against Molther: but that he had received great benefit from them. I asked whether he was *still* in the means of grace, or *out* of them. "Means of grace!" he answered;

"there are none. Neither is there any good to be got by those you call such, or any obligation upon us to use them. Sometimes I go to church and sacrament for example sake : but it is a thing of mere indifference. Most of us have cast them off. You must not speak a word in recommendation of them : that is setting people upon working."

What shall we say to these things? I then *said* little, but thought, "Ah, my brother ! you have set the wolf to keep the sheep."

Good-Friday, April 4th. I called on a multitude of sinners at the Foundry, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Many were melted into tears ; but their tears, our brother Simpson observed, were a sign that they were *not* affected.

After preaching, James Hutton came to fetch me to Molther, at J. Bray's. I chose rather to fast than eat ; and to pray in God's house, than dispute in another's. I called with Maxfield on Molther in the afternoon. He did not much open himself ; only talked in general against running after ordinances. We parted as we met, without either prayer or singing. The time for these poor exercises is past. Brother Maxfield was scandalized at their trifling ; which is perfectly consistent with stillness ; though Christian exhortation is not.

At six I read several bills of thanksgiving for comforts received under the word in the morning. Our Lord was powerfully with me, while I described his sufferings. (Isai. liii.)

Sat., April 5th. I spent an hour with Charles Delamotte. The Philistines have been upon him, and prevailed. He has given up the ordinances, as to their being matter of duty. Only his practice lies a little behind his faith. He uses them still.

He would not have me plead for them. "They are mere outward things. Our brethren have left them off. It would only cause divisions to bring them up again. Let them drop, and speak of the weightier matters of the law." I told him, I would hear them of their own mouth, who talked against the ordinances ; first have my full evidence, and then speak, and not spare.

I breakfasted with my mother, who has been dealt with,

but in vain. Bishop Beveridge would as soon have given up the ordinances. I disturbed Mr. Stonehouse before his time. It was but eight o'clock. However, he rose and came to me.

"If thou art he! but, O, how changed! how fallen!" He is now taught to teach, that there are no degrees of faith: no forgiveness or faith, where any unbelief remains; any doubt, or fear, or sorrow. He himself was never justified; is going to leave his parish, and transport himself—to Germany!

I have given an account of his wife in him.

From eleven to one is devoted to conference. The first that came was Stephen Dupee, a soldier, who informs me he received forgiveness this week *in* hearing the word, and could lay down his life for the truth of it. But forasmuch as faith came not by hearing the Moravians, I suppose in his first temptation they will remand him to the prison of Satan, and not allow him to have faith till he subscribes to theirs.

Margaret Austin tells me, she has longed for my coming as a child for the breast. "I was justified," she said, "the first Friday you was at Wapping, with those many others; saw my Saviour bringing me a pardon written in his blood. But their telling me I had no faith if I had any doubt, brought me again into darkness. I have been in an agony ever since; but last night my Saviour returned. I received your words as coming from his mouth; and with the eye of faith I again saw my pardon, written in his blood."

I walked with brother Maxfield, praying and praising God. A sweet confidence he gave us that he would not leave us alone; but by us weak things confound the things that are strong.

Sister Jackson called, and much strengthened my hands. Most of the women have renounced the ordinances. Our sister Munsy has left their Society, for their treatment of *her* Ministers.

A separation I foresee unavoidable. All means have been taken to wean our friends of their esteem for us. God never used us, say they, as instruments to convert one soul. Indeed, I have just received a noble testimony of W. Seward's to the contrary. But he and George White-

field are reprobated for unbelievers. In a letter now received, George writes, "Remember what Luther says, 'Rather let heaven and earth come together, than one tittle of truth perish.'"

I preached at Bowers's Society. Many *still* ones were there, watching for my halting. As yet I fight in the cloud; and think it safest not to converse with such of our misled, misleading brethren as I love best; particularly Mr. Stonehouse and M. Claggetts.

Easter-day, April 6th. At the Foundery I strongly preached Christ, and the power of his resurrection, from Phil. iii. 9, 10. My intention was, not to mention one word of the controverted points, till I had spoke with each of the seducers. But God ordered it better; and led me, I know not how, *in ipsam aciem et certamen*. My mouth was opened to ask, "Who hath bewitched you, that you should let go your Saviour? that you should cast away your shield and your confidence, and deny you ever knew him?" More to this purpose I said; and then followed a burst of general sorrow. The whole congregation was in tears. I called them back to their Saviour, even *theirs*, in words which were not mine; pressed obedience to the divine ordinances; and prayed my Lord to stay his hand, and not set to his seal, unless I spake as the oracles of God.

After preaching, he sent me a witness of his truth which I had delivered. A sister, long in darkness through doubtful disputations, came and declared Christ has again appeared unto her, and imprinted forgiveness on her heart. My heart, for the time, was as hers. Brother Maxfield was in the full triumph of faith.

I dined at Hiland's, halting between two. Bell, Simpson, and others, when the bell rung for church, said, "It is good for us to be here." "Well, then," said I, "I will go myself, and leave you to your antichristian liberty." Upon this they started up and bore me company.

One of them told a poor man in my hearing, "That comfort you received at the sacrament, was given you by the devil." I should less blasphemously have called it, the drawing of the Father, or preventing grace.

The Foundery at night was filled, both within and without. I showed them their natural estate, and the way to

come out of it, in blind Bartimeus, who sat by the way-side begging. I could not have *so spoken* of the ordinances, had not God instituted them. Every word brought its own evidence to their hearts.

I walked with Maxfield to Bowers's, where the bands were to meet: the door was shut against us. I carried the few sisters to J. Bray's. More joined us in prayer and praise. God blessed my words, and enlarged our hearts in love to each other. The poor scattered sheep knew my voice. A stranger they will not follow.

J. Bray came with Edmunds, took me aside, and desired brother Maxfield might be turned out. I submitted it to the sisters, who all desired he might stay. Then, without losing an hour in dumb show, I gave out an hymn, and prayed according to God. For an hour I spoke freely, no one forbidding me; avowed my love to them, my disinterestedness, my success; told them what God had done for my soul, and others through me; gloried in the cross of Christ; lamented their having been so troubled; exhorted them to hold fast whereunto they had attained, and never to forsake the holy ordinances; to avoid all reasonings and disputes about their faith; and to go on to perfection.

Many close things God enabled me to speak, concerning those that troubled them, and would exclude us, that they might affect them; yet all in the spirit of meekness.

I asked Bray whether he denied the ordinances to be commands. He answered indirectly, "I grant them to be great privileges." (Edmunds confessed more honestly, that he had cast them off.) Whether he had not denied George Whitefield to have faith? This question he answered by begging to be excused it. He denounced grievous woes against the women, for suffering Maxfield to be present, contrary to order. That order, they said, had been imposed upon them when no Minister was present; and they were threatened to be turned out, unless they consented to it. I put my brother Bray in mind of his respect for the Prophetess Lavington, to show he was not infallible.

We plainly saw his stillness was ruffled: he showed it by threatening to renounce all care of the bands, till they refused Maxfield admittance. I told him I did not see what good he had done them since our leaving London:

asked if he could charge us with preaching another gospel : preferred Molther to myself, yet declared I would not give place to him by subjection, no, not for an hour ; but who-soever cast off the ordinances, I would cast off him, although it was my own brother. We concluded our conference with thanksgiving.

Below, J. Bray asked me whether I should come to my band on Monday. I answered, "No." He modestly replied, "Then you shall be expelled."

Mon., April 7th. I cried to above five thousand at Kennington-Common, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." The love this people bear me requires the counterbalance of our stronger brethren's contempt.

My companions in the coach had been Quakers, but left them for their worldly-mindedness, and clave to us. They begin to feel themselves sinners.

I came to brother Maxfield's assistance, who was engaged in dispute with Bell, but an over-match for him, and much wiser in the things of God than his teacher. Bell graciously allows him to be a child of God, although never brought into confusion by the still brethren.

Tues., April 8th. I met Simpson and Oxley at the Foundery. The former told me plainly, if I recommended the ordinances, he must preach against me. I avowed my resolution never to give them up, as he and our poor deluded brethren had done. He tried all his Moravian questions upon Maxfield : *illidens solido*.

I preached on Mark ii. 10 : "The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins." Anne Young, one who has been brought into confusion, testified that power, having now received the witness into herself. Several others come out of darkness daily, and recover their comfort.

Many poor sinners came to confer with me to-day about their souls. Two hours is full little for this work.

At one the woman bands met by my appointment. I began praying ; and we were all overwhelmed. I spoke largely of their being brought into the wilderness ; of their folly and ingratitude in giving up not his Ministers only, but their Saviour himself. My love and sorrow ran through them all. I told them that their forsaking the ordinances sufficiently accounted for their being forsaken by Christ ;

warned them against disputing ; against vindicating *me*, or saying, "I am of Paul, and I of Apollos ;" against the double extreme of resting in the means, or slighting them ; but, above all, against stopping short of the glorious image of God.

Jane Jackson and others witnessed what God had done for their souls, through our ministry. If Christ be not with us, who hath begotten us these ? His power overshadowed us at this time ; therefore our heart danced for joy, and in our song did we praise him.

I drank tea at Mr. Hawthorn's, who seems, with his wife and sisters, not far from the kingdom of God. I spoke of the love of Christ crucified to the Misses of the school, and melted them into tears. How easily might children receive their Saviour, if he were tendered to them !

I preached at the Common to six thousand poor, maimed, halt, and blind. Glory to Him, who is with his messengers always !

At Mr. Crouch's I opened the book upon Phil. i. 25 : "And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all, for your furtherance and joy of faith," &c. I gave some account of our colliers, and prayed that their spirit might be with us. He was so, indeed. One received his testimony in her heart ; all some spiritual gift.

Wed., April 9th. I began Isaiah. At one I met the women ; prayed in faith that some might receive a second gift. Sister Hinsom recovered the sight of *her* Saviour. So did sister Barber. He was with us of a truth. How vainly does man deny, when God confirms !

I dined at Mr. Dawson's, a sincere soul, his wife unawakened. As we were going, two gentlewomen came in. One was seeking Christ. We prayed, and had free access. We prayed again, and wrestled for an answer. The work went visibly forward in her soul. She trembled exceedingly. The Spirit cried and groaned from her heart. Her sighs shook my soul, till deliverance came. The clouds were scattered more and more. Her doubts and fears died away ; and at last she confidently laid claim to Jesus *her* Saviour.

I never saw a soul so sweetly rising to the assurance of faith. In our thanksgiving she triumphed ; full of the

spirit of love and supplication. I lent words to her faith. Mrs. Dawson trembled; her husband mourned: I was filled with confidence: brother Maxfield was almost out of the body.

This was to prepare us for Fetter-lane, whither I carried brother Maxfield. I was in a mild, open, loving frame. The brethren could not contain long. Hutton began with objecting to Maxfield's presence at the women's lovefeast. I spoke as reconciling as I could; (but the strong cannot bear with the weak;) desired their prayers, that what I knew not, the Lord would show me.

James welcomed Maxfield by telling him, "If ever you speak to any of the women as you used to do at Bristol, you must not come here." Maxfield was the only *still* person among us. The old man rose in me; but my Lord kept me within bounds.

Simpson took upon him next to reprove me for mentioning myself in preaching, and showing such vehemence, which was all animal spirits. I took him up short, that I should not ask him, or any of the brethren, how an ambassador of Christ should speak.

The strong ones were now brim full of dispute. I was to declare my success at Bristol, but they would not permit me. After much thwarting, I told them they did not deserve a true Minister of Christ. James began giving me good words; but Simpson spoiled all again, by accusing me with "preaching up the ordinances." I got home, weary, wounded, and bruised, and faint, through the contradiction of sinners; *poor* sinners, as they call themselves, these heady, violent, fierce contenders for stillness. I could not bear the thought of meeting them again.

I finished Isaiah i. at the Foundery, which led me to speak explicitly on the ordinances. God gave me great power, or, as our brethren will have it, animal spirits, sealing my words upon many hearts.

Mrs. Seaton's in particular. The hammer had broke the rock. "I had so built her up in ordinances," as they phrase it, that she saw herself a damned sinner, a Pharisee, an hypocrite, trusting in a form of godliness all her life, but not knowing the power. She now felt her heart-sins, and that she was capable of all manner of wickedness.

I prayed by a faithful soul, whom Simpson had buf-feted; but she would not quite let go her Saviour. She was greatly confirmed; and Mrs. Seaton, too, was fully set at liberty, and rejoiced, believing with all her heart.

Simpson and the rest have dissuaded them, and indeed all our friends, from ever hearing my brother or me, or using any of the means. They condemn all doing good, whether to soul or body. "For, unless you *trust* in them," say they, "you would not do good works, so called."

Yesterday Simpson declared, "No soul *can* be washed in the blood of Christ, unless it be first brought to a true believer, or one in whom Christ is fully formed. But there are only *two such Ministers* in London, which are Molther and Bell." If this is not calling man Rabbi, what is? Nay, it is worse: it is making the excellency of the power to be of man, and not of God; it is robbing Christ of his glory, and making his creature *necessary* to Him in his peculiar work of salvation. First perish Molther, Bell, and all mankind, and sink into nothing, that Christ may be all in all.

I am astonished at the divine goodness. How seasonably did it bring us hither, and lead us since! The adversary roared in the midst of the congregation, and set up his banners for tokens. A new commandment, called "stillness," had repealed all God's commandments, and given a full indulgence to lazy, corrupt nature. The still ones rage above measure against *me*; for my brother, they *say*, had consented to their pulling down the ordinances, and here come I, and build them up again.

God overruled me to declare myself *before the time* I intended, which cut off all their *πυθανολογια*. O what a deliverance was this! for they would deceive the very elect. Satan has transformed himself into an angel of light. What havoc would these "dogs of hell" have made, had not our Lord arose to maintain his own cause! But, glory be to Him, when the enemy was come in like a flood, then the Spirit of the Lord lifted up a standard against him.

I met such of the sisters as have not forsook the ordinances. Our Lord divides the spoil with the mighty; and I doubt not but a little one will become a thousand. Some or other continually recover their comfort.

I received the following letter from him we dined with yesterday :—

“O praise the Lord with me, and let us magnify his name together! Reverend Sir, I cannot forbear acquainting you how mercifully God heard your prayers for me. After you left me, I was deeply depressed, and went mourning all the evening, as I had done for months before; my prayers seldom reaching farther than sighs and groans. At waking, I offered up my first thoughts, and was presently answered with a comfortable power to say, ‘I know that my Redeemer liveth.’ My heavy load is vanished. Blessed be his eternal goodness! Now can I praise Him with joyful lips. O pray for me, my dear Pastor; for to you and your brother I am a debtor more than I can pay. But my Lord will pay it for me; and now I *know* he has paid all my debts above, he will not forget these below. From your young son in Christ,

“ROBERT DAWSON.”

At six I began St. John’s Gospel. The true Light shone in our darkness. Several saw His glory; some testified it in the Society; and more in their notes of thanksgiving. I prayed in confidence. Bell was present. God called forth his witnesses. Four made confession of the faith then given, or restored. I carried Bell to each. He had nothing to object to their strong and full testimony. Two declared they had apprehended Christ before; but on their forsaking his ordinances, he had forsook them. I warned them all from hence, not to trust in the ordinances, lest God in judgment should suffer them to cast them off: spoke strongly and mildly of those who had turned the lame out of the way; prayed for their return, and for the increase of this little flock. God himself could not convince one who would not be convinced; no, not though he made bare his arm before us. “Christ commands me to say,” said Bell, if we would believe him, “that the ordinances are no commands.” I forbade all dispute, telling him, it should rest here :—He said they were no commands, I said they were; let the word of God determine. In Fetter-lane none durst speak for them: here none should speak against them. If he could forbear, he should be welcome here; otherwise, not.

Fri., April 11th. The still brethren confront me with my brother's authority, pretending that he consented not to speak of the ordinances, that is, in effect to give them up, but leave it to every one's choice, whether they would use them or not. That necessity is laid upon us to walk in them, that "Do this in remembrance of me" has the nature of a command, they absolutely deny. From "Woe unto the world because of offences," &c., I argued that their having offended or stumbled one of these little ones, was no proof that he did not believe in Jesus, but a dreadful proof that the offender had better never have been born.

Poor Simpson was present, but could not stand it. He withdrew dejected; I hope, shaken: for a mighty power accompanied the word.

Anne Parker, in conference, told me, they had darkened, but could not quite destroy, the work of God in her soul. Her faith she would not give up, though she lost the comfort of it through their doubtful disputations. But on Thursday, while we were praying, she recovered it with large increase.

Hannah Kent declares, she felt Christ's blood applied last night. So did Eliz. Morison, upon my asking, "Believest thou that he is able to do this? that the Son of man can forgive you this moment?" Eliz. Bowen, likewise, received her pardon last night in hearing.

I am forced to allow more time for conference. To-day the weak ones found me full employment from three to eleven.

At Wapping I was directed to, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." (John ix. 7.) Well is the Spirit compared to a mighty rushing wind: we heard the sound of it now, and the flame was kindled. Many felt the pangs of the new birth. Behold, a cry, "The Bridegroom cometh!" I knew not when to leave off preaching, praying, singing. Four witnesses stood forth and testified, "A man that is called Jesus hath opened mine eyes." From Him they received power to believe; and they worshipped Him.

Mr. Simpson called, and laid down his two postulatums, that, 1. The ordinances are no commands. 2. It is impossible to doubt after justification. I maintained the contradictory; plainly told him, they were fighting against God,

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robbing him of his glory, offending his little ones, and were under a strong delusion.

While I was going to bed, he came again with Bell, and disputed against the ordinances, and degrees of faith. He often repeated to himself, "O my Jesus!" I asked him, "Have you a new heart?" "No." "Have you faith?" "No." "Would you not be damned if you died this moment?" "Yes." "Then how dare you, a damned unbeliever, say, 'My Jesus?'" He was struck, and had nothing to answer.

Sun., April 13th. I spoke strong words of waiting for Christ *in* the use of means. In vain do our brethren dissuade. They have set the house on fire, and now say they will be quiet if I will.

Before preaching, a woman came to me in the agony of despair. After preaching, I saw her rejoicing in Christ *her* Saviour. Such seals he gives me, as often as I speak in his name: and while he does so, I am content that man should withhold his testimony.

I received the sacrament at St. Paul's. The last time I communicated there, was in company with our whole Society. Who hath bewitched them, that they should not obey their Saviour? A Moravian, by declaring some months ago, he had long sought Christ in the ordinances in vain; but on his leaving them off, immediately found him. Nature caught the word; and our brethren cast off all the means at once.

I am now informed that Mrs. Sutherland was to hear me on Thursday evening, and when she got home was filled with all peace and joy in believing.

My soul was exceeding sorrowful at the love-feast, to find so little love, and so much dispute. I spoke as healingly as I could; declared what God had done for the colliers; put them in remembrance of his work begun in them by our ministry, and what manner of entrance in we had among them; concluded with expostulation, how injuriously our brethren had dealt with us, by dissuading all from hearing us, and hindering, as much as in them lay, the farther course of our ministry. Clark (another Shaw) denied the fact. I appealed to Simpson, who had confessed to me, that he had dissuaded such and such per-

sons from either hearing or seeing me. Our brother Hodges next began talking at random against peace, and joy, and love, as if they were any marks of faith. He had much of them before he had any faith at all, that is, any stillness. The women stopped his mouth. Many bore their testimony to the truth of our doctrine, and that the Moravians, since Peter Böhler, had added nothing to us. In singing and prayer my spirit revived. We praised the Lord with supernatural joy, and magnified his name together.

Tues., April 15th. I received the following letters :—

“My friend in Christ,—I cannot help letting you know that the Lord carries on the work he began in me. He has showed me you are a Minister of his own sending. He hath taken the scales from my eyes. I was lame ; he has made me walk : I was bound as with chains of darkness ; he has burst my bonds in sunder. He has plucked me as a brand out of hell ; and shall I dare to hide this ? Shall I not declare what he hath done for my soul ? I am not ashamed to say, I sat by the way-side begging, and, as Jesus passed by, I received my sight. I am not afraid to say, a servant of Christ uncovered the roof, and Jesus saw me brought unto him, poor and helpless. He looked on me, and said, ‘Thy sins are forgiven thee ; thy faith hath made thee whole.’

“O, this small grain of faith is of matchless value ! ‘Thy sins are forgiven thee !’ O, that word was Christ ! Christ was the word that spoke it. Behold a miracle indeed ! A greater one than if a dead body had been raised out of the earth. I was dead in sin, and Jesus raised me. He brought me from the pit of hell into the kingdom of light. Flesh and blood could not have revealed this, but the Spirit of God, which dwelleth in me. O, Jesus ! make this light a continuing spring of life !

“The Lord confirmed the word you delivered on Friday, concerning Satan’s devices. He regards the low estate of his handmaid. I have some strivings ; but he that keepeth me neither slumbers nor sleeps. I lean on him. I am as a new-born babe. He gently leads me. My Lord has brought me into his banqueting-house, and his banner over me is love. That the Lord may bless your ministry, and that there may never be wanting a constant supply of

faithful labourers, is the most earnest prayer of yours in Christ,
E. BRISTOW."

"Sir,—I beg leave to ask your opinion about my state. I do not doubt myself; for, through the grace given me, I am confident God for Christ's sake hath forgiven and made me free. But it has been questioned by a believer, whether I have received faith or not.

"I was brought up an heathen in a D.D.'s house. After that I went to the Lord's table, and then thought myself a good Christian. But, blessed be God, I now see that I was an abominable Pharisee. For my pride, God cast me out of his house, and I fell into the foulest crimes I could commit.

"After some time, I had a sight of my damnable estate, and that I was nothing but sin. I daily dreaded God's vengeance. I durst not offer to pray, knowing my prayer was an abomination to that God who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. I could not think it possible there should be forgiveness for me.

'I had my punishment in view;
I felt a thousand hells my due.'

"I went twice to hear Mr. Whitefield, but thought it did not signify. My misery still increased. But it pleased God, the last time you, his faithful Minister, preached at Kennington, from 2 Cor. vi. 9, my blessed Saviour was revealed in me, in so glorious a manner, that I rather thought myself in heaven than upon earth. I thought I could meet death with boldness. I was ready to cry out to every one, 'O taste and see how good the Lord is!' I would not for a thousand worlds be in my former state again.

"May God prolong your life and health in his service and kingdom!"

I dined at Mr. Crouch's, with M. Seaton. Young West came in. I asked him abruptly, "Should you be as glad to see me at your house now as before I left London?" He was honest not to answer in the affirmative.

Our brethren have set themselves to take off all our authority with our friends, even before they knew we should not come in to their notions. It was best to make all sure, for fear we should not call them Rabbi. West

would not believe they had warned any against hearing us, till M. Seaton declared, they had absolutely forbid her running after my brother, and gave this reason, "He owned to us that he had not the Spirit of God : why, then, should you go to hear him ?" Which shall I most admire ? his simplicity in making such a confession, or their baseness in making such an use of it ?

From our Lord's temptation I reasoned, that our being immediately tempted, is no proof of our not being baptized with the Holy Ghost ; that the devil's questioning our sonship is no disproof of it ; that we may be in heaviness through manifold temptations, and yet have faith ; that we are not to tempt God, by neglecting the use of means, &c. The words reached many hearts ; particularly Mrs. West's.

Wed., April 16th. I breakfasted with two sisters, who, I think, from their own relation, were justified on Sunday last. I hear of fresh seals at all the times of conference. I went to Deptford with Mrs. E. Bray had lately been with her, and tried to bring her into confusion, telling her, if she still heard me, she never could be justified ; but would have all her work to begin again. Simpson, too, draws away all he can, bidding them go to Molther, or they cannot come to Christ.

Their behaviour is all of a piece, and perfectly consistent with that charitable assertion of J. Bray's, "that it is impossible for any one to be a true Christian out of the Moravian church."

I expounded with great enlargement at a Society in Whitechapel. Some were deeply wounded. I lose count of them that are cured. Let God have all the glory. I met the Society at the Foundery ; recommended true stillness in the use of means ; sang, prayed, and exhorted with much freedom and love, till Mr. Simpson declared against the sacrament, and asserted that no unjustified person ought to receive it ; for if he did, he ate and drank his own damnation. I replied, it was not fitting for *us* to dispute there. I would leave him to speak what he thought good to the Society. I retired, but returned unseen, that I might undo any mischief he might occasion. A few of the women cried, "Let him go : we will hear Mr. Simpson." Poor Mrs. Hamilton extolled him for contradicting me, and protested

against those who had snatched her as a brand out of the fire. The far greater part were filled with grief and love.

After Mr. Simpson had spoke all he had to say, I appeared, and concluded with the hymn on the means of grace. In conference I heard of more who have tasted the word of life by our ministry.

I expounded in Rotherhithe. The people are quite untamed ; but there was power among us, which drove out several. At Wapping I preached the pure Gospel from the woman washing her Saviour's feet. Many joined their tears with hers.

At Mr. Mason's I found an old believer, who had never been taught by Molther. I met M. Macune, who is now wholly perverted, our brethren would judge ; and wants unsettling and confounding, as much as if she had never heard the new Gospel of stillness.

I was informed that our brother Parker and Fish had been in quest of me. How applicable the scripture I last expounded !—"They all lie in wait ; they hunt every man his brother with a net. The best of them is as a brier, the most upright is sharper than a thorn-hedge. Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide." (Micah vii.)

Sun., April 20th. God confirmed his word, "If we confess our sins [unto God], he is faithful to forgive us our sins," &c. And while he does so, let who will despise prophesyings.

I preached at the Marshalsea forgiveness by Christ Jesus, from Acts xiii. 38. Thence M. Sparrow carried me to Kennington-Common, where I divided the word of truth to upward of seven thousand hearers. At the Foundery I discoursed on Lazarus raised. The sons of Belial blasphemed. I invited them, till they were quiet as lambs. Then I strongly recommended the use of means from those words, "Take ye away the stone ;" and showed the weakness of faith from those words, "He that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot." The word came with divine evidence. We rode on triumphantly. M. Sparrow thankfully acknowledged she was now delivered out of the snare of stillness which they had laid for her. M. Macune was very full of what they call *animal spirits* !

I was greatly refreshed in the Society, who are all of

one heart, and of one mind. Two orders were now agreed upon: 1. That no order shall be valid, unless the Minister be present at the making of it. 2. That whosoever denies the ordinances to be commands, shall be expelled the Society.

Tues., April 22d. I met Molther at M. Ibison's. He expressly denies that grace, or the Spirit, is transmitted through the means, particularly through the sacrament. This, he insists, is no command; is for believers only, that is, for such as *are* sanctified, have Christ fully formed in their hearts. Faith, he teaches, is inconsistent with any following doubt, or selfish thought. Forgiveness, and the witness of the Spirit, the indwelling, the seal, are *always* given *together*. Faith, in *this* sense, is a pre-requisite of baptism. That is, the candidate must have received the Holy Ghost, must have Christ living in him, must be justified, and sanctified, must be born of God,—*in order to*—his being born of God.

He mentioned it as a sign of my carnal state, that I complained of our brethren for withdrawing the people's love from me and my brother. I answered, "So did St. Paul on the like occasion. 'They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude *us*, that ye might affect *them*.' If I desired their love for my own sake, it was wrong and carnal; if for theirs, it was right and apostolical."

I dined at Islington with Mr. Wild and others, who cannot yet be prevailed upon to throw away either their weak faith, or the ordinances. They pressed me much to expound. I answered, "When Mr. Stonehouse, whom they ought still to reverence, desired it, then I would."

At Crouch's Society many were wounded. I left among them the hymn entitled, "The Means of Grace," which I have printed as an antidote to stillness.*

I found my brother at the Foundery, and praised God for his seasonable return. Mr. Simpson, &c., had sent for him, to stop my "preaching up the ordinances."

* The hymn which is here mentioned was afterwards divided into two, both of which are inserted in the Wesleyan Collection. They begin,—

"Long have I seem'd to serve thee, Lord."

"Still for thy lovingkindness, Lord."

—EDIT.

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I attended my brother to Fetter-lane. The first hour passed in dumb show, as usual; the next in trifles not worth naming. John Bray, who seems to be a pillar, if not the main one, expelled one brother, and reproved me for not attending my band. We parted as we met, with little of singing, less of prayer, and nothing of love. However, they carried their point, which was to divert my brother from speaking.

Thur., April 24th. My brother spoke after my own heart. His text, "Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die." Simpson and other disputers heard him describe that wilderness-state. They will not now say that my brother and I preach different Gospels.

To the Society he demonstrated the ordinances to be both means of grace, and commands of God. His power rested on us. None opened their mouth against the truth. We trust the little flock, who were following their new leaders into ruin, will now, through grace, come back again.

Fri., April 25th. I had a conference with Molther and our still brethren, but could come to no agreement. They contend for the impossibility of doubting after justification, and an absolute liberty from the means of grace, as we falsely call them, when they are neither means nor commands. We could not consent to say nothing; and so parted. I talked in the evening with James Hutton, concerning the division which must soon ensue. I asked, "Have you the witness in yourself?" "No." "How then can you have faith?" "I have it not in the full proper sense: but I am in no fear. I have the full assurance of hope; and know my Saviour will give it me."

This, in my opinion, is giving up the point. Here is a lower faith, where the abiding, indwelling Spirit is *not yet*. And I see no necessity of denying the imperfect faith, in order to gain the perfect.

I sent a friend at Bristol the following account:—"My brother came most critically. The snare, we trust, will now be broken and many simple souls delivered. Many here insist that a part of their Christian calling is liberty *from* obeying, not liberty *to* obey. The unjustified, say

they, are to *be still* ; that is, not to search the Scriptures, not to pray, not to communicate, not to do good, not to endeavour, not to desire ; for it is impossible to use means without trusting in them. Their practice is agreeable to their principles. Lazy and proud themselves, bitter and censorious toward others, they trample upon the ordinances, and despise the commands, of Christ. I see no middle point wherein we can meet."

Sat., April 26th. I received a most insolent letter from Ridley, threatening my downfall and destruction !

Sun., April 27th. I heard my brother preach at the Common, to a multitude of ten thousand. The still brethren at the love-feast were kept down.

Mon., April 28th. Brother Ibison declared his having found peace through my ministry. Likewise my sister Hall gave me reason to hope she is accepted in the Beloved.

Wed., April 30th. At Fetter-lane I read Ridley's letter. James strove to palliate it. Ridley himself justified it. They fell upon me about the women reading *their* rule for the exclusion of the brethren. We answered, "Whence had you your authority over them ? We will save you any farther trouble, and do now take them out of your hands." They would fain have kept them still. I insisted that they should not. Much dispute ensued. The question about the ordinances was debated. My brother exhorted to love, in vain. We left them daunted and overawed, having rescued our lambs out of their hands.

Thur., May 1st. I met S. Soan's band, full of love, and longing for the Lord's appearing. I conferred with more, who were lately justified. I visited a sick man, just sent forth out of the pit by the blood of the covenant.

Fri., May 2d. I prayed at Islington with Anne Gates, believing we had the petitions we asked. I then baptized a child and her. We all felt the descent of the Holy Ghost. Before, she was in the spirit of heaviness and bondage. The moment the water touched her, she declares she felt her load removed, and sensibly received forgiveness. Sorrow and sighing fled away. The Spirit bore witness with the water, and she longed to be with Christ. We gave glory to God, who so magnified his ordinance.

I began observing the weekly church-fast with a few at

the Foundery. I rebuked one of the bands, who was fallen asleep. Instead of spending the Sunday in carnal ordinances, she passed it partly in idleness, partly in her common business. For what signified her endeavours to keep the commandments before she had faith?

I preached the Gospel at Wapping to the poor. Their groans and tears testified their inward affection.

I received the following simple letter. Let our brethren of Fetter-lane answer it.

"My Rev. Father in Christ,—My heart being now open before God, I write as in his presence.

"The first gift of faith I received after I had seen myself a lost sinner, bound with a thousand chains, and dropping into hell. Then I heard his voice, 'Be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee;' and could say, 'The Son of God loved me, and gave himself for me.' I thought I saw him at the right hand of his Father, making intercession for me. I went on in great joy for four months. Then pride crept in, and I thought the work was finished, when it was but just begun. There I rested, and in a little time fell into doubts and fears, whether my sins were really forgiven me, till I plunged myself into the depth of misery. I could not pray; neither had I any desire to do it, or to read, or hear the word. My soul was like the troubled sea. Then did I see my own evil heart, my cursed, devilish nature, and feel my helplessness, that I could not so much as think a good thought. My love was turned into hatred, passion, envy; and

'I felt a thousand hells my due,'

and cried out in bitter anguish of spirit, 'Save, Lord, or I perish.'

"In my last extremity, I saw my Saviour full of grace and truth for me; and heard his voice again whispering, 'Peace, be still.' My peace returned, and greater sweetness of love than I ever knew before.

"Now my joy is calm and solid; my heart drawn out to the Lord continually. I know that my Redeemer liveth for me. He is my strength and my rock, and will carry on his work in my soul, to the day of redemption.

"Dear Sir, I have spoke the state of my heart, as before the Lord. I beg your prayers, that I may go on from

strength to strength, from conquering to conquer, till death is swallowed up in victory.

“GRACE MURRAY.”*

Sat., May 3d. My spirit revived at the sight of the scoffers in the Foundry. I was directed to Heb. xii. 18 : “For ye are not come to the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness,” &c. God put strong words in my mouth, and in battles of shaking did he fight with them. The effect was both seen and heard : therefore would our still brethren say it had no effect at all.

Sun., May 4th. I dwelt on that word, “Thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel the Saviour ;” and spoke, with much liberty and power, of the wilderness-state, and the means of grace.

After sermon I was accosted by Howel Harris, whom God sent to my assistance. He had first called on James Hutton, who directed him to go hear Viney preach. But he blundered to the Foundry. “His conscience in the Holy Ghost,” he said, “bore witness to the truth I spoke, and he found his heart immediately knit to me.” We took sweet counsel together, and went to the altar of God as friends.

In the evening I opened the book on, “And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” He who sent was with me, in his promised power. The fire was kindled in many hearts. Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his name.

I carried Howel to the bands. He spoke in simplicity concerning Satan’s devices, and repeated the very words which the tempter has so often spoke to us by the mouth of our still brethren. All his arguments touching “false joy, animal spirits, presumption,” &c., had been tried upon our brother, to make him let go his shield.

Mon., May 5th. I carried him to S. Anderson’s, to whom he spoke in words which man’s wisdom doth not teach. The Spirit of love and supplication was poured out. There was as in us all one soul.

* To this lady Mr. John Wesley afterwards made an offer of marriage. She was prevailed upon, by Mr. Charles Wesley, to marry John Bennet, one of the Itinerant Preachers.—EDIT.

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We met the bands at five. I bear them witness that their love abounds yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment.

I preached from John iii. The word made great havoc. They cried out on all sides, and fell down under it. I spoke afterwards to two or three of them. In the same hour God had made them sore, and bound them up ; he had wounded, and his hands made them whole.

Tues., May 6th. In the hours of conference Eliz. Holmes informed me, she had been filled with the Spirit of love while we were praying at S. Anderson's. Cordelia Critchet, a Papist till convinced by us, appeared not far from the kingdom of heaven. I want time to take a particular account of them who are daily convinced of sin or of righteousness. Our brethren, I bless God, are mistaken in saying He no longer works by our hands.

I heard Howel Harris expound at Crouch's. He is indeed a son of thunder and of consolation.

God put it into our hearts to pray for the poor malefactors, passing to execution : and his Spirit made intercession. I am sure (how much more the rest of us !) that our prayer was heard, and answered, upon some of our dying brethren.

At eleven Cordelia Critchet came to let me know she received the atonement yesterday, while we were at prayers. The work, as far as I can yet discern, is real.

Another, who, after justification, had fallen into gross sin, informs me, God has again received him to his mercy in Christ Jesus. His deep humility and abundant love are good evidences for him.

Lucy Spring, who, on Monday night, fell into the pangs of the new birth, came to-day, full of peace and comfort.

Howel Harris, whom I carried to the still bands, delivered a full and noble testimony, that " he had been drawn to the sacrament while dead in sin, and received forgiveness there ; *afterwards* the love of God was shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost, then given him. From *thence* commenced the fight of faith. Fears, doubts, darkness returned ; and he was brought through fire and water into a wealthy place."

His words were contradictory to all our still brethren

have been teaching this half year. They were scandalized and confounded ; the weak comforted. Much caviling followed. Howel, be sure, had no faith. Bray attempted to explain away what he said ; Bell and Oxley to confute it : the latter compared him to Cain, when God lightened his burden, upon his complaining it was too heavy for him to bear. All agreed that he had not seen his heart ; and because he had some strivings, had no faith. I invited them to hear more of him on Thursday evening.

Thur., May 8th. He declared his experience before our Society. O what a flame was kindled ! Never man spake, in my hearing, as this man spake. What a nursing-father has God sent us ! He has indeed learned of the good Shepherd to carry the lambs in his bosom. Such love, such power, such simplicity was irresistible. The lambs dropped down on all sides into their shepherd's arms. Those words broke out like thunder, "I now find a commission from God to invite all poor sinners, justified or unjustified, to his altar ; and I would not for ten thousand worlds be the man that should keep any from it. There I first found Him myself. That is the place of meeting." He went on in the power of the Most Highest. God called forth his witnesses. Several declared they had found Christ *in* the ordinances.

Poor Simpson stood by, hardening his heart. I suppose now he will call Howel, as he does my brother, "a subtle deceiver of the people." Scarce any from Fetter-lane were present : too good care had been taken to prevent them.

Fri., May 9th. I went to Islington, intending to baptize Bridget Armstead. Satan hindered, by *his* Churchwardens. But can any one forbid water ? Not unless they can dry up the Thames.

In conference Mrs. Dupee informed me, she had received forgiveness last week while I was preaching it. Is His hand shortened at all, that he cannot save ? Or, because we are weak, hath He no power to deliver ?

I met about one hundred of the Society to keep the fast. Christ owned *his* ordinance, and melted us into prayer, through his Spirit helping our infirmities.

I went to give the sacrament to a dying woman. I found her an old, subtle Pharisee. I could have no access

in speaking, and betook myself to prayer. The sin-convinced Spirit came mightily upon her, so that she roared for the very disquietness of her heart. The strong man who had peaceably kept his palace for above seventy years, was now disturbed, tormented, bound, cast out. She broke forth into strong cryings, and, soon after, into blessings and thanksgivings. As far as I can discern, she is quite delivered. We showed forth our Lord's death, and he was with us of a truth.

Sat., May 10th. I spoke closely to those who trusted to their faith of adherence, and insisted on that *lowest mark* of Christianity, forgiveness of sins.

My back was scarcely turned, when Oxley took his opportunity to draw away Howel Harris to deaf Bell's. I came time enough to break off their conference with my unwary friend. He now, without distrusting God, resolves to go nowhere without me. Two are better than one. Their word doth eat as a canker; especially Oxley's, whom we have cherished in our bosom. God help me to love *him*! I abhor both his principles and practices.

At Bowers's Society I found Bell, Bray, Hutton, Oxley, Holland, Ridley, and others of the same class. I withstood them to the face, and appealed to the God that answereth by fire, for the truth of my doctrine, that the ordinances bind all, both justified and unjustified. A woman testified, that the last time I expounded here, and bade them who had been confounded ask Jesus Christ *alone* whether they had faith, she did ask in our prayer, and immediately the love of God overflowed her heart.

I preached at the Foundery on 1 John ii. 12: "I write unto you, little children," &c. Hence I showed the three particulars which difference a child from a young man. The young man is *strong*; the child *weak*: the young man *hath* overcome the wicked one; the child is *overcoming* him: in the young man the word of God *abideth*; that is, he hath the *constant* witness of the Spirit.

In the Society Howel spoke excellently of good works, searching the Scripture, and loving one another.

Sun., May 11th. I met the women Leaders for the first time; and, after a lively prayer, led them to the Lord's table at St. Paul's.

I went forth to Kennington-Common. The hand of the Lord was upon me, and I prophesied, "O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord." Truly there were very many in the open valley, and lo, they were very dry. But as I prophesied there was a noise, and, behold, a shaking, which we both saw and heard. Into some, I am confident, the breath came, and they lived.

Mon., May 12th. I employed three hours most profitably in conferring with the poor people; more of whom daily receive forgiveness, or the witness of the Spirit. Three or four were now set at liberty, in immediate answer to prayer.

I was with Miss Branford; who has been in darkness ever since her eyes were first opened (two years ago, at St. Helen's) to see her sins forgiven. In prayer, the love of God was now shed abroad in her heart, and she was translated into his marvellous light.

An aged gentlewoman here testified that she had long denied that article of her creed, "forgiveness of sins," but was yesterday experimentally convinced of it, under Mr. Hall's ministry. Others I meet with, who have passed from death unto life, in hearing our brother Whitefield. Our brethren of Fetter-lane deny the fact, that any soul has been justified by our ministry, since "no one gives what he has not himself."

Tues., May 13th. Sarah Redford, justified under the word last Sunday, Mary Barraby and Anne Broad, a few days ago, and others, were with me to-day, testifying the work of God in their souls.

Mrs. Ricard told me at S. Witham's, that in the depth of despair Christ had given her rest; but Satan came in with the still brethren, and gained such advantage over her, that she even denied the faith, and its Author. Our Lord again confirmed his love to her, through a worm, the very scorn of men, and outcast of the still ones.

I met the men Leaders at Bray's, and was surprised to find above twenty of the still brethren there; and more, to hear they constantly meet on Thursday and Sunday, while I am preaching at the Foundery. The reason is obvious.

I bore my testimony for the ordinances and weak faith. Asked whether they did not hold, 1. That the means of grace are neither commands nor means: 2. That forgive-

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ness is never given but together with the abiding witness of the Spirit? James Hutton would not have them give me any answer. I said, if they durst not avow their principles, I should take their silence for confession, and warn God's people against them.

Wed., May 14th. I talked with a woman to whom Jesus lately appeared, but immediately vanished out of her sight. Never did I see a soul more inconsolable. Esther Owen was with me, pierced, melted, overpowered with love.

At Blackheath I preached redemption in the blood of Jesus. He gave me power "to sound the unbelieving heart." A woman screamed out so loud that I could not be heard; and therefore had her removed, but not out of hearing. To the scoffers I spoke with much contention. Many were driven off, and others constrained to stay. I am sure the word did not return void.

I found Mr. Hall at Fetter-lane, asking them, whether they would try their spirits by the word, or the word by their spirits. I enforced the question, which they strove to evade. Rabbi Hutton forbade their answering me. I warned the few remaining brethren to beware of the leaven of stillness; showed them the delusion of those who had cast off the ordinances, and confined the faith to *themselves only*; I foretold the dreadful consequences of their enthusiasm; set the case of Gregor before their eyes; besought, entreated, conjured them not to renounce the means, or deny the Lord that bought them; read a letter from one who had been strongly tempted to leave off the sacrament, but, in receiving, powerfully convinced that her dissuader was the devil. Hodges, Hall, and Howel Harris confirmed my words. Others were hereby emboldened to bear their testimony to the divine ordinances. By the strength of the Lord we have stood between the living and the dead; and the plague, we trust, is stayed.

Poor James was all tergiversation. O how unlike himself! The honest, plain, undesigning Jacob, is now turned a subtle, close, ambiguous Loyola. Bell was more frank, and I therefore put him upon speaking. He expressly denied the sacrament to the unjustified; that is, in effect, to all but Molther, M. Eusters, and himself; for these three are all the church Christ has in England.

I mentioned Simpson's advice to M. Seaton, that if she would but leave off the sacrament, prayer, and reading the Scriptures, for *one week*, she should then find what she never found before in her life. He justified his advising her, and several others, to lay aside their Bibles, *because they trusted in them*. The rest abated somewhat of their stiffness, and much pressed me "to preach Christ the foundation;" meaning, that I should not recommend the ordinances, but let them trample on them undisturbed. I did not say that I *understood* them.

Ascension-day, May 15th. I preached from Rom. viii. 33, 34. Great power accompanied the word; but greater still, while I exhorted the Society to wait for the promise of the Father. Many cried out in the birth-pangs. After a long and violent struggle, Eleanor Tubbs testified that God had now showed her her heart, and broke it in pieces, and bound it up.

Sarah Church informed me she had received forgiveness the night Mr. Simpson expounded at Rag-fair; not under his preaching, which was quite dead to her, but in singing an hymn which I gave out. So did Anne Roberts, after hearing the word, in the same carnal ordinance of singing.

Mary Shrievely, who has been groaning under the burden of sin from the time she first heard me preach, was last night relieved by the coming of Jesus, and now goes on her way rejoicing. Jane Bourn also informs me that she received forgiveness in the Society, and was sprinkled from her idols.

Fri., May 16th. Almost the whole Society met at one. A spirit of contrition ran through all.

I received the following letter:—

"My Friend,—I hear there are divisions among you; for some say, 'I am of Wesley;' and others, 'I am of Molther;' but I say, I am of Christ; and what he bids me do, I will do, and not trust in any man.

"Here some will say, 'What Christ bids you do, is, to believe and be still.' True; but does he bid me do nothing else? He bids me let my light so shine before men, that they may see my good works, and glorify my Father which is in heaven.

"He likewise says, 'The scribes and Pharisees sit in

Moses's chair : all therefore whatsoever *they bid you* observe, that observe and do.' But how can I know what they bid me do, except I go to hear them ?

"Again : Christ bids me observe all things which he commands the Apostles ; and with such He will be to the end of the world. But if I do not observe and do his commands, he will not be with *me*.

"He bids me 'do this in remembrance of Him.' Now, if any man can prove this is not a command, I will obey it no longer. 'But whosoever breaketh one of these least commandments, and teacheth men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven.'

"As to stillness, our Saviour saith, 'The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force ;' and, 'Strive to enter in at the strait gate.' And St. Paul saith, 'Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.' And, 'God is a rewarder of them that *diligently seek him*.' Now these scriptures imply somewhat more than barely sitting still.

"Some deny that there are any means of grace : but I will be thankful for them ; since it was in them I first heard you preach faith in Christ ; and had I not been there, I might have been without faith unto this day.

"One told me, when you preached you had nature in your face. So will every one have, who speaks with zeal ; but no matter for that, if he has but grace in his heart. My friend, there are many teachers, but few fathers ; but you are my father, who begot me by the Gospel, and, I trust, many more.

"May the Lord lead you into all truth !"

Sat., May 17th. I expounded the chapter in course, Isaiah liii. One could not bear my enlarging on that, "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us *ALL* ;" but often interrupted me with, "Stop his mouth." Alas ! thought I, if meekness be the mark of the elect, I fear thou art still a reprobate.

I dined at Mr. Williams's. His wife had formerly found favour with God under the word ; but Satan reasoned her out of it. After our praying, she said she had an answer in herself at every word. All doubt and unbelief fled away, and she clearly saw *her* interest in the Saviour of all men.

Sun., May 18th. I preached to near ten thousand at the Common, from 1 Cor. vi. 9, &c. The Lord was with us in his convincing power. I *would* give Him the glory.

Mon., May 19th. Our brethren complain, that we unjustly charge them with speaking against the ordinances. Yet they teach, that your using them *before* faith, *necessarily* keeps you out of it; and your using them *after* faith, necessarily makes you lose it. Particularly when you find comfort, by no means offer to pray, they say: if you pray then, you will forfeit it immediately.

Ridley is famous for saying, "You may as well go to hell in praying as in thieving." Mr. Brown's words are, "If we read, the devil reads with us; if we pray, he prays with us; if we go to church or sacrament, he goes with us."

In the time of conference Mary Benham declared her faith, which she has lately received. Anne Judge found power to believe under the word last Monday; Thomas Boreman, while we were at prayers.

While I expounded the woman of Samaria, the word reached many hearts, particularly Mrs. Ash the Quaker's, a great enemy to crying out. However, she could not now forbear; for the love of Christ constrained her. Jesus had said, "I that speak unto thee am He!" Her sister appeared under strong convictions at the sight of her. O that the flame might spread throughout all the earth!

Tues., May 20th. Poor desperate John Dickenson received the word of reconciliation, Isaiah liv.: "For a small moment have I forsaken thee, but with great mercies will I gather thee," &c. After having been long afflicted, tossed with tempests, and not comforted, in this hour he found rest to his soul.

At eleven, Eliz. Bird testified her having lately felt the atoning blood; as likewise Astrea Edzard and Thomas Haddock; all by the ministry of the word. Mary Wotlen, too, can set to her seal, that God is true. I found S. Sutherland strong in the Lord. Several others were present, whom I took knowledge of, that they have been with Jesus.

I went with Maxfield to Bray's, as a fool to the correction of the stocks. I laboured for peace: but only the Almighty can root out those cursed tares of pride, contempt,

and self-sufficiency, with which our Moravianized brethren are overrun.

Wed., May 21st. I carried Bridget Armstead to Bloomsbury church, where the Minister baptized her. She had been bred a Quaker. I was one of the witnesses. We were all in great heaviness before ; but perceived that Christ was with us always in his ordinances. The Spirit infallibly bears witness on this occasion. Our youngest sister assuredly knows that she is born of water and of the Spirit.

Thur., May 22d. I found our dear brother Ingham at M. West's. The holiday mob was very outrageous at the Foundery. God filled my mouth with threatenings and promises. Both, I believe, took place ; for at last we got the victory, and the fiercest rioters were overawed into silence.

The day of Pentecost, May 25th. I discoursed on the first pouring out of the Spirit. (Acts ii.) He gave me utterance. Many felt his descent in an invisible power ; and even trembled at his presence.

At the Common I again declared *the promise* to many thousands. At the love-feast I was overwhelmed with the burden of our brethren, with such visible signs of dejection, that several, I was since informed, were in great hopes that I was now coming down in my pride, or unsettling, and coming into confusion. Indeed, my faith did well nigh fail me : for in spite of the seeming reconciliation which brother Ingham *forces* them into, it is impossible we should ever be of one mind, unless they were convinced of their abrogating the law of *Christian* ordinances, and taking away the children's bread.

Mon., May 26th. A woman from Islington complained to me, that she had brought Mr. Stonehouse to her mother, who lay a-dying, but waiting for redemption. Her Minister told her, "it signified nothing to pray either publicly or privately. Reading the Scriptures, or taking the sacrament, were equally useless. These outward things must all be laid aside. She had nothing to do but to be still." He refused to pray by her, and *so* left her.

The work of grace goes on in several that were with me to-day ; and God still gives fresh seals to my ministry.

Tues., May 27th. I rejoiced to find no difference betwixt my brother Ingham and me. He has honestly withstood

the deluded brethren ; contradicted their favourite errors, and constrained them to be *still*. That blot he easily hit : "You say no man must speak of what he has not experienced : you, Oxley and Simpson, say, that one in Gospel-liberty can have no stirrings of sin." "Yes." "Are you in Gospel-liberty?" "No." "Then out of your own mouth I judge you : you speak of the things which you know not of."

I expounded in Snowsfield, and met the bands at the Foundery. An extraordinary power overshadowed us. S. Hunting received the witness in herself ; R. R. was even lost in love.

Wed., May 28th. At Blackheath I discoursed from Matt. xxi. : "He that falleth on this stone shall be broken," &c. There were a multitude of scoffers, but all forced to fly before the sword of the Spirit.

I talked once more with our wild brethren, and laboured heartily for peace and union. But it cannot be, while they are so full of bitter, proud contempt of all except themselves.

Thur., May 29th. I expounded Isai. lvii., a chapter most contradictory to the doctrine of our brethren. I dined at friend Keen's, a Quaker and a Christian ; and read George Whitefield's account of God's dealings with him. The love and esteem he expresses for me, filled me with confusion, and brought back my fear, lest, after having preached to others, I should be myself a cast-away.

At Marybone the scoffers fulfilled the scripture I explained : "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." I addressed myself to one of them after another, and silenced them on whatever side I turned. Sometimes a stray coach would stop : but my doctrine did not suit them. Our Lord vouchsafed us much of his presence at the Society. We find him daily uncovering our hearts, casting down imaginations, and bringing every thought into captivity. The souls of many were smitten asunder as with a sword ; and I am sure, if God wounds, he will bind up again.

Fri., May 30th. I had yet another conference, but could not convince our dear brother Simpson. He cannot allow there are more than four Christians in London, which are

Molther, M. Eusters, Wheeler's maid, and Bell. Of the last he roundly affirms, that he is holier than Moses, the meekest of men ; than Abraham, the friend of God ; than David, the man after God's own heart ; than Elijah and Enoch, who walked with God, and were translated. As to our father Abraham, he denies him to have had any right faith at all.

Sat., May 31st. I took sweet counsel with Benjamin Ingham, and Howel Harris. A threefold cord cannot easily be broken.

I heard that the Foundery was lately presented at Hicks's Hall, for a seditious assembly. Sir John Gunson interposed, and objected, that no persons were named in the presentment. Upon this they presented Charles Wesley, Clerk, J. Hutton, bookseller, Timothy Lewis, printer, and Howel Harris, *alias* the Welsh Apostle. But our friend Sir John quashed the whole.

Sun., June 1st. I was much refreshed in spirit among the women bands. They have rest, and walk in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, and are edified.

Mon., June 2d. I *preached up* the ordinances, as they call it, from Isai. lviii. ; but first with the Prophet I preached them *down*. Telchig, Ingham, &c., were present, which made me use greater plainness, that they might set me right, if I mistook.

I talked with several in whom the work of conversion is effectually begun ; particularly Mary Russel, convinced and deeply wounded by my last discourse at Kennington ; Mary Peck, whom God showed her heart in singing ; Sarah Redford, to whom faith lately came by hearing ; and Mary Litchfield, who, by all I can yet discern, was justified the last time I preached at Blackheath.

I preached on Job xxiii. 8, I would hope, to the comfort of many, whose hearts God is directing into the love of Christ, and into the patient waiting for him.

Tues., June 3d. I met with Amos Comenius's moving exhortation of the Bohemian churches to the Church of England. O that we might see, at least in this our day ! Who knows but *our* eyes may behold "the last surviving Bishop of the Church of England !"

Wed., June 4th. I preached at Marybone on, "What

must I do to be saved?" The opposers had threatened me hard; but all they now could do was to curse and swear. I only *invited* them to Christ. But I am more and more persuaded, that the law has its use, and Moses must bring us to Christ. The promises to the unawakened are pearls before swine. First the hammer must break the rocks; then we *may* preach Christ crucified.

Thur., June 5th. My brother returned from Bristol.

Fri., June 6th. I spoke with Billah Aspernel, who had lately been with me in the depth of mourning. A still brother had been troubling her, and deterring from the word and sacrament. Last night it pleased our Lord to lift up her head above all her enemies. He spoke to her in the word, and she had joy again, and her joy shall no man take from her.

Martin Chow and Margaret Martin at the same time found the power of the Lord present to heal them; as did Eleanor Gambal the Thursday before.

I went with my brother, and Howel Harris, and J. Purdy, to see Molther, at Islington. I wished George Stonehouse joy of his good bargain; and left him to justify to my brother the selling of his living. I half persuaded a Dissenter out of her faith of adherence.

I explained the progress of grace by our Lord's comparison of the grain of mustard-seed, and the little leaven.

Sat., June 7th. I recommended the woman of Canaan as a pattern of triumphant importunity. It is plain she had not heard of the doctrine of stillness.

Mon., June 9th. I dined at Mr. Wild's, in Islington, and rejoiced over a few *unperverted* souls. The shepherd, alas, is smitten, and the sheep are scattered; but not all. God has left himself a very small remnant.

Tues., June 10th. I rode with Maxfield to Bexley, and was greatly comforted with my brother Piers. The weak stand when the strong fall. In spite of all the *still* ones, he had held fast the truth, neither forsaking the ordinances, nor denying his *weak* faith.

I went thence to Blendon: no longer Blendon to me. They could hardly force themselves to be barely civil. I took an hasty leave, and with an heavy heart, weighed down by their ingratitude, returned to Bexley.

Here I preached the Gospel to a little flock, among whom the grievous wolves are not entered.

Wed., June 11th. I was constrained to bear my testimony for the last time at Blendon. Maxfield accompanied me. I desired to speak with Mrs. Delamotte alone. She did not well know how to refuse, and walked with me into the hall. I began, "Three years ago God sent me to call you from the form to the power of godliness. I told you what true religion was, a new birth, a participation of the divine nature. The way to this I did not know myself till a year after. Then I showed it to you, preaching Jesus Christ, and faith in his blood. You know how you treated me; God soon after called you to a living faith by my ministry. Then you received me as an angel of God. Where is now the blessedness you spake of? Whence is this change? this jealousy, and fear, and coldness? Why are you thus impatient to hear me speak?" She offered several times to leave me; said, "She did not know what I meant; did not want to dispute," &c. "I do not come to dispute: why are you afraid of me? What have I done? You gave as a reason for not seeing me in town, that you did not care to be unsettled. Once I unsettled you through the strength of the Almighty, stirred you up from your lees, took you off your own works, and grounded you upon Christ. Other foundation than this can no man lay. I only desire to settle you more firmly upon Him, to warn you against the danger of being removed from the hope of the Gospel. Our brethren, whom now you follow, are making a schism in the church: follow them not in this." She would not bear any more, but hurried into the parlour. When I came in, Betty left it; but afterwards returned. She has not been at the sacrament for several months. I warned them against casting off the ordinances, which were divine commands, binding all, whether justified or unjustified.

They continually interrupted me, asking why I talked to them. I answered, "Because I durst not forbear, but must deliver my own soul." Betty said she had received great benefit from Molther, and should therefore hear none but him. I told her, I had nothing to say against her hearing him, unless when he spoke against the ordinances.

Upon their again and again bidding me silence, I asked, "Do you, therefore, at this time, in the presence of Jesus Christ, acquit, release, and discharge me from any farther care, concern, or regard for your souls? Do you desire I would never more speak unto you in His name?" Betty frankly answered, "Yes." Mrs. Delamotte assented by her silence. "Then here," said I, "I take my leave of you, till we meet at the judgment-seat." With these words I rendered up my charge to God.

"Then said I," after leaving them, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought; yet surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work with my God." Surely this is enough to wean and make me cease from man. With Blendon I give up all expectation of gratitude upon earth. Vanity of vanities, all is vanity, even friendship itself.

I rode on softly to Eltham, cast out by my dearest friends. I pray God it may not be laid to theirs, or their seducers', charge! Pity and grief for them was uppermost in my heart; and these were much relieved by the scripture that first offered: "And Paul went down, and fell on him, and, embracing him, said, Trouble not yourselves, for his life is in him."

I returned to be exercised by our *still* brethren's contradiction. My brother proposed new-modelling the bands, and setting by themselves those few who were still for the ordinances. Great clamour was raised by this proposal. The noisy *still*-ones well knew that they had carried their point, by wearying out the sincere ones, scattered among them, one or two in a band of disputers, who had harassed and sawn them asunder; so that a remnant is scarcely left. They grudged us even this remnant, which would soon be all their own, unless immediately rescued out of their hands. Benjamin Ingham seconded us; and obtained that the names should be called over, and as many as were aggrieved put into new bands.

We gathered up our wreck,—*raros nantes in gurgite vasto*: for nine out of ten are swallowed up in the dead sea of stillness. O, why was not this done six months ago? How fatal was our delay and false moderation! "Let them alone, and they will soon be weary, and come to themselves

of course," said one,—*unus qui nobis cunctando restituet rem!* I tremble at the consequence. Will they submit themselves to every ordinance of man, who refuse subjection to the ordinances of God? I told them plainly I SHOULD ONLY CONTINUE WITH THEM SO LONG AS THEY CONTINUED IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. My every word was grievous to them. I am a thorn in their sides, and they cannot bear me.

They *modestly* denied that we had any but hearsay proof of their denying the ordinances. I asked them all and every one, particularly Bray, Bell, &c., whether they would now acknowledge them to be commands or duties; whether they sinned in omitting them; whether they did not leave it to every man's fancy to use them or not; whether they did not exclude all from the Lord's table, excepting those whom *they* called believers. These questions I put too close to be evaded; though better dodgers never came out of the school of Loyola. Honest Bell and some others spoke out, and insisted upon their antichristian liberty. The rest put by their stillness, and delivered me over to Satan for a blasphemer, a very Saul, (for to him they compare me,) out of blind zeal persecuting the church of Christ.

Thur., June 12th. The power of the Lord was present in his word, both to wound and heal. The adversary roared in the midst of the congregation; for to him, and not to the God of order, do I impute those horrible outcries which almost drowned my voice, and kept back the glad tidings from sinners.

Fri., June 13th. At Wapping some so disturbed us by their outcries, that my preaching was vain. Those who cried, "Away with them," I rebuked; but wish for the sake of all, and myself also, that, if it be the will of God, this stumbling-block may be removed.

At the time of intercession, we were carried out for all mankind, especially for our own Church and nation, and the little flock which God is gathering. I prayed believing, that Satan might not destroy his work, as in the last age, by that spirit of rebellion and enthusiasm which is so visible in our deluded brethren.

Mon., June 16th. M. Sparrow carried me to Eltham, where I called to many, in King John's chapel, "Ho, every

one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." It was indeed a solemn assembly. We found God had formerly recorded his name there, and that was one place of meeting Him. Several of the assembly-ladies heard me patiently, while I showed them they were in no wise better than the harlots and publicans.

Tues., June 17th. I had an extraordinary meeting of the Society, now increased from twelve to three hundred, most of them justified; and took my leave of them with hearty prayer.

Wed., June 18th. I set out at two for Oxford, with brother Maxfield, and a nephew I was going to prentice at Bristol. We stopped half-an-hour at brother Hodge's; lost our way through Kensington; baited an hour at Gerard's-cross. Three miles short of Wycombe, several people met, and asked us if we had seen an highwayman, who had shot a man on the road, not an hour ago. In a mile's riding, we found the poor man weltering in his blood. The Minister of Wycombe informed us, that he was a little behind, and heard the highwayman threaten to shoot him, if he did not deliver his money that instant. He answered, "You shall have all the money I have; but it is not much;" and the other, without any more words, shot him through the head.

I could not but observe the particular providence of God over us. Had we not delayed in the morning, had we not called on Hodges, had we not stopped at Gerard's-cross, we had just met the murderer.

Thur., June 19th. Hearing he was apprehended at a farrier's, his horse having cast a shoe, I went this morning to tell him, Christ died to save murderers; but his heart was harder than the nether millstone.

By noon we came to Oxford. I called on M. Ford, and found her shut up. She besought me *not to speak* in the Society, not to make disturbances and divisions, &c. I told her, I spoke no other words than I had from the beginning; whence then her unusual apprehensions? Mr. Simpson's presence accounted for it. Wherever he comes, his first business is to supplant us, which he does by insinuating himself, under the appearance of our friend.

To the Society I described the stillness of the first Chris-

tians ; (Acts ii. 42 ;) who continued *in* the Apostles' doctrine, and *in* fellowship, and *in* breaking of bread, and *in* prayers.

Fri., June 20th. At the desire of some Baptists in Malmshbury, I expounded Rom. vii. ; but not at all to their satisfaction. They could not see any higher state of perfection than what is there described.

Sat., June 21st. Such an unaccountable heaviness came over me on the road, that I was forced to light and lie down for a quarter of an hour. I rose refreshed with this little sleep, and rode forward till we met a poor old man of eighty : was enabled to preach the Gospel to his heart. We left him looking up to Jesus, and went on praising God.

My first greeting in Kingswood was by one of our colliers' daughters. I then rejoiced with William Hooper and Hannah Cennick. In the evening at the Malt-room I addressed myself to those in the wilderness. O what simplicity is in this childlike people ! A spirit of contrition and love ran through them. Here the seed has fallen upon good ground.

Sun., June 22d. I went to learn Christ among our colliers, and drank into their spirit. We rejoiced for the consolation. O that our London brethren would come to school to Kingswood ! These *are* what they *pretend* to be. God knows their poverty ; but they are rich ; and daily entering into rest, without being first brought into confusion. They do not hold it necessary to deny the weak faith, in order to get the strong. Their soul truly waiteth still upon God, in the way of his ordinances. Ye many masters, come learn Christ of these outcasts ; for know, except ye be converted, and become like these little children, ye cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven.

I met several of those whom I had baptized, and found them grown in grace. Some thousands waited for me at Rose-green, to whom I expounded Ezek. xvi. And surely the Lord passed by, and said to some in their blood, "Live." I concluded the day at the men's love-feast. Peace, unity, and love are here. We did not forget our poor distracted brethren that were, till the Moravians came.

How ought I to rejoice at my deliverance out of their hands and spirit ! My soul is escaped as a bird out of the

snare of the fowler. *Abii, erupi, evasi.* And did I not love the lambs of Christ, indeed, the grievous wolves, I would see your face no more.

I am no longer a debtor of the Gospel to *you*. Me ye have fairly discharged; but if you reject my testimony, others receive it gladly, and say, "Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Tues., June 24th. I preached Christ, the way, the truth, and the life, to one thousand little children at Kingswood. At the room I proceeded in St. John. Some were present who fancy themselves elect, and therefore sink back into their old tempers. Without meddling in the dispute, I rebuked them sharply, yet in much love. I read my Journal to the bands, as an antidote to stillness.

Thurs., June 26th. I saw Mrs. T— under the buffetings of Satan, to whom she is plainly delivered over, for her pride and envy. O that she may learn hence not to blaspheme, or mimic the Spirit of God, with her imaginary experiences!

In my farther exposition of Ezek. xvi., the secrets of many hearts were revealed. When some cried out, I bade the people be quiet, that Satan might lose his end. Those noisy souls I believed sincere; but he tormented them to make them confound the work, and hinder the word of God. Immediately, as if his device was discovered, the enemy withdrew, and the outcries ceased.

Sat., June 28th. I met the bands in Kingswood, and reproved Hannah Barrow before them all. She would not be convinced of her pride; but was *sure* she had the witness of the Spirit, and the seal, and what not. I tremble to think what will be the end.

Sun., June 29th. I found the spirit of the colliers before I began to speak. Then my mouth was opened to declare the promise of sanctification, in Ezekiel. I gave the sacrament to about eighty colliers; exhorted the last-baptized; met the men-Leaders; preached to the usual congregation at Rose-green; and returned without strength to the Horsefair.

When I am weak, then I am strong; and was never more enlarged, nor I think so much, as in speaking from that scripture: "Holding forth the word of life, that I

may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." Many in that hour found heaven begun upon earth.

Mon., June 30th. I spent a week at Oxford to little purpose but that of obedience to man for the Lord's sake. In the Hall I read my two lectures on Psalm cxxx., preaching repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ. But learned Gallio cared for none of these things.

Yet even in this place God did not leave himself without witnesses. He *began* to call them forth ; but where are they now ? all scattered by those refiners on Christianity who make the cross of none effect, and forbid men to remember God in *his* ways. Therefore, when I came in the name of the Lord Jesus, there was no man ; when I called them to Him, there was none to answer ; or at most a score, out of the multitude which Mr. Viney found.

Sun., July 6th. I preached at Stanton-Harcourt in the morning, at Southleigh in the afternoon ; then expounded blind Bartimeus at Mr. G.'s. The next evening I discoursed on the good Samaritan.

Tues., July 8th. I came to Malmsbury with Mr. Robson ; and the next day to Bristol. I met the Lord among his people. Brother Robson said, "It is good for me to be here ;" and that the half had not been told him of God's goodness to this little flock.

Fri., July 11th. This morning he preached on Lazarus raised, with the demonstration of the Spirit. I carried him to Kingswood : he was in love with our colliers.

Sat., July 12th. I passed the afternoon with them. They grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We cannot be among them, and not perceive the divine presence.

Sun., July 13th. I gave the sacrament to above seventy of them, different from those who received the last time. I preached at Rose green on the fall of man. (Gen. iii.) I dare not depart from the work, while God so strengthens me therein. We walked over the waste to the school, singing and rejoicing. It was their love-feast. Two hundred were assembled in the Spirit of Jesus. Never have I seen and *felt* such a congregation of faithful souls. I question whether Hernhuth can now afford the like.

Tues., July 15th. To the colliers I described, what many of them have experienced, religion, a participation of the divine nature. At Bristol I pressed the example of the primitive Christians, (Acts ii.,) and tasted something of their spirit.

Wed., July 16th. I was convincing the natural man of sin, when a poor sinner cried out vehemently, "What do you mean by looking at *me*, and directing yourself to *me*, and telling *me* I shall be damned?" I did then address myself to him; but he hurried away with the utmost precipitation.

At the time of intercession, the Spirit greatly helped our infirmities. We began with particulars; but at last were enlarged in prayer for all mankind.

I dissuaded one who was strongly tempted to leave the fellowship. The devil knows what he does: *Divide et impera*, will carry the world before him.

While I was meeting the bands, my mouth was opened to rebuke, reprove, exhort, in words not my own. All trembled before the presence of God. I was forced to cut off a rotten member; but I felt such love and pity at the time, as humbled me into the dust. It was as if one criminal was made to execute another. We betook ourselves to fervent prayer for him, and the Society. The Spirit was poured out; and we returned unto the Lord in weeping, and mourning, and praying.

Thur., July 17th. I admitted near thirty new members into the Society.

Sun., July 20th. Our poor colliers being repelled from the Lord's table, by most of the Bristol Ministers, I exhorted them, notwithstanding, to continue daily with one accord in the temple; where the wickedest administrator can neither spoil the prayers, nor poison the sacrament. *These* poor sinners *have* ears to hear.

Wed., July 23d. I talked with Mrs. T——, who justifies God, and the wisdom of his children, taking shame to herself, and confessing that spiritual pride was the sole occasion of her fall.

In the bands I reproved one who was fallen asleep again, and yet horribly confident she was in a good way, and should go to heaven if she died that moment. I tried the weapons of our warfare upon her strong-holds, and pulled

them down, to the conviction of all but herself. At last she raged and tore like a mad woman ; this child of God, with her full assurance of faith ! I showed the rest, through her, the deceitfulness of the heart, and the blinding power of Satan.

Thur., July 24th. I went to see her, lest Satan should get irrecoverable advantage over her. She was more moderate, but still in the false assurance of unbelief, in the spirit of self-delusion. What an exertion of omnipotence does such a soul require to re-awaken it !

At night I took occasion, from Acts vii., to discourse on the sin of resisting the Holy Ghost. He sent the word home to many souls.

Sun., July 27th. I heard a miserable sermon at Temple church, recommending religion as the most likely way to raise a fortune. After it, proclamation was made, "that all should depart who were not of the parish." While the shepherd was driving away the lambs, I stayed, suspecting nothing, till the Clerk came to me, and said, "Mr. Beacher bids you go away, for he will not give you the sacrament." I went to the vestry-door, and mildly desired Mr. Beacher to admit me. He asked, "Are you of this parish?" I answered, "Sir, you *see* I am a Clergyman." Dropping his first pretence, he charged me with rebellion in expounding the Scriptures without authority ; and said in express words, "I repel you from the sacrament." I replied, "I cite you to answer this before Jesus Christ at the day of judgment." This enraged him above measure. He called out, "*Here, take away this man !*" The Constables were ordered to attend, I suppose lest the furious colliers should take the sacrament by force : but I saved them the trouble of taking away this man, and quietly retired.

I preached the Gospel in Kingswood with double power, from Isai. xl. : "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God." Before sermon, I declared our brother Cennick's entire agreement with me in the belief of universal redemption ; and he confirmed my saying with an hymn of his own. Never did I find my spirit more knit to him.

At Rose-green, though my bodily strength was gone, I was carried out beyond myself in speaking of God's free-grace to sinners.

Mon., July 28th. I spoke searchingly on those words of our Lord : " Nevertheless, I tell you the truth ; it is expedient for you that I go away ; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come," &c.

Tues., July 29th. One, pestered with the Predestinarians, desired me to expound Rom. ix. I did, through Christ strengthening me, in an extraordinary manner. The poor creature Wildboar contradicted and blasphemed, and even *called for damnation upon his own soul, if Christ died for all, and if God was willing that all men should be saved.* The power of the Lord was present so much the more. Many believed with their heart, and made confession with their mouth, of Jesus Christ the Saviour of all men. I have not known a more triumphant night since I knew Bristol.

Sun., August 3d. I preached Jesus Christ to the colliers from Isai. lxiii. : " Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah ?" Great power was in the midst. Many wept. I myself was much affected. At Rose-green my text was, " Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness." It rained hard : but that did not interrupt their attention. I was comforted at the women's love-feast.

Tues., August 5th. I talked sharply to Jenny Dechamps, a girl of twelve years old ; who now confessed that her fits and cryings out (above thirty of them) were all feigned, that Mr. Wesley might take notice of her.

Wed., August 6th. In great heaviness I spoke to the women-bands, as taking my farewell : sang the hymn which begins,—

" While sickness shakes the house of clay,
And, sapp'd by pain's continued course,
My nature hastens to decay,
And waits the fever's friendly force."

After speaking a few faint words to the brethren, I was immediately taken with a shivering ; and then the fever came.

The next morning I was bled, and carried by M. Hooper to her house. There I looked into the Bible, and met with, " The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing, thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness." My pain and disease increased for ten days ; so that there was

no hope of my life : but then Jesus touched my hand, and rebuked the fever, and it left me. I had no apprehension of death myself. It was reported I was dead, and published in the papers : but God had not finished (O that he had effectually begun!) his work in me : therefore he held my soul in life ; and made all things work together for my recovery.

Dr. Middleton, an utter stranger to me, God raised up, and sent to my assistance. He refused taking any fees, and told the Apothecary he would pay for my physic, if I could not. He attended me constantly, as the divine blessing did his prescriptions ; so that in less than a fortnight the danger was over.

For the next fortnight I recovered slowly, but had little use of my legs, and none of my head. One of our colliers, taken ill of the same fever since me, has died in full triumph of faith.

When I was just able to stand, my brother came from London. We rode out most days in Mr. Wane's, or an hired, chariot, comparing our dangers, temptations, and deliverances.

I found myself, after this gracious visitation, more desirous and able to pray ; more afraid of sin, more earnestly longing for deliverance, and the fulness of Christian salvation.

Sun., September 7th. As soon as my bodily weakness would permit, I returned to my old hours of retirement ; but with fear, and earnest prayer that I might not rest in my own works or endeavours.

Mr. Cary's Curate informed us, that Mr. Cary had ordered him to repel my brother and me from the sacrament.

Wed., September 10th. It rained all day, but cleared up when I went to the bands. A few words I spoke in great weakness ; and they seemed not spoken in vain.

Mon., September 15th. I passed two or three days at Mr. Arthur's, in Kingswood, and, by the blessing of God, recovered the use of my understanding, which was so clouded, that I could neither read nor think.

Thur., September 18th. Out of weakness I was made strong to preach at the room to-night ; not for a quarter of an hour, as I proposed, but for an hour and an half.

Fri., September 19th. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." So I found it this morning, both in soul and body. At night I was enabled to preach Anne Hodges's funeral sermon.

Mon., September 22d. I was setting out for the Downs, when one asked me to ride out toward Mr. Willis's. At the end of the town I was informed the colliers were risen. Above one thousand of them I met at Lawrence-hill. They came about me, and saluted me very affectionately, not having seen me since my sickness. The occasion of their rising, they told me, was the dearness of corn. I got to an eminence, and began speaking to them. Many seemed inclined to go back with me to the school; but the devil stirred up his oldest servants, who violently rushed upon the others, beating, and tearing, and driving them away from me. I rode up to a ruffian who was striking one of our colliers, and prayed him rather to strike me. He would not, he said, for all the world; and was quite overcome. I turned upon one who struck my horse, and he also sank into a lamb. Wherever I turned, Satan lost ground; so that he was obliged to make one general assault, and, by the few violent colliers, forced on the quiet ones into the town.

I seized on one of the tallest, and earnestly besought him to follow me: that he would, he said, all the world over. About six more I pressed into Christ's service. We met several parties; stopped and exhorted them to join us. We gleaned a few from every company, and grew as we marched along singing to the school. From one till three we spent in prayer that evil might be prevented, and the lion chained. Then news was brought us that the colliers were returned in peace. They had quietly walked into the city, without sticks, or the least violence. A few of the better sort went to the Mayor, and told their grievance: then they all returned as they came, without noise or disturbance. All who saw were amazed; for the leopards were laid down. Nothing could have more shown the change wrought in them than this rising.

I found afterwards that all our colliers to a man had been forced into it. Having learned of Christ not to resist evil, they went a mile with those that compelled them

rather than free themselves by violence. One the rioters dragged out of his sick-bed, and threw him into the Fish-ponds : near twenty of Mr. Willis's men they got by threatening to fill up their pits, and bury them alive, if they did not come up and bear them company.

Tues., September 23d. Mr. W. Seward came, and was very cordial. We prayed, rejoiced, and gave thanks. If I did not love him the better for his opinion, I am sure it made me more industrious to confirm my old love towards him.

I carried him to Mr. Wane's, and then to our colliers ; before whom I set the things they would have done in the late rising, had not grace restrained them. One poor man declared, when they forced him away, he would much more willingly have gone to the gallows.

Mr. Seward spoke a few words to them, which did not convince me of his call to preach. In our return, he told me Mrs. Grevil and others had urged him to claim the room in the Horse-fair ; but he abhorred their baseness.

Wed., September 24th. He told me he was in a mist ; the Baptists last night having laboured hard to make him oppose me publicly. Before we parted, all was set right again. Yet a few hours after, he came from them, and utterly renounced both me and my brother, in bitter words of hatred, which they had put in his mouth. I pray God lay not this sin to their charge, neither all the weakness of word and action which ensued for the following days.

God endues my soul and body also with much strength. This day he has comforted me on every side. To Him be all the glory.

Fri., September 26th. I was greatly assisted in the evening to preach the Christian perfection, that is, utter dominion over sin ; constant peace, and love, and joy in the Holy Ghost ; the full assurance of faith, righteousness, and true holiness. I see more and more into the height of our privileges, and that God will give them to me.

Sun., September 28th. At the sacrament I received power to believe sin shall not have dominion over me. I reached many hearts in expounding blind Bartimeus.

Our love-feast was such as deserved the name. We all rejoiced in hope of the glory of God.

Mon., September 29th. God was wonderfully with our assembly, and opened my eyes to see the promise of holiness, or perfection, not in some, but in almost every, scripture.

Thur., October 2d. I rejoiced to hear that M. Purnell was on Sunday morning, under the word, taken into the very borders of Canaan. The patient abiding of the meek shall not perish for ever.

Sun., October 5th. I offered myself at the sacrament, and was not refused, though Mr. Cary himself administered. I received it with comfort.

Mon., October 6th. I prayed by Margaret Thomas. At my first visit, she *hoped* her sins were forgiven. Now she more than hoped it, having received the faith which works by love, and filial fear of offending.

I met the Leaders ; and endeavoured to humble one who begins to grow rich, not by denying what God has done for his soul, but by showing him he could no more trust to his graces than his works, but must still come to Christ as a poor sinner that has need of all things.

Wed., October 8th. I took down the case of Catherine Hyfield. She was charged with robbing her master (one Townsend) of £300 ; whose dying wife my brother had visited. Alderman Day, &c., threatened to put her in irons, &c., if she would not confess she had given the money to my brother. When no proof could be brought against her, they were forced to discharge her : and soon after, her master found the money where himself had lodged it.

Thur., October 9th. I was much revived by the sight of Margaret Thomas, dying in the highest triumph of faith. I could not help asking,

“ Is this the soul so late weigh’d down
By cares and sins, by griefs and pains ?
Whither are all thy terrors gone ?
Jesus for thee the victory gains,
And death, and sin, and Satan yield
To faith’s unconquerable shield.”

Her hope was now full of immortality. She had no desire of life or death, or ease in her great pain. God had finished his work ; and her will was quite swallowed up in his. This is that holiness without which no one shall see the Lord.

Fri., October 10th. I prayed by Mrs. Purnell, who patiently waits for the seal of her pardon. At night I spoke strongly to the unawakened ; and, behold, a cry ! but such as became poor lost sinners. Great was the stirring among the dry bones.

Sun., October 12th. From Isai. lxiv. I was assisted to stir up those who had settled upon their lees, since they were justified. I visited Margaret, now at the haven where she would be, and only waiting the word, "Come up hither !" Her spirit helped me wonderfully in prayer. She told me, she had been heard in my behalf, and God would give me an humble heart.

Mon., October 13th. I breakfasted and gave an exhortation to some of our friends. One *seemed* so deeply affected, that her outcries much interrupted me. I took no notice of her, seeing she *could not help it* ; only said at last, "I do not think the better of you for this ;" and immediately her trouble was over, and she hushed and unconcerned as before.

Wed., October 15th. At the intercession, our casting down was in the midst of us. O that I was always as I am sometimes ! But a fit or start of humility is not to be depended on.

Thur., October 16th. I rejoiced in an opportunity of heaping coals of fire upon the head of an enemy. Poor Mitchel, arrested by Charles Martin, sent me first a reproaching, and then a begging, letter. I paid his debt, and won him at a very moderate price.

Fri., October 17th. I prayed by Mrs. Purnell, near death. She had no fear, and no assurance of pardon ; but believed she should know her sins forgiven before she went hence. I called again at noon ; and then the Lord had showed her his salvation, and she could confidently testify, "God for Christ's sake hath forgiven me."

Sun., October 19th. I called on a dying man, who told me he hoped to be saved through Christ, because he was none of the worst of sinners. "If that be your plea," said I, "you must be damned without all remedy." I proceeded to set before him the spirituality of the law, and the terrors of the Lord. He fought hard against God, often repeating the words of his predecessor, "I am not like other men,"

reproaching my Master, not me, and refusing to humble himself under the mighty hand of God. He told me he never desired to see me more ; yet, when I offered to go, he desired me to pray by him. I did, in faith, that God might open his eyes to see himself the chief of sinners. He begged me to call again.

I gave the sacrament to Mrs. Purnell ; who, after receiving the cup, cried, "It is finished !" I visited her once more in her last conflict ; yet, even then, by plain signs expressing her confidence. She held out till Wednesday morning, October 22d ; and then departed to the church triumphant.

I met the Leaders, and removed one, (J. W—k,) who was much lifted up, but lay concealed from herself by a voluntary humility. She cheerfully resigned an office which she owned herself so unfit for ; yet, afterwards, I heard, complained, with many tears, that I should think ill of her from the report of others. The next day she was taken with a fit of humility, and bade a sister go and tell it me. "Anybody now," she said, "might trample upon me : do you : pray trample upon me ; but tell Mr. Wesley." Verily, "the heart is deceitful above all things. Who can know it ?"

Thur., October 23d. I met several of the bands at the house of our departed sister Purnell, and solemnly rejoiced over her, with singing. I walked with the funeral as far as the church ; then hastened back to the room, where lay the corpse of Margaret. Her spirit was, with the other's, returned to God. A wonderful power accompanied the word preached, 1 Cor. xv. O what triumph did we find in the house of mourning ! Many strangers were convinced. The Society attended her to the grave, and praised God with joyful lips for her translation.

Fri., October 24th. I was greatly enlarged in enforcing that promise, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver out of temptation." I showed them the only infallible way to conquer sin, namely, "Sin shall not have dominion over me, because I believe in Jesus Christ that it shall not." A poor drunkard believed, and had a witness that he shall no more turn back to his own wickedness.

Sun., October 26th. I heard Mr. Tucker's (not railing)

accusation against the Methodists, "that they went contrary to custom ; did not catechise their children ; did not reform men in the regular way." He told us farther, what Mr. Whitefield would say when he returned from Georgia ; and concluded with an excellent quotation out of Mr. Law. I offered my assistance at the sacrament, which he civilly declined.

Mon., October 27th. I met a young gentlewoman who was never under the word till the night of our triumphant funeral. Then it laid hold on her heart : yet I could not persuade her to expect the promise, till she had endeavoured, and mourned, and waited *longer*.

In the evening I set the terrors of the Lord in array against sinners, and an horrible dread overwhelmed some of them. May the law be their schoolmaster to bring them to Christ.

Tues., October 28th. I was exceedingly shocked with the news of Mr. Seward's death : but he is taken from the evil ; rescued out of the hands of wicked men.

Calling on the Pharisee whom I had visited last week, I found him dead ; but at the last hour he had cried unto Jesus, as a poor, undone sinner, who *was* like other men.

I was led in the evening to preach universal redemption from those words, "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." The Spirit mightily confirmed that irresistible truth. I then spoke with unfeigned concern of our dear departed brother ; and with just abhorrence of those unhappy bigots, whose headlong zeal had robbed us of him. We sang a funeral hymn over him, and were comforted in the hope of soon meeting him again, where no sower of tares, no reprobating Pharisee, shall ever part us more.

Fri., October 31st. The time for my going to Wales is now come. To-day Captain Philips challenged me ; said he came to fetch me ; and Mr. Wells invited me to preach in his churches.

I passed an hour with two very wise Quakers, who were for inverting the order of God, and making Christ our sanctification before he is our righteousness. The true Light, I trust, will one day teach them better.

Tues., November 4th. At Kingswood Mr. Cennick

showed me a letter from Howel Harris, wherein he justified poor Mr. Seward, and talked of declaring against us himself. With the loss of him and all things, I am commanded to preach the Gospel to every creature. I did so to the colliers, from Titus ii. 11; and was carried out more than ever before, till all were drowned in tears of love. While I was testifying Christ died for all, Mr. Cennick, in the hearing of many, gave me the lie. I calmly told him afterwards, "If I speak not the truth as it is in Jesus, may I decrease, and you increase."

Thur., November 6th. At six I took boat for Cardiff, and at six in the evening landed on Welsh ground with the voice of praise and thanksgiving. Mr. Wells, who invited me over, waited to give me the first greeting. From his house we went to the Society, where God opened my mouth to call, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." They received the word with all readiness. I lodged at Mr. Glascot's.

Fri., November 7th. I rode with Mr. Williams to St. Andrew's, a little town four Welsh miles from Cardiff. Mr. Wells was not afraid to trust me in his pulpit. I was greatly assisted to invite many poor sinners to come weary and heavy laden to Christ. They gladly received my saying. Mr. Hodges desired me to preach next Tuesday in his church at Wenvo. I returned to Cardiff rejoicing; and expounded 1 John i., to the conviction, I hope, of many.

Sat., November 8th. I had an opportunity to moderate the spirits of some who were greatly exasperated against Howel Harris, for preaching predestination among them.

After church I waited with Mr. Wells on the sick Minister; who was extremely civil, invited me to dinner, and to preach in his pulpit morning and evening.

I spent the day in singing and close conference, with some who would fain persuade themselves they had faith, without forgiveness. My Master, I trust, will soon persuade them that they have both together.

Sun., November 9th. At six I explained the legal state, from Rom. vii. I read prayers, and preached to a large congregation, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." I administered the sacrament to many strangers.

I read prayers in the afternoon, baptized a child, and preached both law and Gospel with great plainness. My hearers were surprisingly patient. Only one went out. I continued my discourse till it was dark ; and had much comfort in having delivered my message.

The scripture to be expounded at night was, 1 John ii. : "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father," &c. God opened my mouth to declare the truth of his everlasting love to all mankind. At the same time he enlarged my heart to its opposers. I took the occasion to speak of Howel Harris ; bore such a testimony of him as he deserves ; and mildly upbraided them for their ingratitude toward the greatest benefactor their country ever had. We all expressed our love by joining in hearty prayer for him.

Mon., November 10th. I set out for St. Nicholas ; called at Llandaff on the then officiating Minister, to ask the pulpit. He referred me to the Chapter ; but I do not mean to trouble them. The church at St. Nicholas, also, was shut against me ; but we met at a neighbouring house, Mr. Deer's, where I offered Christ to all sinners, with much freedom and power.

At Cardiff I spoke a word in season to one (Sus. Young) who was puffed up, and boasted of her graces, and took upon her to teach others. I told her she had deceived her own soul, and brought a scandal on religion. She flew out into self-justification : God knew her heart, would not quench the smoking flax, &c. But I cut her short, and, with six plain words, God accompanying them with his power, struck her down into the deep. She cried out, "I am damned, I am damned," and was stripped of all, as in one moment.

I sent a messenger to Howel Harris, with the following letter :—

"My dearest Friend and Brother,—In the name of Jesus Christ I beseech you, if you have his glory and the good of souls at heart, come immediately, and meet me here. I trust we shall never be two in time or eternity. O my brother, I am grieved that Satan should get a moment's advantage over us ; and am ready to lay my neck under your feet for Christ's sake. If your heart is as my

heart, hasten, in the name of our dear Lord, to your second self,

“C. WESLEY.”

Tues., November 11th. The church at Wenvo was full as it could hold, while I preached the Gospel from the good Samaritan. All were visibly affected. I went to Mr. Hodges; took sweet counsel with him and Mr. Wells. The former, at parting, in great simplicity desired my prayers and a kiss.

Wed., November 12th. In Lanissan church I preached on, “Repent, and believe the Gospel.” Our Lord was never more with me than at this time. I concluded with earnest prayer for the Curate.

I dined at Mr. Wells’s with several of the brethren, and Mr. Thomas, a neighbouring Curate of great simplicity, who preaches not himself, but Christ Jesus the Lord.

Thur., November 13th. I went with reluctance to the prisoners, almost despairing to do any good, when I received faith to believe Christ would be with me. I looked up to him; and never preached the Gospel with greater freedom. Two women fell down as dead. The infection ran through us all, and we felt that the Gospel was indeed the power of God.

The three Ministers, Mr. Wells, Hodges, and Thomas, made part of my evening congregation; to whom I showed in strong words the blessedness of persecution.

Fri., November 14th. I rode with Mr. Hodges to Micelston-Lepil. He read prayers: I preached Christ from, “Who is this that cometh from Edom with dyed garments?” &c. He was evidently set forth before our eyes as crucified. I rode back in the spirit of triumph. I heard the players had sent me a challenge; that is, a ticket and invitation to their play. Suffice for the time past. I now serve another Master.

Sat., November 15th. At Mr. Price’s, in Watford, I preached “Christ our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption;” and again at five with double power. An Arian Minister of our own Church, and a Baptist teacher, were present. The latter could not allow either justification or sanctification necessary to salvation.

Sun., November 16th. Mr. Williams informed me that

many had bound themselves with a curse to make a disturbance in the church, and not suffer me to preach. Then the Clerk told me I was not to preach in the afternoon. I answered, I had not expected to preach there in the morning, or, indeed, a second time.

The Psalms began, "O God, the Heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled." The Second Lesson was very animating, being John viii.; that earnest contention of our Lord with the Pharisees.

My text was, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" I began abruptly with the opposers, and defied them in the name of the Lord Jesus. The Spirit of power was with me; but I soon perceived him as the Spirit of love; and besought those unhappy sinners to be reconciled unto God. Their master durst not hazard their staying any longer; but, in the midst of my discourse, hurried them out of church.

I went on convincing and entreating the Pharisees to submit to the righteousness of God. Never was my mouth and heart more enlarged. Upon my repeating, "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save all them that believe," a gentleman rose, and turned his back on the Gospel of his salvation. I called after him in vain; then earnestly prayed for him and the rest, the Spirit helping my infirmity.

I read prayers in the afternoon. Many hungry souls were disappointed through my not preaching. I sent them to the Society. Several players were present, but quickly fled before the sword of the Spirit. When we were departing, Mr. Wells stopped us to hear his unexpected apology for me. He strongly enforced the truths I had delivered; and, with great humility, asked me to set him right, if he had spoken aught contrary to sound doctrine.

Mon., November 17th. Again my mouth was opened to preach the law and the Gospel at Llantrissant. Mr. Harris, the Minister, was exceeding civil. He had been dealt with to refuse me the pulpit, but would not break his word.

Tues., November 18th. I preached at St. Bride's, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus," &c. Here, too, I cast my net to catch the fisher. We were setting out from the public-house, when God brought Howel Harris to us. All mis-

understandings vanished at sight of each other, and our hearts were knit together as at the beginning. We sang an hymn of triumph. God had prepared his heart for this meeting. At the sacrament he had found the spirit of martyrdom falling upon him, and immediately I was brought to his remembrance. His heart overflowed with love, and he thought we were going hand in hand to the stake.

Before the Society, several were with me, desiring me, now I had gotten him, to reprove him openly. Some wanted me to preach against lay-preaching; some against predestination, &c. In my discourse on Isai. xl., a gentleman, who had come thither on purpose, interrupted me, by desiring I would now speak to Mr. Harris, since I was sent for to disprove his errors, and Mr. Wells, an experienced Clergyman, sat by to moderate between us. God gave me immediate recollection. I smiled at Satan's impudence; but turned aside the question with mildness, and thanks to the proposer. In vain he urged me to enter the lists with my friend. I quashed all farther importunity by declaring, "I am unwilling to speak of my brother Howel Harris, because, when I begin, I know not how to leave off; and should say so much good of him, as some of you could not bear." The gentleman, disappointed of his hope, immediately departed.

After this victory over Satan, I proceeded with double power, addressing myself particularly to the ladies, whose company we were favoured with because there was no play to-night. I showed them they were no better than common harlots, if they outwardly differed from them through pride, not virtue. The Lord open their hearts to receive my hard saying.

The Captain giving me notice that he should sail the next day, I determined to spend the night in taking leave. We supped at the friendly Mr. Wells's, and then called at Captain Philips's. Between ten and eleven, just as I was going, Satan began to show his wrath at the many sore disappointments he has met with this very day. He could not set the children of God against each other, and was therefore forced to make use of his own. The Physician, who had gone out of church on Sunday, stirred up by his companions, and unusually heated with wine, came and

demanding satisfaction of me for calling him Pharisee. I said, "I was ready to acknowledge my mistake, if he would assure me he had gone out of church to visit his patients." He replied, "He had gone out because he disliked my discourse." "Then, Sir," said I, "I cannot ask pardon for telling you the truth." "But you must for calling me a Pharisee." "I still insist you are a Pharisee, and cannot endure sound doctrine. My commission is, to show you your sins; and I shall make no apology for so doing, to you or any man living. You are a damned sinner by nature, and a Pharisee, like me: and this testimony I should bear before rulers and Kings. You are a rebel against God, and must bow your stiff neck to Him before you can be forgiven." "How do you know my heart?" "My heart showeth me the wickedness of the ungodly." "Sir, I am as good a Christian as yourself." "You are no Christian at all, unless you have received the Holy Ghost." "How do you prove that you have the Holy Ghost?" "By searching your heart, and showing you that you are a Pharisee." Here he lifted up his cane, and struck me. Mrs. Philips intercepted and broke the blow; F. Farley tripped up his heels; and the company rushed in between. My soul was immediately filled with the calm, recollected boldness of faith. There was a great outcry among the women. Several of them he struck, and hurt, and raged like one possessed, till the men forced him out, and shut the door.

Soon after, it was broken open by a Justice, and the Bailiff, or head-Magistrate. The latter began expostulating with me upon the affront offered the Doctor; and said, "As it was a public injury, I ought to make him public satisfaction." I answered, "Mr. Bailiff, I honour you for your office's sake; but was you yourself, or His Majesty King George, among my hearers, I should tell you both that you are by nature damned sinners. In the church, while preaching, I have no superior but God; and shall not ask man leave to show him his sins.—As a ruler, it is your duty to be a terror to evil-doers, but a praise to them that do well." Upon my thus speaking, he became exceeding civil; assured me of his good-will, and that he had come to prevent my being insulted; and none should touch an hair of my head.

While we were talking, the Doctor made another attempt to break in, and get at me ; but the two Justices and others with much trouble at last got him out. They went ; and we continued our triumph in the name of the Lord our God. The shout of a King was among us. We sang on unconcerned, though those sons of Belial, the players, had beset the house. They were armed, and threatened to burn the house. The ground of their quarrel with me is, that the Gospel has starved them. We prayed and sang with great tranquillity till one in the morning. Then I lay down till three ; rose again ; and was scarce got into the room, when they discovered a player just by me, who had stole in unobserved. They seized him, and F. Farley wrested the sword from him. There was no need of drawing it, for the point and blade were stripped an hand-breadth of the scabbard.

When the sword was brought in, the spirit of faith was kindled among us, at sight of the danger. Great was our rejoicing within, and the uproar of the players without, who strove to force their way after their companion. My female advisers were by no means for my venturing out, but deferring my journey. I preferred Mr. Wells's advice of going with him, through the midst of our enemies. I called in on the poor creature they had secured. They talked of warrants, prosecutions, &c. On sight of me he cried, "Indeed, Mr. Wesley, I did not intend to do you any harm." "That," I answered, "was best known to God, and his own heart : but my principle was, to return good for evil ; wherefore I desired he might be released ;" assured him of my good wishes, and with Mr. Wells walked peaceably to the water-side, no man forbidding me. Our friends stood on the shore, while we joined in hearty thanksgiving. The fierceness of men shall turn to thy praise, and the fierceness of them shalt thou restrain.

Wed., November 19th. Between five and six we were forced to return for want of water. I found Howel Harris and the flock still at Captain Philips's, and was strengthened to lay open the promise of sanctification. (Ezek. xxxvi.) I took leave of my dear Howel ; and with Mr. Wells waited upon the Bailiff ; acknowledged his last night's civilities ; and left him, as a trophy, the player's

sword. In public prayer, Mr. Wells returned thanks to God for our late deliverance.

At two I took my leave of the Society, and preached the pure Gospel from the woman of Canaan. A spirit of love constrained me to beseech them, with tears, to receive Christ Jesus. It ran through all. Some of the greatest opposers wept, especially a young lady, for whose entertainment the players had acted me, sang, and prayed, and trembled exceedingly. The word was as a fire that melteth the rocks. I saw why God had brought me back. Our parting was such as it ought to be.

About four, Mr. Wells, &c., attended me to the vessel. I laid me down, and slept, and took my rest ; for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

Thur., November 20th. By five this morning, He who blest our going out, blest our coming in to Bristol.

I found my brother at the room, expounding Rom. ix. I confirmed his saying, and gave some account of my success in Wales. A great power accompanied the word, and I prayed in the Spirit. I joined with him in administering the sacrament to a young woman I had baptized, but who had not kept her garments unspotted. Yet God healed her backslidings, and soon after she confidently resigned her spirit into the hands of Jesus.

Fri., November 21st. My brother returned to London.

Sun., November 23d. I was very dead in delivering it, yet the word was mixed with faith in some that heard it, as they afterwards testified.

Thur., November 27th. At the Malt-house, the spirit of love and supplication fell upon me. I was filled with the tenderest concern for the desolate Church of England ; which I could not help expressing before the congregation in tears, and strong cries to God for her.

Sun., November 30th. I gave the sacrament to our sister Taylor, dying in triumph. Here is another witness to the truth of our Gospel. Commend me to a religion upon which I can trust my soul, while entering into eternity.

I expounded the lesson at Kingswood. It was Hebrews vi. I prayed Christ our Teacher to enlighten the people and me ; and began my discourse with fear and trembling. The Spirit gave me utterance. I calmly warned them

against apostasy, and spake with great tenderness and caution. But who can stand before envy and bigotry? The strong ones were offended. The poison of Calvin has drunk up their spirit of love. Anne Ayling and Anne Davis could not refrain from railing. John Cennick never offered to stop them. Alas! we have set the wolf to keep the sheep! God gave me great moderation toward him, who, for many months, has been undermining our doctrine and authority.

Mon., December 1st. I passed two hours at M. Parsons's funeral, and looked with envy on the corpse in the coffin. Her soul, before it left the body, was sweetly and fully conscious of its reconciliation with God. The word has been a savour of life to her also.

While I was showing the universality of Christ's redemption, the flame was kindled all around, and the Holy Ghost bore witness with many consciences.

Tues., December 2d. I had a conference in Kingswood with Mr. Cennick and his friends, but could come to no agreement, though I offered entirely to drop the controversy if he would.

I preached on the three-fold office of Christ, but never with greater power. It constrained even the separatists to own that God was with us of a truth. I rode back in a glorious storm of thunder, lightning, and rain. My spirit rejoiced in hope of the glory of God.

He opened my mouth again at the Society; and I spoke in much grief and love of our desolate mother the Church of England. My heart yearns towards her when I think upon her ruins, and it pitieth me to see her in the dust.

Thur., December 4th. I administered the sacrament to Mr. Page, against hope believing in hope. After receiving, he had power to believe his sins forgiven.

Fri., December 5th. I was much refreshed in spirit among some of my friends, the Quakers, by a writer of theirs, who strongly insists on the perfect death unto sin, and life unto righteousness, which every Christian experiences. Death must precede life, and condemnation justification. This he as clearly teaches, as any of our first Reformers.

Sat., December 6th. I wrote my brother a full account of the predestinarian party, their practices and designs,

particularly "to have a church within themselves, and to give themselves the sacrament in bread and water."

Sun., December 21st. I took my leave of the colliers in the words of the great Apostle, (without comparing myself to him,) "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace." The loving spirit was mightily among us, and more still at our love-feast, for all the brethren of Kingswood and Bristol.

Mon., December 22d. I showed, with demonstration of the Spirit, the (ordinary) necessity of our being bruised and broken *before* the Comforter would abide in us for ever. He who saith, "My work is before me," set to his seal.

Wed., December 24th. At five I set out for London, which I reached, with Thomas Maxfield, the next day by five in the afternoon. At six God renewed my strength to preach the glad tidings to a crowded audience at the Foundry. Great was our joy in the Lord, and in each other.

Fri., December 26th. I rose at five, without feeling my journey, and expounded Isai. xl. 9: "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain," &c. He spake comfortably to his people by my mouth, though I am nothing.

I talked with one, who has entirely stopped the work of God in her own soul, by judging of it in others.

A spirit of contrition fell upon me the moment I entered the Society-room. We made supplication for all men, especially the household of faith, and that small part of it at Bristol.

Sat., December 27th. From eleven to one I met five or six hundred, to praise God with the voice of joy and thanksgiving. He hath done great things for us already, but we shall see greater things than these.

I dined at a Dissenter's, armed cap-a-pie with her faith of adherence, brim full of the five points, and going on to the perfection of Rom. vii.

At Mr. Craven's, a man abruptly accosted me, "Are you ready to receive my message?" "Yes," I answered, "if you speak not of yourself." "I speak to you from God." "Where are your credentials? What proof show you of your divine commission?" "Nay, nay," said he, "if you cannot receive my saying, I have nothing to do with you."

I have delivered my own soul." With these he flung away, and left his prophecy imperfect.

Sun., December 28th. In the evening the scoffers were very outrageous. God filled my mouth with threatenings and promises. I defied and invited them by turns, till he got himself the victory ; and I freely published the glad tidings, "To us a son is born, to us a child is given."

I earnestly warned the bands not to fancy they had new hearts before they had seen the deceitfulness of the old ; not to think they would ever be above the necessity of praying ; not to yield for one moment to the spirit of judging.

Among my visitants this morning I had a very ingenious person, who generously proffered to teach me the grand arcanum for the value of five shillings. Having no need of money, I declined his proffer ; but gave him sixpence, and told him, as he had the art of transmutation, it was the same as if I had given him half a guinea. We had more serious talk before parting : how to change an heart of stone into an heart of flesh.

Tues., December 30th. I exhorted the Society at Deptford with convincing power. A woman fell down under it.

Wed., December 31st. I found the Spirit of prayer among the bands in London, and strongly exhorted them to humility.

PART VI.

FROM APRIL 3D, 1741, TO SEPTEMBER 22D, 1741.*

FRIDAY, April 3d. I set out for Bristol, to which God brought me safe by Saturday evening. I expounded at the malt-house Rev. ii. 24 ; and God was with my mouth.

Sun., April 5th. I spake words of comfort to many mourners, from Isai. xxx. 18 : "And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you," &c. Again God greatly to be feared was in the midst of our congregation, and revived many drooping hearts.

* No account of Mr. Charles Wesley's labours during the months of January, February, and March, of this year has been preserved.—
EDIT.

Mon., April 6th. I prayed by one supposed at the point of death. He rejoiced to meet the King of terrors, and appeared so sweetly resigned, so ready for the Bridgroom, that I longed to change places with him.

I visited three murderers under sentence of death, who were ready to say, "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Thur., April 9th. I got some hours for visiting our numerous sick, most of whom I found in a good way: only one backslider, B. Hawks, was in the depth of despair.

I preached at Kendalshire, and gathered up the wreck. In riding back my horse threw me; but I know who caught me in his arms.

Fri., April 10th. I found a dying sinner rejoicing in God her Saviour. At sight of me she cried out, "O how loving is God to me! but he is loving to every man: he loves every soul as well as he loves mine." Many like words she uttered in triumphant faith, and witnessed in death the universal love of Christ Jesus.

Sat., April 11th. To-day He called forth another of his dying witnesses; the young woman whom, at my last visit, I left in utter despair. This morning she broke out into, "I see, I see it now, that Jesus Christ died for me, and for all the world." From that time she testified, with much assurance, that Christ gave his life a ransom for all. Some of her words to me were, "Death stares me in the face; but I fear him not. He cannot hurt me,

'And death may shake his dart in vain.'

Your report is true. God is love, pure love; love to every man. The Spirit which is in me tells me that Jesus Christ died for me and the whole world."

The next I saw was our brother S.,

"With joyful eyes, and looks divine,
Smiling, and pleased in death."

He, likewise, had in himself the witness of God's all-redeeming love, and could stake his soul upon the truth of it. Who will show me a predestinarian that dares die for the truth of reprobation?

Sun., April 12th. At Kingswood, while I was repeating

B. H.'s dying testimony, the Spirit came down "as a mighty rushing wind." Just then the predestinarians came in from hearing Cennick. In battles of shaking did He fight with them. We were all in a flame of love.

I gave the sacrament to the bands of Kingswood, not of Bristol, in obedience, as I told them, to the Church of England, which requires a weekly sacrament at every cathedral. But as they had it not there, and on this particular Sunday were refused it at Temple-church, (I myself, with many of them, having been repelled,) I therefore administered it to them in our school; and, had we wanted an house, would justify doing it in the midst of the Wood. I strongly urged the duty of their receiving it as often as they could be admitted at the churches.

I had prayed God to show me some token if this was his will concerning us: and, indeed, my prayer was answered; for such a sacrament was I never present at before. We received the sure pledges of our Saviour's dying love, and were most of us filled with all peace and joy in believing.

I preached a fourth time at Bristol: read the bands my Journal of what has lately passed in London. It occasioned a grief which, mixed with pity, violated not their joy. I gave them all the treatise on Predestination.

Mon., April 13th. While I was in great love, warning the bands, the Spirit of power came down, the fountain was set open, my mouth and heart enlarged, and I spoke such words as I cannot repeat. Many sunk under the love of Christ crucified, and were constrained to break out, "Christ died for all." Some confessed, with tears of joy, they were going to leave us, but could now die for the truth of the doctrine.

Tues., April 14th. I was enlarged in prayer for the malefactors who are to die to-morrow.

Thur., April 16th. One of our old men in the Wood complained to me, that the separatists had got from him the treatise against Predestination, and burnt it. In like manner they *answer* all they can lay hands on; but they do nothing, unless they could burn one more book,—the Bible.

At Kendalshire God gave me words to maintain his cause. I showed the end of Messiah being cut off; namely,

"to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sin, and to bring in everlasting righteousness." One soul, as I afterwards heard, was added to the witnesses of Jesus.

Fri., April 17th. For the sake of many poor soldiers present, I enlarged on the "faithful saying, Th. † Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners."

Sat., April 18th. I called to see one that was a-dying: it was Hannah Richardson.

Sun., April 19th. Returning from Baptist-Mills, I heard that our sister Richardson had finished her course. My soul was filled with strong consolation, and struggled, as it were, to go out after her, "as heavenward endeavouring." Jesu, my time is in thy hand: only let me so follow her, as she has followed Thee!

The voice of joy and thanksgiving was in the congregation, while I spake of her death. Our sister Purnell has proved a true Prophet, that many of the Society would quickly follow her, but God would first finish his work, and cut it short in righteousness.

Mon., April 20th. The hand of the Lord was upon me at Downing, while I enforced his universal call, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, *all* the ends of the earth." Many felt the earthquake which precedes the coming of the Son of man. We prayed and sung alternately for two hours; and the Lord, we trust, enlarged and established our hearts.

Tues., April 21st. I hastened to the joyful funeral of our sister Richardson. The room was crowded within and without. My subject was, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," &c. (Job xix. 25.) I spoke searchingly to the hearsay-believers; and then largely of her, whose faith they might safely follow. Great was my glorying and rejoicing over her. She, being dead, yet spoke in words of faith and love, which ought to be had in remembrance. Surely her spirit was present with us; and we were in a measure partakers of her joy, a joy unspeakable and full of glory.

The whole Society followed her to her grave. Through all the city Satan raged exceedingly in his children, who threw dirt and stones at us: but the bridle was in their mouths. After the burial we joined in the following hymn:—

- "Come, let us who in Christ believe,
With saints and angels join,
Glory, and praise, and blessing give,
And thanks to grace divine.
- "Our friend, in sure and certain hope,
Hath laid her body down,
She knew that Christ will raise her up,
And give the heavenly crown.
- "To all who his appearing love,
He opens paradise,
And we shall join the hosts above,
And we shall grasp the prize.
- "Then let us wait to see the day,
To hear the welcome word,
To answer, Lo, we come away,
We die to meet our Lord."

Wed., April 22d. I sharply reprov'd three or four inflexible Pharisees; then prayed the Lord to give me words of consolation, and immediately I was filled with power, which broke out as a mighty torrent. All our hearts caught fire as in a moment, and such tears and strong cryings followed, as quite drowned my voice. I sat still while the prayer of the humble pierced the clouds, and entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. All present received an answer of peace; and, from his love in their hearts, testified that Christ died for all.

Thur., April 23d. In the evening I gathered up a stray sheep at Bristol, and carried her to the word which she had long forsaken. I strongly exhorted the people to put on the whole armour of God. God doubly confirms the word when it is denied.

Fri., April 24th. At the intercession I had great faith in prayer, that all things shall happen for the furtherance of the Gospel. A predestinarian was struck as with the pangs of death, and earnestly desired our prayers.

I spent the afternoon in confirming the weak. In the evening I opened the book where it was written, "And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken;" (Num. xiv. ;) that famous history of the spies, who brought up an evil report of the promised land. I said, "Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it." God inclined their

hearts to listen unto me, rather than the men that went up with us, who say, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we. We can never conquer *all* sin : we must sin sometimes."

I rode to Kingswood, where many were come from far to spend the night in watching and prayer. We had much of the divine presence ; but remained myself like Gideon's fleece ; till, at midnight, a cry, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh !" The flame was kindled, and the Lord our God was among us as in the holy place of Sinai.

Sat., April 25th. The word at night was refreshing to our souls. Our thanksgiving-notes multiply more and more. One wrote thus :—"There was not a word came out of your mouth last night, but I could apply it to my own soul, and witness it the doctrine of Christ. I know that Christ is a whole Saviour. I know the blood of Christ has washed away all my sins. I am sure the Lord will make me perfect in love before I go hence, and am no more seen.

'O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise !' " &c.

Sun., April 26th. I proceeded in Num. xiv., and warned the hearers lest, a promise being made them of entering into rest, any of them should come short of it through unbelief.

God every day adds fresh seals to my ministry ; as many testify in their notes of thanksgiving.

Thur., April 30th. I went on in Num. xiv. Many eyes were opened to see that land of promise which God hath sworn to give unto all who believe.

We find a continual increase of faith and strength. It is good for us to be assaulted by Satan and his children. They watch *for* our halting, which makes us watch *against* it.

Fri., May 1st. I visited a sister dying in the Lord ; and then two others, one mourning after, the other rejoicing in, God her Saviour.

I found our sister Hooper sick of love. Her body, too, sunk under it.

While I finished my discourse on Num. xiv., God fulfilled his promise, "Lo, I am with you always."

I was now informed that another of our sisters, E. Smith, is gone home in triumph. She witnessed a good confession of the universal Saviour, and gave up her spirit with those words, "I go to my heavenly Father."

Sun., May 3d. At Kingswood as soon as I had named my text, "It is finished!" the love of Christ crucified so constrained me, that I burst into tears, and felt strong sympathy with Him in his sufferings. In like manner, the whole congregation looked upon Him whom they had pierced, and mourned.

I joined the Society in thanksgiving for our departed sister. We found where she was, by the sweet power and solemn awe with which the divine presence filled us.

Mon., May 4th. I passed an hour in weeping with some that wept; then rejoiced over our sister Hooper. The more the outward man decayeth, the inner is renewed. For one whole night she had wrestled with all the powers of darkness. This is that evil day, that fiery trial. But, having done all, she stood unshaken. From henceforth she was kept in perfect peace, and that wicked one touched her not.

In conference B. Walters told me that last night God had opened her eyes under the word, and the love of Christ, the Saviour of all men, quite overpowered her soul.

I saw my dear friend again, in great bodily weakness, but strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. "The Spirit," said she, "bears witness every moment with my spirit, that I am a child of God." I spoke with her Physician, who said he had little hope of her recovery; "only," added he, "she has no dread upon her spirits, which is generally the worst symptom. Most people die for fear of dying: but I never met with such people as yours. They are none of them afraid of death; but calm, and patient, and resigned to the last." He had said to her, "Madam, be not cast down." She answered smiling, "Sir, I shall never be cast down."

At Downing I explained good old Simeon's confession: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace," &c. Our sister Hooper was present in spirit. I hastened back, and asked, "How are you now?" Her answer was, "Full, full of love."

I met the bands in Kingswood. One, who, in fear of God, and mistrust of himself, had heard Mr. W—, assured me he had preached barefaced reprobation. The people fled before the reprobating lion. But again and again, as he observed them depart, the preacher of sad tidings called them back, with general offers of salvation. Vain and empty offers indeed! What availed his telling them that, for *ought he knew*, they might be *all* elect. He did not believe them all elect; he could not: therefore he only mocked them with an empty word of invitation; and if God sent him to preach the Gospel to *every creature*, God, according to his scheme, sent him to *deceive* the greatest part of mankind.

Tues., May 5th. We had much of the spirit of supplication among our colliers. I could not but look on it as a good omen, that, while I was praying for the increase of our spiritual children, a wild collier brought me four of his children, and threw the youngest on the table before me, crying, "You have got the mother, take the bairns too."

Wed., May 6th. I found our sister Hooper just at the haven. She expressed, while able to speak, her fulness of confidence and love; her desire to be with Christ; her grief at their preaching the other Gospel. Some of her words were, "Does Mr. Cennick still preach his wretched doctrine? O what has he to answer for, for turning his poor sister out of the way! But my Lord will pity, and not suffer her to die in that delusion."

At my next visit, I saw her in her latest conflict. The angel of death was come, and but a few moments between her and a blessed eternity. We poured out our souls to God for her, her children, ourselves, the Church and Ministers, and all mankind. I had some perception of her joy. My soul was tenderly affected for her sufferings, yet the joy swallowed up the sorrow. How much more then did *her* consolations abound! The servants of Christ suffer nothing. I asked her whether she was not in great pain. "Yes," she answered, "but in greater joy. I would not be without either." "But do you not prefer life or death?" She replied, "All is alike to me; let Christ choose; I have no will of my own." This is that holiness, or absolute resignation, or Christian perfection!

Two days ago, I asked her if she expected to recover. She answered, God had in the beginning of her sickness given her notice of her departure. And I now remember, she told me some months ago, that Mrs. Purnell, on her death-bed, had said, "You shall shortly follow me."

A few moments before her last, I found such a complication of grief, joy, love, envy, as quite overpowered me. I fell upon the bed, and in that instant her spirit ascended to God. I felt our souls were knit together by the violent struggle of mine to follow her.

When I saw the breathless temple of the Holy Ghost, my heart was still, and a calm resignation took place. We knelt down, and gave God thanks from the ground of our heart. We then had recourse to the book of comfort, and found it written, "He was a burning and a shining light : and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light." The next word was for us : "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest." Even so, come, Lord Jesus, and give us an inheritance among all them that are sanctified !

After her death, they found a memorandum in her handwriting : "On such a day Mr. Wesley came to town ; the next day I received a fresh witness. November 2d. I received, early in the morning, such a manifestation of God's love, as is not to be expressed."

One night, I remember, she told me she knew, while coming to us, we should have that extraordinary power among the bands ; that in the way God had given her a sight of the new Jerusalem. This she did not mention to others, nor indeed many manifestations of Christ, being exceeding jealous lest she should take any glory to herself. O that all who tell what God hath done for their souls, would tell it with like humble reverence !

I met the bands ; a solemn assembly. I cautioned the unstable, and comforted the feeble-minded. My mentioning our sister's release occasioned much thanksgiving to God.

Thur., May 7th. I visited Hannah C., full of love to her Saviour, crying out, "Liberty, liberty ! This is the glorious liberty of God's children. O, who can name the name of Jesus, and not depart from iniquity ? God loves me. God loves every man. Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the whole world."

I could not but observe, and bless God for, this answer to our dying sister's prayer.

At the room, I opened the book on, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Was I to search after the strongest scriptures for universal redemption, I could not choose so well as Providence chooses for me. God at this time made bare his arm. I knew not how to give over, but continued my discourse till nine. Many witnesses stood forth, and testified God's love to all.

Fri., May 8th. We solemnized the funeral of our sister Hooper, and rejoiced over her with singing; particularly that hymn which concludes,—

"Thus may we all our parting breath
Into the Saviour's hands resign;
O, sister, let *me* die thy death,
And let thy latter end be mine!"

My text was, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." A great multitude attended her to her grave. There we sang another hymn of triumph; and I found myself pressed in spirit to speak to those who contradicted and blasphemed. While I reasoned on death and judgment to come, many trembled; one woman cried out in horrible agony. We returned to the room, and continued our solemn rejoicings, all desiring to be dissolved, and to be with Christ.

Sun., May 10th. I gave the sacrament to the colliers; preached on Elijah's small, still voice; went out into the highways, and concluded the happy day with a feast in Kingswood.

Mon., May 11th. At Downing I explained, "I will heal thy backslidings, I will love thee freely." He who gave the promise, applied it. I was quite melted down by it. Several wept much, and loved much, because they had much forgiven.

Thur., May 14th. I visited our sister Lillington, whom her Saviour had brought to a bed of sickness, before she knew he was *her* Saviour. She told me, two nights ago she saw herself as it were dropping into hell, when suddenly a ray of light was darted into her soul, and filled her with all peace and joy in believing. All fear of hell, death, and sin fled away in that same moment.

I saw two more of our sick sisters ; then two of the brethren in Kingswood, who were all rejoicing in hope of a speedy dissolution. I preached at Kendalshire, and visited one of the bands there, who walked through the valley of the shadow of death, and feared no evil. I prayed by a seventh in Bristol, who laughed at the King of terrors. If God be not with us, who hath begotten us these ?

Fri., May 15th. I saw our sister Lillington again ; still without fear, desiring nothing but to be with Christ. " I never felt," said she, " such love before : I love every soul ; I am all love,—and so is God. He is loving unto every man : He would have all men to be saved."

Sat., May 16th. I visited another of our sisters, who was triumphing over death. I asked her, " Do you know Christ died for you ?" " Yes," she answered joyfully, " for me, and for the whole world. He has begun, and he will finish, his work in my soul." " But will he save you," I said, " from *all* sin ?" She replied, " I know he will. There shall no sin remain in me."

I was sent for to another, who had lately heard a preacher of reprobation. The tempter would not lose the advantage, and immediately suggested, " You are one of those for whom Christ did not die." This threw her into a fever. I found her dying in despair ; preached the true Gospel, (Gospel to every creature,) prayed, and left her a prisoner of hope.

Whitsunday, May 17th. The fire was kindled while we were singing,

" Bear we witness unto Thee,
Thou thy light to all dost give,
That the world through it may see
Their Saviour, and believe."

One cried out, " It is the truth !" Several found the same constraint of the all-loving Spirit. We blessed the God and Saviour of all men, who never leaves himself without witness, where his true Gospel is preached.

Mon., May 18th. A poor soldier confessed to me, that God had opened his eyes to see his universal love : I was repeating that verse,—

"Arise, O God, arise,
Thy glorious cause maintain;
Hold forth the bloody sacrifice,
For every sinner slain."

By all I can discern, he did in that moment receive the atonement.

I settled the bands in Kingswood. Toward the end, an awful sense of God fell upon us; and we trembled, seeing Him that is invisible.

Tues., May 19th. I am more and more confirmed in the truth by its miserable opposers. I talked lately with Mr. H—, and urged him with this dilemma: "For what did God make this reprobate? to be damned, or to be saved?" He durst not say God made even Judas to be damned, and would not say God made him to be saved. I desired to know for what third end he could make him; but all the answer I could get was, "It is not a fair question."

Next I asked, "Whether he that believeth not shall not be damned, because he believeth not?" "Yes," he answered; and I replied, "Because he believeth not what?" Here he hesitated, and I was forced to help him out with the Apostle's answer, "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth." "What truth," I asked again, "but the truth of the Gospel of *their* salvation? If it is not the Gospel of *their* salvation, and yet they are bound to believe it, then they are bound to believe a lie, under pain of damnation; and the Apostle should have said, 'That they all might be damned who believed not *a lie*.'" This drove him to assert, that no man was damned for *actual* unbelief, but only for what he called *original*; that is, for not believing before he was born. "But where," said I, "is the justice of this?" He answered, not over-hastily, "I confess there is a mystery in reprobation." Or, to put it in Beza's words, which I then read him, "We believe, though it is incomprehensible, that it is just to damn such as do not deserve it."

Farther I asked him, "Why does God command all men everywhere to repent? Why does he call, and offer his grace to, reprobates? Why does his Spirit strive with every child of man for *some* time, though not always?" I could

get no answer, and so read him one of his friend Calvin's : "God speaketh to them, that they may be the deafer ; He gives light to them, that they may be the blinder ; He offers instruction to them, that they may be the more ignorant ; and uses the remedy, that they may *not* be healed." (Calvin, Instit., l. iii., c. 24.)

Never did I meet with a more pitiful advocate of a more pitiful cause. And yet I believe he could say as much for reprobation as another. I told him *his* predestination had got a millstone about its neck, and would infallibly be drowned, if he did not part it from reprobation.

At Kingswood I preached on those much-perverted words, "I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me ;" that is, his Apostles. He does not take in believers of future ages till verse 20. Then in verse 21 he prays for the unbelieving world ; "that," to use Mr. Baxter's words on the place, "by *their* concord, the *world* may be won to Christianity." (Paraphrase on New Testament: see again on verse 23, "That this lustre of their excellency and concord may convince the world that thou hast sent me.") So far is our Lord from not praying for the world *at all*, that in this very chapter he prays once for his first disciples, once for believers in after-ages, and *twice* for the *world* that lieth in wickedness, that the world may *believe*, —that the world may *know*.

He who prays for all men himself, and commands us to pray for all men, was with us, and showed us, with the demonstration of his Spirit, that he is not willing any should perish, but that all should come to the knowledge of the truth, and be saved.

Wed., May 20th. I was called to a dying woman, who confessed she had often railed on me in her health, but was now constrained to send for me, and ask my pardon, or she could not die in peace. We prayed our Lord to speak peace and pardon to her soul. Several such instances have we had of scoffers, when their feet came to stumble on the dark mountains.

Fri., May 22d. I preached a funeral sermon over sister Lillington, and attended her to her grave ; where we rejoiced in hope of quickly following her. I gave an exhortation to repentance, though Satan greatly withstood me ;

thereby teaching me, never to let go unwarned the poor sinners that come on such occasions.

I passed the night with my brother, at Kingswood, in watching unto prayer. I would this primitive custom were revived among all our brethren. The word of God encourages us to be in watchings often. I returned by two to Bristol; and at five found strength to expound in the room.

Sun., May 24th. I preached on Jacob wrestling for the blessing. Many then, I believe, took hold on his strength, and will not let him go, till he bless them, and tell them his name.

I heard my brother at the Mills, and attended him to the Society. We had the cloud on our assembly. A woman was constrained to testify, "God this moment assures me that my pardon is sealed in heaven." The prince of this world was displeased. One of his subjects threw a stone into the room, which had no permission to hurt. We accepted it as a challenge to stay, and continued an hour longer, singing and praising God.

Mon., May 25th. I visited one, who had been grievously tormented with the spirit of reprobation, but now rejoiced on a bed of sickness, free from all fear, and trouble, and *sense* of pain. "I am confident," she said, "that Jesus Christ will finish his work in me. That wicked one toucheth me not. He can no more make me doubt of God's universal love. Jesus is the stronger. He is the Saviour of all mankind. It is a glorious Gospel you preach. I stake my soul upon the truth of it."

While I was passing by the bowling-green, a woman cried out, "The curse of God light upon you," with such uncommon bitterness, that I could not but turn and stop to bless her. When I asked her why she cursed me, she answered, "For preaching against Mr. ———." I had indeed a suspicion, from her dialect, that she was one of the self-elect; but stayed heaping coals of fire upon her head, till at last she said, "God bless you all."

Thur., May 28th. In the evening I expounded Ezek. xviii. Some were grieved, and I myself also, at the necessity laid upon me to convince gainsayers, and not to employ both hands in building. Yet our Lord owned me here also, and the hammer of his word broke the rock of absolute

predestination in pieces. One, who had been long entangled with it, now testified that he had delivered her soul out of the snare of the fowler.

Sat., May 30th. I passed an hour with a spiritual Quaker, and rejoiced to find we were both of the same religion.

Sun., May 31st. Throughout this day I found my strength increase with my labour. Many at the Mills were affected deeply with our Lord's description of his coming to judgment. (Matt. xxiv.)

I read in the Society my account of H. Richardson's death. She, being dead, yet spoke so powerfully to our hearts, that my voice was lost in the sorrowful sighing of such as be in captivity. To several God showed himself the God of consolation also : particularly to two young Welshmen, whom his providence sent hither from Caermarthen. They had heard most dreadful stories of us Arminians, freewillers, perfectionists, Papists ; which all vanished like smoke when they came to hear with their own ears. God applied to their hearts the word of his power. I carried them to my lodgings, and stocked them with books, and sent them away, recommended to the grace of God, which bringeth salvation unto all men.

Thur., June 4th. I met with one who *said* she was in the full liberty of the Gospel, and much displeased that I did not acknowledge her : " but the spiritual man is discerned of none, though I discern you ; you are justified, but you have not my gifts." Upon my coming closer, she was very abusive, called me " child of the devil," &c., and denounced judgments against our whole Society for not receiving her.

In the evening-Society God wrought wonderfully. I have seldom known such a night. We rejoiced till near midnight with joy unspeakable.

Fri., June 5th. The morning word was as a sharp, two-edged sword, a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Mary Stretten, the poor self-deceiver I spoke with yesterday, could not bear it, but cried out, " You are a child of the devil, and your Society are all accursed." I let her speak on, that she might *show* herself ; then warned the high-minded, lest they also should fall into the condemnation of the devil. See the false assurance of unbe-

lief, and tremble! One, in the gall of bitterness, the bond of iniquity, persuades herself that she is in the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

I visited one, who had violently maintained the impossibility of knowing our sins forgiven in this life. But Christ hath taught her better on her death-bed. She was overjoyed to see me. I prayed over her in faith; and left her calmly waiting for the salvation of God.

I prayed by another of the bands, who has recovered in sickness the confidence she had long lost.

I walked out of town to a third, who lay a-dying, and could not rest till she had seen me. She had been a great opposer of this way, which now she confesses to be the only way of salvation.

I was sent for to rejoice with our brother G., in an high fever. The witness testified, "I come quickly." Therefore consolations did much more abound.

Sat., June 6th. W. H. informed me, that last night he was delivered, under the word, from the snare of predestination.

Mon., June 8th. A woman spoke to me of her husband. He was under strong convictions, while he attended the word; but the first time he heard the *other Gospel*, came home *elect*, and, in proof of it, *beat his wife*. His seriousness was at an end. His work was done. God doth not behold iniquity in Jacob; therefore his iniquity and cruelty towards her abound. He uses her worse than a Turk, (his predestinarian brother,) and tells her, if he killed her he could not be damned.

I visited the woman whom I had left waiting for the redemption she had long denied. She cried out at sight of me, "O, blessed be God that ever I heard you! You have been the saving of my soul." I taught her to speak more exactly. Her faith wrought powerfully by love. Her mouth was full of prayers and blessings. She continued for two days praising God; and then he took her to himself.

Wed., June 10th. I warned one of the bands, who, by his Ahab-like humility, had deceived many. I prayed our Lord, if he approved my plainness of speech, to give us an answer of peace.

Immediately the spirit of supplication burst forth. We wrestled with God for a blessing on ourselves, on all who

wait for full redemption, on those who blaspheme the glorious liberty of his children. The Spirit made intercession with groans unutterable. Many called upon God out of the deep; others rejoiced with joy unspeakable, and full assurance that we had the petitions we asked.

Sat., June 13th. Some days since, I was sent for to one whom I had put out of our Society for disorderly walking. He earnestly desired to see me. I found him senseless, and at the point of death, as was supposed. I was surprised to-day at hearing he was still alive, and in his senses. He was overjoyed to see me, and I to find the Lord had again been merciful unto him.

Tues., June 16th. Seeking a sick man, near Hanham, whose name I had forgot, I called at some of the huts for direction. At last a child informed me of one who lay a-dying. It was not the man whom I meant, but whom God meant, and sent me to bring him good news at the eleventh hour.

The woman asked me how Thomas Reed did: the very man I wanted to find, and was now directed to. He was one that had drawn back; but gladly received me now. No dying man is grieved to hear Christ died for all.

I spoke with one of the bands, most barbarously used by her husband, because she will not forsake God and his people. An hundred times, she said, he has carried a knife to bed with him, to cut her throat. Her soul is alway in her hand. She sleeps in the shadow of death, and fears no evil; knowing he can have no power over her, except it be given him from above. She ventures her life upon that word, "How knowest thou, O woman, but thou mayest save thy husband?"

I preached in the wood on that dreadful word, "Sell all," never with more assistance. How has the devil baffled those teachers, who, for fear of setting men upon works, forbear urging this *first universal* duty! If enforcing Christ's own words is to preach works, I hope I shall preach works as long as I live.

Wed., June 17th. I gave the sacrament to our sister Brimble, dying in such strong agonies as I have not seen before, no, not in Hannah Richardson. She had no fear of hell, yet was so deeply convinced of original sin, as made

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all who heard her tremble. She could not let go her confidence that God would finish his work in her, though there were so few hours betwixt her and eternity.

We met in Kingswood, to humble our souls with fasting, and deprecate the national judgments. In the evening, God gave me words to stir up some who were settled upon their lees. How long have we called him "Lord, Lord," and not done the things which he bade us, not denied ourselves, and taken up our daily cross!

Thur., June 18th. I visited our brother Haskin's father, at Sison, whom God has showed that he is a sinner, but not yet that he is the chief of sinners. I left him desirous to know even as he is known. Soon after, he entered upon his last agony. By his vehement prayers to the Saviour of sinners, and by the faith which God gave his son, I trust God made a short work in his soul, and received it without spot to himself.

Fri., June 19th. I expounded the fall of Jericho, and felt the truth of every word I spoke. Howel Harris was present; and afterwards confessed to me, that he felt the power by which I spake, restraining him from denying the truth, and filling him with strong desires of its accomplishment.

At the watchnight I preached again on the same subject, with double power. It was a glorious night indeed. We followed the ark, and the shout of a King was in the midst of us.

Mon., June 22d. I visited one of the Society on her death-bed. God sent me to her that she might preach to me. She conjured me not to depart from the word; said, "The Ministers will endure a great fight of afflictions; but go on to preach Christ the Saviour of all men, whose blood cleanseth from all sin. Christ died for all: none can resist this truth. I have not yet attained, but know He will fill up what is lacking in my faith."

Wed., June 24th. I asked her if she had a new heart. She answered, "No; but I shall receive it with the sacrament." After administering, I repeated the question, and she bore witness to the truth: "Every one that is perfect shall be as his Master." God, she said, had then taken away the evil heart, and she had no sin remaining in her. I told her that time and temptation would show.

Thur., June 25th. I found her still the same, declaring she had felt no motion of evil or self-will since the occasion of stumbling, as she thinks, was taken away.

Fri., June 26th. Suky Harding informed me, that Howel Harris, coming from the room that night to her master's, had stopped their railings, saying, he would hear nothing against his brother Wesleys, for they were true Ministers of Christ, and children of God. He confessed, before a large company of our enemies, he had found such power under the word, that his soul was lifted up to the third heaven; he longed to be free from sin, which he hated; he lay open to the light; "and if," said he, "the Scriptures say Christ died for all, I will say so too." By many such words he utterly confounded them. But who can touch pitch, and not be defiled? The very next day he came, and threatened to declare against me as a deceiver.

Sun., June 28th. A day much to be remembered. I preached in Bristol on repentance; at Kendalshire on temptation, with more life. My strength increased with my work; so that in the afternoon I was filled with power; and again at Baptist-mills.

Last night Howel Harris told me he would come to our Society. I bade him come in God's name. We were singing,

"Thee triumphantly we praise,
Vie with all thy hosts above;
Shout thine universal grace,
Thine everlasting love;"

when W. Hooper, by my order, brought him. I prayed according to God; gave out an hymn which we might all join in. The hand of the Lord was upon me. I asked Howel whether he had a mind to speak, and sat by for half an hour, while he gave an account of his conversion by *irresistible grace*, mixing with his experience the impossibility of falling, God's unchangeableness, &c. I could not but observe the ungenerousness of my friend; and after hearing him long and patiently, was moved to rise up, and ask in the name of Jesus, "Ye that are spiritual, doth the Spirit which is in you suffer me still to keep silence, and let my brother go on? Can I do it without bringing the blood of these souls upon me?" A woman

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first cried out, (Mrs. Rawlins, I think,) "The wounds of Jesus answer, 'No.'" Then many others repeated, "No, no, no;" and a whole cloud of witnesses arose, declaring, "Christ died for all!"

I asked again, "Would you have my brother Harris proceed, or would you not? If you would hear him, I will be silent all night." Again they forbade me in strong words; upon which I gave out,

"Break forth into joy,
Your Comforter sing," &c.

They did break forth as the voice of many waters, or mighty thunderings. O what a burst of joy was there in the midst of us! The God and Saviour of all men magnified his universal love.

Howel Harris would have entered into dispute, but was stopped. "Then," said he, "you thrust me out." "No," said I, "we do not: you are welcome to stay as long as you please. We acknowledge you a child of God." Yet again he began, "If you do not believe irresistible grace;" and I cut off the sentence of reprobation which I foresaw coming, with,

"Praise God, from whom pure blessings flow,
Whose bowels yearn on *all* below;
Who would not have one sinner lost;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

Here Mr. Labbe pulled him away, and carried him from us. We betook ourselves to prayer, in which the Spirit wonderfully helped our infirmities. Great was the company, both of mourners and rejoicers. We perceived God had taken the matter into his own hand, and was arose to maintain his own cause. My mouth, and all their hearts, were opened. I spake as I never spake before, and all agreed in one testimony. John Doleman, and Francis Vigor, a young Quaker, received forgiveness of sins; and all that knew Christ, an increase of faith and love.

I acknowledged the grace given to our dear brother Harris, and excused his estrangement from me through the wickedness of his counsellors. I spake, I know not what, words of exhortation and instruction.

The Spirit of their Father spake in many; and this I

have found since, that just when I began to stop Howel, several felt in themselves that the time was come ; and, if I had deferred it, would themselves have rebuked the madness of the Prophet.

Mon., June 29th. I called on a sister in Bath, and exhorted a few to "save themselves from this untoward generation." At their desire I opened the Scripture, and warned them from the first words, "Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins." (Num. xvi. 26.)

Sat., July 4th. While the letters were reading,* we had a glimpse of the felicity of God's chosen, and rejoiced in the gladness of his people, and gave thanks with his inheritance.

I visited a dying woman, who fell upon me with revilings for not coming sooner to give her the sacrament. She went on so violently, that I feared her last breath would go in curses. I hoped she was not in her senses ; but the attendants assured me this was her language continually. She had no trouble about her soul. When I told her she would be lost if she died unchanged, she answered, "You will go to hell before me." I could not account for it, till they told me she was a constant hearer of the predestinarians. We joined in prayer for her ; and God gave us a faint spark of hope.

Tues., July 7th. I visited her a second time, and perceived the strong man was bound : if so, he may be cast out. This is the Lord's doing.

I prayed by another who had been exceeding mad against Christ and his people. But the fierce persecutor is now struck to the ground, and asks, "Lord, what wouldest thou have me to do?" I doubt not but the scales will fall from his eyes before they are closed in death.

I received an earnest invitation to Cardiff, where some are fallen asleep, and some turned back into Egypt.

Fri., July 10th. I spent most of the afternoon in reading Gell on the Pentateuch. Never man, uninspired, spake as

* The Wesleys and Mr. Whitefield were all in the habit of reading in their religious meetings extracts from the letters of their correspondents, relative to the progress of the Gospel in various parts of the world.—EDIT.

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this man speaks. I wonder where the devil has hid him so long. But the good providence which has put him into our hands, will now, I trust, "set him on a candlestick, that he may shine to all that are in the house."

Sat., July 11th. I preached at Bristol, then among the colliers, a third time at Bath, a fourth at Sawford, and yet again in the Wood. Let God have the glory. Preaching five times a day, when he calls me to it, no more wearies the flesh than preaching once.

Satan took it ill to be attacked in his head-quarters, that Sodom of our land, Bath. While I was explaining the trembling jailer's question, he raged horribly in his children. They went out, and came back again, and mocked, and at last roared, as if each man's name was Legion. My power increased with the opposition. The sincere were melted into tears and strong desires of salvation.

Sun., July 12th. I preached from Titus ii. 11, &c. The power and seal of God is never wanting while I declare the *two great truths* of the everlasting Gospel, universal redemption and Christian perfection.

At Kingswood I received Jane Sheep into the fold by baptism, which she felt in that moment to be for the remission of sins.

Mon., July 13th. I set out with our brother Hooper, and by three reached Cardiff. At six I met, and laboured to stir up, the Society; and the Lord was with my mouth.

Tues., July 14th. I warned them against apostasy, from 1 Cor. x. I preached in the afternoon to the prisoners, "How shall I give thee up, O Ephraim?" Above twenty were felons. The word melted them down. Many tears were shed at the singing that,

"Outcasts of men, to you I call," &c.

At night, for near three hours, I described the grace of God which bringeth salvation to all men.

Wed., July 15th. I encouraged them to expect salvation from indwelling sin by that blessed promise, "Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain."

I rode to Wenvo, and asked my brother Hodges if he had forbid letting me preach. He told me his church, while he

had one, should be always open to me. It was full at so short a warning. I read prayers, and preached from Isai. lii. : "Awake, awake ; put on thy strength, O Zion," &c.

I rode on five miles farther with Mr. Wells, Hodges, and others, to Fonmon-Castle. Mr. Jones, who had sent for me, received me very courteously. He civilly apologized for his first questions which he asked me as a Magistrate, whether I was a Papist, whether a member of the established Church of England, &c. ; was fully satisfied with my answers, and found we were cotemporaries at the same College.

After dinner he sent to Porthkerry ; where, at his desire, the Minister lent me his pulpit. After Mr. Richards had made him a promise of it, he sent again, desiring him to act without bias or constraint, by either granting or refusing the church, as his conscience directed.

I read prayers, and preached "God so loved the world." God was amongst us, and a mighty tempest was stirred up round about Him. He shook many souls out of their carnal security. Never hath He given me more convincing words. The poor simple souls fell down at the feet of Jesus. Their shepherd, also, was deeply affected, and hid his face, and wept ; especially while I was praying for him. After sermon he begged my pardon for believing the strange reports concerning me. God had spoke the contrary to his heart, and the hearts of his people ; for, when we were gone out of the church, it was still filled with the cries of the wounded.

I yielded to Mr. Jones's importunity, and agreed to delay my return to Bristol, that I might preach here once more, and pass a night at the Castle. Mr. Richards pressed me first to come to his house.

I hastened back to Cardiff, and, in great bodily weakness, showed unawakened sinners their state in dead Lazarus. The word was quick and powerful.

Thur., July 16th. I discoursed on Lazarus raised. I dined at Lanissan, and preached to the Society and a few others, chiefly predestinarians. Without touching the dispute, I simply declared the scriptural marks of election ; whereby some, I believe, were cut off from their vain confidence. The sincere ones clave to me. Who can resist

the power of love? A loving messenger of a loving God might drive reprobation out of Wales, without once naming it.

In the evening, at Cardiff, Mr. Wells and Hodges shamed me by patiently sitting by to hear *me* preach. My subject was, "Wrestling Jacob." Some whole sinners were offended at the sick and wounded, who cried out for a Physician : but such offences must needs come.

Fri., July 17th. I expounded the woman healed of her bloody issue. The power of the Lord was present. We took leave of each other with many tears ; and I earnestly exhorted them to continue in the grace of God.

I dropped most of my company on the road, that I might meet Mr. Jones at Mr. Richards's. He came with Mrs. Jones ; and was met by a Minister whom, with some others, he had invited to his house, with a view of reconciling them to me. None but Mr. Carne accepted his invitation. His address was not so smooth as theirs who dwell in Kings' palaces ; but I said little till I could speak as one having authority. With difficulty Mr. Jones restrained him from breaking out.

He flew out on sight of the multitude in the churchyard, and a motion made for my preaching there. It was then proposed to take down one of the windows, that those without might hear : but, on Mr. Carne's again threatening to go away, we went into the church, as many as could, and the rest stood without.

Mr. Carne stood up all the prayers and sermon-time. The First Lesson was a remarkable word to me : "Then said I, Ah, Lord God ! behold, I cannot speak : for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child : for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces : for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee : be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brazen walls : and they shall fight against

thee, but they shall not prevail against thee : for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee." (Jer. i.)

The Second Lesson was John v. The Psalms, also, spake nothing but encouragement. I expected that to be now fulfilled, "Show some token for good upon thy servant, that they who hate me may see it, and be ashamed, because thou, Lord God, hast holpen and comforted me."

I never read prayers with more inward feeling. Like strength was given me to explain the "good Samaritan" for two hours. Out of the abundance of my heart my mouth spake. Great was the company of mourners, whose tears God put into his bottle ; and they shall reap in joy.

I could not help smiling at Mr. Carne, who had come, as he said, on purpose to judge me ; and his judgment was, "Sir, you have got very good lungs : but you will make the people melancholy. I saw them crying throughout the church." Then he turned on Mr. Jones, and told him he would make himself ridiculous all over the country by encouraging such a fellow. I was afraid of despising him, and therefore passed on, and left them together. Mr. Jones almost overcame his evil with good, but could not prevail upon him to come under the same roof with me.

However, the poor people were glad to accept of his invitation to hear me again at the Castle. We ate our bread with gladness and singleness of heart : and at seven I preached to some hundreds in the court-yard. My three brethren, Richards, Wells, and Hodges, stood in the midst of them, knelt on the ground in prayer, and cried after the Son of David. He breathed into our souls strong desires. O that he may confirm, increase, and satisfy them !

The voice of praise and thanksgiving was heard in this dwelling-place. Before, at, and after supper we sang, and blessed God with joyful lips. Those in the parlour and kitchen were continually honouring, by offering him praise. I thought it looked like the house of faithful Abraham. We called our brethren of Kingswood to be present with us in spirit, and continued rejoicing with them till morning.

Sat., July 18th. I took sweet counsel with Mr. Jones alone. The seed is sown in his heart, and shall bring forth

fruit unto perfection. His wife, a simple, innocent creature, joined us. I commended them to the grace of God in earnest prayer, and then, with my Cardiff friends, went on my way rejoicing.

I consented, that some should ask Mr. Coldrach for the use of his pulpit. He civilly answered, that he would readily grant it, but the Bishop had forbade him. "Doth our law judge any man before it hear him, and know what he doeth?"

At two I set out for the Passage. The boat was just ready for us. By nine I found my brother at the room, the Lord having blessed both my going out and my coming in.

Thur., July 23d. I was sent for by a predestinarian that *was* till death approached. Her miserable comforters she would none of now, but said, "Blessed be him that cometh in the name of the Lord and Saviour of all men."

I visited one of our own flock, a joyful prisoner of hope. The Lord, when he came, found her watching for that great salvation.

I reproved an invincible Pharisee at Mr. Farley's, whose whole discourse is of herself. She told us, as she does all the world, how often she goes to prayers and sacrament, how many sermons she hears, what good she does, &c. She breathes out threatenings and woes against our Society, for not acknowledging her gifts. "God loves no one upon earth as well as her." Never have I seen a professor more full of pride, and self, and the devil: yet she pretends to the full assurance of faith.

Sat., July 25th. We met at ten to pray for a blessing on my brother's sermon, which he is preaching at this hour before the University.

Sun., July 26th. Our hope was much confirmed by those words which I enforced at Kingswood, "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord;" or, as it is afterwards expressed, "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward."

I discoursed in the afternoon on the same subject, from Isai. lxiv. 5: "Thou meetest—those that remember thee in thy ways," &c. Hence I magnified the law of Christian ordinances, exhorting those who wait for salvation, to be as

clay in the hand of the potter, *by* stirring themselves up to lay hold on the Lord. God gave me much freedom to explain that most active, vigorous, restless thing, true stillness.

I preached a fourth time at the Mills, and a fifth time in the room, on the one thing needful.

Mon., July 27th. The neighbourhood of the fair fills our room with strangers. Again God put his words in my mouth, and set me to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down : to build also, and to plant, if it be his blessed will concerning me.

Tues., July 28th. God be praised, there is some ground for that complaint of a predestinarian, that the plague of perfection reigns at Bristol, and many of the Welsh catch it. O that all mankind were infected with this plague ! if it is a plague to be healed of every plague.

One serious youth I spake with to-day, who did run well : but from the time that he was persuaded to believe there was no falling after justification, he did begin to fall, as he now confesses, into carelessness, self-indulgence, and at last into known sin.

Fri., July 31st. Still by patience, and comfort of God's holy word, many daily lay hold on eternal life. He gave us this night strong consolation. O that in the strength thereof we might travel to his holy mountain !

Sun., August 2d. In my way to Kingswood, I met Mr. Wynn, of Painswick, who informed me, that when I was last there, a word I directed to another on a sick bed was applied to him ; and he, in that moment, received remission of sins. He had heard of nothing farther, and yet wanted something more, he knew not what, till God sent him hither. Now he rejoices in hope of redemption from all iniquity.

I got unawares with my chaise among the coal-pits. We were going to alight, when the horse started, and overturned us. I leaped over both horse and chaise ; but our sister Gaseath was thrown out upon her head, and the chaise turned topsy-turvy over her. She lay between the wheels, untouched by either ; the horse lay quiet upon his back. We all rose unhurt. Thou, Lord, shalt save both man and beast : how excellent is thy mercy !

I preached a funeral sermon over our sister Rachel Peacock, who died in the Lord most triumphantly. She had had continual joy in the Lord, which made her cry out, "Though I groan, I feel no pain at all: Christ so rejoices and fills my heart." Her mouth also was filled with laughter, and her tongue with joy. She sang hymns incessantly. "Christ," said she, "is in my heart, and one minute with the Lord is worth a million of ages. O how brave it is to banquet with the Lamb!"

She was always praising God for giving her such patience. All her desires were unto the Lord, and she continued calling upon him, in all the confidence of love, till he received her into his more immediate presence.

At the sight of her coffin, my soul was moved within me, and struggled as a bird to break its cage. Some relief I found in tears, but still was so overpowered, that, unless God had abated the vehemence of my desires, I could have had no utterance. The whole congregation partook with me in the blessedness of mourning.

Mon., August 3d. I visited our sister Reed, on a bed of sickness. All her doubts and fears are vanished at the approach of death, and she rejoices in confident hope that the Lord will sanctify her wholly, before he takes her hence.

Wed., August 5th. I saw our brother Stanley, in the same, if not an higher, state, dying with eternal life abiding in him.

Thur., August 6th. To-night God shook many souls by the word of his power. My subject was the pool of Bethesda.

Coming to pray by a poor Welshwoman, she began with me, "Blessed be God that ever I heard you! Jesus, *my* Jesus, has visited me on a bed of sickness. He is in my heart. He is my strength. None shall pluck me out of his hand. I cannot leave him, and he will not leave me." It was the spirit of her Father that spoke in her: "O, do not let me ask for death, if thou wouldst have me live. I know thou canst keep me from ever sinning more. If thou wouldst have me live, let me walk humbly with thee all my days."

I sat and heard her sing the new song, till even my hard heart was melted. She glorified the Saviour of the world, who would have all men to be saved. "I know it, I feel

it," said she : " He would not have one sinner lost. Believe, and he will give you all what he hath given me."

Sun., August 9th. I gave her the sacrament, which she had never received before ; but was taught to desire it by the Spirit that was in her, even as soon as she had received him. I asked what difference she found *after* communicating. She answered, that she saw God and was full of him before ; but in the act of receiving, she had the brightness of his presence, and was filled, as it were, with all the fulness of God.

Fri., August 14th. I went after a stray sheep, who was turned out of the way by the predestinarians ; but the good Shepherd had found her himself, and brought her home rejoicing. For some days she had been under the full influence of that narrow opinion, and could not bear any of her brethren and sisters. Then she cried unto the Lord to show her the truth, and he answered her by his own mouth. The true light broke in upon her, and in his light she saw that God is love. She is now humbled in the dust before him, for having "robbed him of his most darling attribute."

Our Kingswood school was crowded with those that came from all parts to the watchnight. I enforced our Lord's words, "Have faith in God ;" and indeed we had. The spirit of faith was poured out. Many were there who could not keep it in, but out of the abundance of their heart their mouth spake. I triumphed till the morning with the voice of joy and thanksgiving, among such as keep holiday.

Mon., August 17th. I visited one who was forsaking the fellowship, when God arrested her in her flight by sickness, convinced, condemned, and justified her again. It is good for her to have been in trouble, since thereby He has plucked her as a brand out of the fire.

Sat., August 22d. While I was declaring, at Sawford, "He shall save his people from their sins," the enemy stirred up his servants to great fierceness of opposition. But we defied them in the name of the Lord, who first restrained, and then stilled, the madness of the people.

Mon., August 24th. I took horse with F. Farley for Wales. In the passage, I read on, while some gentlemen

mocked. At last the chief of them asked, "What are you reading? Let us have a little with you." I read on the words that followed: "And, behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." This struck a damp upon them, and silenced them in a moment; so that we reached the land without farther molestation.

The assizes brought many strangers to the Society in Cardiff, before whom I declared, "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Some, I doubt not, were enabled to receive the strange things I brought to their ears.

Tues., August 25th. I found at five this morning, by the return of the strangers, that the word had not fallen to the ground.

I found our dear friend and brother at Wenvo, nothing terrified by his adversaries. Their threats, instead of shaking, have more deeply rooted him in the truth.

They have had the same effect upon Mr. Jones. The poor prodigals who are not yet come to themselves, say of him, that he is beside himself: but he is content that they fools should count his life madness; only, when any of them come in his way, he speaks such words of truth and soberness as they cannot resist.

For three hours we sang, rejoiced, and gave thanks; then rode to Porthkerry, where I read prayers, and discoursed near two hours on the pool of Bethesda. The whole congregation were in tears.

I returned to the castle, and met some hundreds of the poor neighbours in our chapel, the dining-room. I exhorted them to build up one another, from Mal. iii. 16-18: "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another," &c. At ten we departed. We kept on rejoicing till one in the morning.

Wed., August 26th. I prayed by a dying woman, who waits for redemption from *all* iniquity *here*; otherwise, she knows she cannot see God. About noon I applied, at John Deer's Society, "But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified," &c. Never have I spoke more closely to those who rest in the first gift. Some, who seemed to be pillars, begin to find themselves shaken reeds.

I preached again in Wenvo church, and at night in Cardiff.

Thur., August 27th. Great power was among us, while I spake on the walls of Jericho falling down; but much greater at the prison, where I recommended to two condemned malefactors the example of the penitent thief. Both were melted into tears. The congregation sympathized, and joined in fervent prayer, that our Lord would remember them, now he is come into his kingdom.

I went to a revel at Lanvane, and dissuaded them from their *innocent* diversions, in St. Peter's words: "For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries." An old dancer of threescore fell down under the stroke of the hammer. She could never be convinced before that there was any harm in those innocent pleasures. O that all her fellows might likewise confess, "She that liveth in pleasures is dead while she liveth."

I prayed by a poor persecutor, who had found mercy at the last hour; then expounded Ezekiel's vision of dry bones. A poor drunkard spoke the whole time, but without interrupting me or the congregation; for the hand of the Lord was over us.

Fri., August 28th. I preached again in Porthkerry church. Many cried after Jesus, with the woman of Canaan. It was a time of great refreshing. I returned in the coach with Mr. and Mrs. Jones, and a little girl of eight years old, who has not outlived the simple life, or that breath of God, which is the first enmity to the seed of the subtle serpent.

At six I expounded Isai. liii. in the court-yard, and was greatly assisted to purge out the leaven of Calvin. I spent the evening in conference with those who desired to be of the Society, which was now begun in the name of Jesus Christ the Saviour of all men. I sang and prayed with them till ten; with the family till midnight.

Sat., August 29th. I preached our Lord's seven last cries on the cross, and spoke to the men under sentence of death. God showed my thoughts were not as his thoughts; for the most hardened, whom I had least hopes of, appeared truly

justified. He told Mr. Wells and me he was quite easy, had no fear of death, no ill-will to his prosecutors. "But had you never any fear of it?" I asked. "Yes," he replied, "till I heard you preach: then it went away, and I have felt no trouble ever since."

Who knoweth the power of divine love? O gather this outcast of men, and show forth in him that thine arm is not shortened at all!

I took horse with Mr. Wynn and Farley; reached the Passage by seven, the English shore by nine, and Bristol before midnight.

Mon., August 31st. I met with a sincere woman, who did verily believe my brother to be a Papist, because, when she asked him, he did not deny it. I asked her, "Are you a Turk?—Yes; for you do not answer, 'No.'" I showed her from hence the folly of her conclusion. Would a Jesuit scruple to lie? However, I assured her now my brother was a true Protestant; and if it would be any farther satisfaction to her, should tell her so himself.

I met the Kingswood bands, and rejoiced in their steadfastness; none having turned either to the right hand or the left, either to stillness or predestination.

Wed., September 2d. I was sent for to Miss Gr., who has had no rest in her flesh since she left us Papists to follow Calvin. She often longed to return, and would sometimes come by stealth to hear the word. The first time her mother heard of it, she turned her out of doors, and has ever since treated her with true predestinarian meekness. All her relations joined in the same spirit; so that at last, by their oppression, they have fairly drove her distracted.

Now they sent for me in all haste. Never did I see a more pitiable spectacle. She was altogether untractable to them, but did just whatever I desired her. I led her to her chamber, and returned to Mr. Hooper's; but at midnight we were waked by her shrieks, and I was sent for again. She lay in a manner inexpressible. Such outcries and distortions I have never heard or seen. Every breath they thought would be her last. She prayed to the Virgin Mary, Queen of heaven, in words which I am sure the devil taught her; for she had never seen a mass-book.

How justly does God suffer this stumbling-block for those who have been continually suggesting to her the lies which they now believe !

I rebuked the lying spirit, and prayed the one Mediator, in his time, to bring her out of the furnace. This her relations afterwards represented as "unbewitching her."

Thur., September 3d. I preached a second time at the prison on the lost sheep, for the sake of a poor woman under condemnation ; and the next day, September 4th, on Christ crucified. His dying words came with power to many hearts, being applied by his own Spirit.

Sat., September 5th. I heard that Justice Cr——, and forty more, both the great vulgar and the small, had seized upon Mr. Cennick's house, and threatened to take ours on Tuesday next. They forget whose bridle is in their jaws.

Sun., September 6th. I preached morning and afternoon at Kingswood on our Lord's last cries ; which sunk into the souls of many. At Baptist-mills I administered that antidote of spiritual pride, 1 Cor. x.

I was astonished by a letter from my brother, relating his conference with the Apostle of the Moravians.*

If thou art he ; but O, how fallen !—Who would believe it of C. Z., that he should utterly deny all Christian holiness ? I never could, but for a saying of his, which I heard with my own ears. Speaking of St. James's Epistle, he said, "If it was thrown out of the canon, *ego non restituerem !*"

Mon., September 7th. I would have preached at Newgate to the poor penitent thief, but Satan hindered. Thou fool ! it is now too late ; the prey is plucked out of thy teeth. Jesus hath found his lost sheep, and brought her home rejoicing. She was a sinner ; but she *is* justified.

I went after another, a backslider, who had returned to folly, and all outward wickedness. Now in her adversity she considered. God, who lifteth up them that are fallen, returned to her in sickness ; and she hears the rod, and him that appointeth it.

Tues., September 8th. Being commended by the church

* The "conference" which is here referred to is given at large by the Rev. John Wesley, in his printed Journal, under the date of September 3d, 1741.—EDIT.

to the grace of God, I took horse at four with W. Hooper, for the Passage. I preached Christ crucified at Caldicut, to an house full of simple souls, though wet through with the hard rain. But I live by the Gospel. What would *kill* another, shall not *hurt* a Minister. By six God brought us safe to Cardiff, where we rejoiced with the little flock, in the sure word of life and grace through Christ Jesus.

Wed., September 9th. I preached to the two condemned malefactors, and found them in the passage from death to life eternal.

I rode by Wenvo to Fonmon, and rejoiced with that household of faith. I went to fetch our little Society from Aberthaw, and returned, singing, to the castle. I explained the Apostle's answer to the jailer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." God gave me words to awaken some, who were lulled fast asleep by the opiate of final perseverance.

Thur., September 10th. I read prayers at Porthkerry, and applied our Lord's words, Matt. xi. 5: "The blind receive their sight," &c.

I preached again, from Acts iii., to the self-righteous predestinarians chiefly. Some of them afterwards complained to me, that I should say, if they fell from grace after justification, they had better never have been justified at all. *Hinc illæ lachrymæ*. I cannot allow them Christ's righteousness for a cloak to their sins.

Fri., September 11th. I besought my guilty brethren at Cardiff, especially those who are to be executed to-morrow, to be reconciled unto God. I set out directly for Llantrissant, eight Welsh miles from Cardiff, and pointed them to the Son of man lifted up, "that whosoever believeth on him might not perish, but have everlasting life." I hasted back, shifted my wet clothes, and attended Mr. Wells and Thomas to the prison. I asked one of the malefactors, "Are you afraid to die?" "No," he answered; "I should rejoice to die this moment." Both behaved as believing penitents. We had strong consolation in prayer; the amen and answer of God in our hearts.

Sat., September 12th. I had only time at the Society to offer up a prayer for the prisoners. At five I went to them; the Sheriff being resolved to hurry them away at six, some

hours before the usual time. He would hardly let them stay to receive the sacrament. Then he ordered them out, not allowing time to strike off their fetters.

They were very calm and composed, nothing afraid of death, or its consequences. One of them assured me, if it was now left to his choice, he would rather die than live. I asked the reason, and he answered, "Was I to be any longer in this world, I might sin again." He also acknowledged that his punishment was just, not on account of the theft for which he was condemned, (as to which he persisted in his innocency to the last,) but for another offence of the same sort, for which the justice of *man* had never taken hold of him.

Mr. Wells rode by the side of the cart; Mr. Thomas and I with the criminals in it. The Sheriff's hurry often endangered our being overturned, but could not hinder our singing, till we came to the place of execution. I spoke a few minutes to the people from Gal. iii. 13: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law," &c. Still I could not observe the least sign of fear or trouble on either of the dying men. They confessed their steadfast faith in Christ crucified; and are now, I make no doubt, with Him in paradise.

I preached at night to a numerous congregation of gentry and others. God gives me favour in their sight. O that I could make them displeased with themselves!

Sun., September 13th. I preached at Cardiff, then at Wenvo; the third time at Porthkerry, and the last at Fonmon. The remainder of the night we passed admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs.

Mon., September 14th. We sang on till two; then I rode to a revel at Dennis-Powis. It was one of the greatest in the country; but is now dwindled down to nothing. I preached Jesus, the Saviour of his people from their sins. We rejoiced in hope of his great salvation.

Tues., September 15th. I was at another famous revel in Whitechurch, which lasts a week, and is honoured with the presence of the gentry and Clergy, far and near, I put myself in their way, and called, "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." I trust there was a great awakening among the

dead souls. So again at Cardiff, while I showed the state of modern Christians in the church of Laodicea.

Wed., September 16th. I exhorted the Society in private. One accursed thing is discovered, and removed,—their abominably wicked custom of selling on Sundays.

I kept a watchnight at Fonmon, and expounded the ten virgins. We continued singing and rejoicing till two in the morning. O that all the world were partakers with us!

Fri., September 18th. I rose at six, and took leave of our dear sister, who cheerfully parted with Mr. Jones, to visit our beloved colliers.

Sat., September 19th. After exhorting and praying with the Society at Cardiff, I set out with Mr. Jones and Williams for Bristol. Thither the Lord brought us by seven in the evening, after a delightful journey.

Sun., September 20th. Most of the Society were at St. James's sacrament.

I carried Mr. Jones to Kingswood, where the Lord was mightily present in his own ordinance. At Baptist-mills I expounded the bloody issue. Great disturbance was made behind me, till I turned upon the disturbers, and by the law first, and then the Gospel, entirely silenced them.

It was a glorious time at the Society, where God called forth his witnesses. Our guest was filled with consolation, and acknowledged that God was with us of a truth.

I introduced him to the Leaders of the colliers, with whom he had sweet fellowship. I met the bands, and strongly urged them to press toward the mark. I read them a letter full of threatenings to take our house by violence. Immediately the power came down, and we laughed all our enemies to scorn. Faith saw the mountain full of horsemen and chariots of fire. Our brother from Wales was compelled to bear his testimony, and declare before all what God had done for his soul. "At that time, when the power of the Holy Ghost so overshadowed him," he assured them "all bodily sufferings would have been as nothing. Neither would they feel them, if made partakers of the Holy Ghost, in the *same measure*."

He warned us to prepare for the storm, which would surely fall upon us if the work of God went on. His artless words were greatly blessed to us all; and our hearts

were bowed and warmed by the Spirit of love, as the heart of one man.

Tues., September 22d. He would have carried me to some great friends of his in the city ; and particularly to a Counsellor, about the threatened seizure. I feared nothing but helping myself, and trusting to an arm of flesh. Our safety is to sit still. However, at his importunity, I went with him a little way ; but stopped, and turned him back, and at last agreed to accompany him to Justice Cr—, the most forward of our adversaries.

He received us courteously. I said, I came to wait upon him in respect to his office, having heard his name mentioned among some who were offended at the good we did to the poor colliers ; that I should be sorry to give any just cause of complaint, and willing to know from himself if such had been given ; that many idle reports were spread, as if he should countenance the violence of those who had seized Mr. Cennick's house, and now threatened to take away the colliers' school.

I caught up an expression he dropped, that it would make a good workhouse ; and said, "It is a workhouse already." "Ay, but what work is done there?" "We work the works of God, which man cannot hinder." "But you occasion the increase of our poor." "Sir, you are misinformed : the reverse of that is true. None of our Society is chargeable to you : even those who were so before they heard us, or who spent all their wages at the alehouse, now never go there at all, but keep their money to maintain their families ; and have to give to those that want. Notorious swearers have now only the praises of God in their mouths. The good done among them is indisputable : our worst enemies cannot deny it. None who hears us continues either to swear or drink." "If I thought so," he hastily replied, *in eodem luto hæsitans*, "I would come and hear you myself." I desired he would ; said, the grace of God was as sufficient for him as for our colliers ; and who knew but he might be converted among us ?

I gave him to know, Mr. Jones was in the commission ; who then asked him on what pretence they had seized Mr. Cennick's house. He utterly denied his having had any hand in it ; (his own servant, by the way, was one of the

foremost in pulling up the hedge, &c. ;) said, he should not at all concern himself, "for if what you do, you do for gain, you have your reward ; if for the sake of God, he will recompense you. I am of Gamaliel's mind : ' If this counsel or work be of men, it will come to nought.' " " But if it be of God," I proceeded, " ye cannot overthrow it, lest haply ye be found to fight against God.' Follow therefore Gamaliel's advice : take heed to yourselves ; ' refrain from these men, and let them alone.' "

He seemed determined so to do : and thus, through the blessing of God, we parted friends.

In our way home, I admired that hand which directs all our paths. I rejoiced at Bristol to hear that God had laid hold on poor William, Mr. Jones's man, who is under strong convictions of sin, and continually in tears. In the evening we found, under the word, that " there is none like unto the God of Jeshurun." It was a time of sweet refreshment. Just when I had concluded, my brother came in from London, as if sent on purpose to be comforted together with us. He exhorted and prayed with the congregation for another half-hour. Then we went to our friend Vigor's, and for an hour or two longer our souls were satisfied as with marrow and fatness, while our mouth praised God with joyful lips.

PART VII.

FROM JANUARY 2D, 1743, TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1743.*

SUNDAY, January 2d, 1743. I rode to Bexley, and discoursed in the church from Luke i. : " Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he hath visited and redeemed his people." God gave me to speak in mild love ; and some of the most rebellious began to melt into convictions.

I returned to town, and expounded the barren fig-tree at the Foundery. Their hearts were bowed as the heart of one man.

Mon., January 3d. I preached at Brentford, and stirred up the little Society to " look unto Jesus, the Author and

* There is a chasm of Mr. Charles Wesley's Journal from September 22d, 1741, to January 2d, 1743.—EDIT.

Finisher of their faith." A young man came, and fell down, very innocently, on his knees to ask my blessing, because, he said, I was his spiritual father, faith having come by hearing me one of the last times I preached here.

I rode on to Eton, where I exhorted a few sincere souls to bear their Saviour's cross, and suffer patiently for his sake.

Wed., January 5th. In the evening I came with George Badiley to Bristol.

Fri., January 7th. I visited sister Edgcomb, triumphing over death, and waiting every moment for full redemption.

Sat., January 8th. I spoke with one who thinks she has already attained : I think not. The event will show.

I met Sus. Design's band, with the three Quakers, and an extraordinary presence of God among them.

Sun., January 9th. I kept a love-feast at Kingswood. As soon as we met the spirit of prayer fell upon us, and we were filled with comfort.

Tues., January 11th. I set out for London at three in the morning, and reached it, God being my helper, the next day.

Fri., January 14th. I visited the condemned malefactors in Newgate, and was locked in by the turnkey, not with them, but in the yard. However, I stood upon a bench, and they climbed up to the windows of their cells ; so that all could hear my exhortation and prayer.

The Lord was with us at our public intercession ; from which I went to visit the sick. I was much refreshed by our dying brother Milbourne, whose whole cry was, "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly."

At night I was comforted with all the Society by an account of our sister Pike's departure in the Lord.

Sat., January 15th. I went to Newgate, and was refused admittance. One Townsend thrust me away, though I showed him the Sheriff's order. I was let in by another keeper, the only one who has a spark of humanity, and preached through the grates, as before. A Romish Priest was there, having free egress and regress ; but a Clergyman of the Church of England must not hope for the like favour.

Sun., January 16th. I communicated at St. Paul's. In

going up to the table I met one who had behaved very untowardly. He said, with the look of the publican, "I repent." My heart was filled with consolation and prayer for him. O that I might have the same joy in all who have grieved me by their backslidings!

I felt an unusual weight at our love-feast, till the death of our brother Milbourne revived me. A brother related that he had caught hold on him with his convulsed hands, and said, "I have neither doubt nor fear; but my spirit rejoices continually in God my Saviour. He has done more for my soul than tongue can utter." The like words he had said to me; whom he kissed, and could hardly part with. He was sure, he declared, that his Lord would just then receive him. Even when speechless, he showed all the tokens of happiness, and died like a lamb of Jesus's fold.

Mon., January 17th. From three till nine at night I continued reading the letters, rejoicing, and praying, and praising God.

Tues., January 18th. I buried, and spake of, our happy brother. It was with us as heretofore. A funeral is one of our greatest festivals.

Sat., January 22d. I prayed with the malefactors, and felt great pity for them, especially for a poor ignorant Papist.

Wed. and Thur., January 26th and 27th. I reproved them for their late negligence; and on

Sat., January 29th, I saw my words had not been lost. They seemed humbled, and awakened to a sense of their condition. Their lightness had been occasioned by that poor creature, the Ordinary; who is worse than no Minister at all. Six times they were forced to wake him before he got through the prayers. He might just as well read them in Latin. His life and actions are worse than even his words.

Tues., February 1st. Again Townsend refused me admittance; telling me I had forged my order from the Sheriff. Another let me in, with Mr. Piers and Bray. Scarce were we entered the cells, when the power of God fell upon us, first as a spirit of contrition, then of strong faith, and power to exhort and pray.

At night I expounded Daniel ix. ; and the Spirit of God burst in upon us like a flood. Surely the Lord will bring again Sion : the commandment is gone forth, and our Jerusalem shall be built.

Fri., February 4th, I spent in examining the classes. Before we parted, the Spirit of supplication was wonderfully poured out. We asked in faith for some who still lay at the pool ; and they received the immediate knowledge of salvation by the remission of their sins.

Sat., February 5th. One among the classes told my brother she had a constant sense of forgiveness, and he let her pass. I could not help proving her farther ; and then the justified sinner appeared full of the gall of bitterness ; said again and again of a sister present, " I do not love her ; I hate her," &c. I assured her, if an angel from heaven told me she was justified, I would not believe him ; for she was a murderer. As such we prayed for her ; and she was convinced of unbelief. I fear we have many such believers among us.

Sun., February 6th. I met a second time the Clerk of St. Luke's. In our first conference he was thoroughly convinced ; and has now experienced the truth. For three days together, he tells me, he has been ready to faint away through love to all mankind.

Fri., February 11th. Three received forgiveness this day, while we were praying among the classes.

Sat., February 12th. I showed my old order at Newgate, which was refused ; then a new one, sent me by the other Sheriff. Coming out, the keeper desired to see it again, and took it away from me. I wrote to the Sheriff, who sent me another.

Sun., February 13th. When I came to Newgate, the first question was, as I expected, " Where is your order ?" I produced my new one, which so surprised them, that they durst not refuse me admittance.

I found the poor souls turned out of the way by Mr. Broughton. He told them, " There was no knowing our sins forgiven ; and, if any could expect it, not such wretches as they, but the good people, who had done so and so. As for *his* part, he had it not himself ; therefore it was plain they could not receive it." I spoke strong words to one of

them, which the Lord applied, and prayed in fervent faith. I heard the Ordinary read prayers and preach ; then spake with them all together in the chapel. All, but one, were brought back to the truth.

The god of this world was angry, and sent the head-jailer to ask me how I came hither. "I wonder, Sir," said I, "that you should ask me that question, when you have my order in your pocket. You did not do well in taking it away, and then forbidding my entrance. You have trampled upon the Sheriff's authority." He answered, "If the Sheriff suffers you to come here, he shall keep the jail himself." I talked to him till he was much softened ; but, let the world smile or frown, my work goes on.

Tues., February 22d. Weary, and through various dangers, the Lord brought me this evening to Bath.

Wed., February 23d. I preached morning and night at the Society. In the evening, at the lodgings of a sick friend, to several of the rich. They heard me patiently while I showed, "They that be whole have no need of a physician, but they that be sick."

Thur., February 24th. I met Mrs. Carr, a daughter of affliction, and found, in prayer for her, that the Lifter up of her head is near.

Sun., February 27th. I gave the sacrament to our colliers. The love of Christ was shed abroad in many of their hearts.

I expounded the pool of Bethesda at Bath. Mr. Carr, and the rest of the gentry, were very attentive.

Tues., May 17th. I set out for the north with Mr. Gurney. In the evening I walked from our brother Wynn's to Painswick. I stood in the street, and invited sinners to the Gospel-feast, in, "Come, for all things are now ready." Some, even of these dead souls, receive the word with joy.

Wed., May 18th. I admitted a dozen new members into the Society, who brought a blessing with them. I walked to Stroud, and delivered my message at the market-place to a quiet audience. I made up a difference between two of the brethren, and carried them with me to Evesham.

Here the storm of persecution is a little blown over.

He that letteth at present is a Quaker. The Mayor likewise keeps off the sons of violence.

Thur., May 19th. I read prayers in Quinton church, and exhorted several wild, staring people to repent and believe the Gospel. I could not refuse their pressing invitation to preach again. God gave me great plainness of speech. Some of the fiercest opposers were brought over. Mrs. Taylor was fully convinced of unbelief.

I hastened back to Evesham, and enforced that comprehensive promise, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do." Our Lord himself applied his own words.

The Society walk as becometh the Gospel. One only person I reproved; not suffering her any longer, notwithstanding her great gifts, to speak in the church, or usurp authority over the men.

Fri., May 20th. I got once more to our dear colliers of Wednesbury. Here the seed has taken root, and many are added to the church. A Society of above three hundred are seeking full redemption in the all-cleansing blood. The enemy rages exceedingly, and preaches against them. A few have returned railing for railing; but the generality have behaved as the followers of Christ Jesus.

I preached in a garden on the first words I met, 1 Cor. ii. 1: "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech," &c. While I spake of His sufferings, He looked upon us, and made us look upon Him, and mourn. Many wept as one that mourneth for his first-born. I exhorted and instructed the very lively Society. Surely among this people I have not run or laboured in vain.

Sat., May 21st. At five I commended the woman of Canaan, as an example of prevalent importunity. A young man, who had been greatly vexed of the devil, was now set at liberty. I spent the morning in conference with several who have received the atonement under my brother, &c. I saw a piece of ground given us by a Dissenter to build a preaching-house upon, and consecrated it by an hymn.

I walked with many of the brethren to Walsal, singing. We were received with the old complaint, "Behold, they that turn the world upside down are come here also." I walked through the town amidst the noisy greetings of our

enemies, and stood on the steps of the market-house. An host of men was laid against us. The floods lifted up their voice, and raged horribly. I opened the book on the first-presented words, Acts xx. 24 : "But none of these things move me ; neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God."

The street was full of fierce Ephesian beasts, (the principal man setting them on,) who roared, and shouted, and threw stones incessantly. Many struck, without hurting, me. I besought them in calm love to be reconciled to God in Christ. While I was departing, a stream of ruffians was suffered to bear me from the steps. I rose, and, having given the blessing, was beat down again. So the third time, when we had returned thanks to the God of our salvation. I then, from the steps, bade them depart in peace, and walked quietly back through the thickest rioters. They reviled us, but had no commission to touch an hair of our heads.

Sun., May 22d. I preached to between one and two thousand peaceable people at Birmingham. I heard a miserable sermon to disprove the promise of the Father, by confining it to the Apostles. After the sacrament, I called on many, "Repent, and be converted : for the promise is unto you," &c. Several gentlemen stood in the crowd, with signs of deep attention.

I preached on the same words at Wednesbury ; and the Spirit proved them with his own demonstration.

Mon., May 23d. I took my leave in those words, Acts xiv. 22 : "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of heaven." With many tears and blessings they sent me away, commended to the grace of God.

I preached forgiveness at Milbourne to several who seemed ready for it.

Tues., May 24th. Again I preached the Gospel to the poor at Coleorton, who heard it with the greatest eagerness.

I rode to Donington, and asked, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"

At two I proclaimed the Saviour of all men at Nottingham-cross; and in the evening, at their request, I expounded to Mr. How's Society.

Wed., May 25th. At the Cross again, I pressed all to receive the faithful saying. There was no breath of opposition: but a storm must follow this calm. Several joined me at my inn in prayer and thanksgiving. One gave me a kind caution, for which I sincerely thanked him: "Mr. Rogers did run well, and preached the truth as you do here; but what a sad end has he made of it! Take care you do not leave the Church, like him."

In the afternoon I came to the flock in Sheffield, who are as sheep in the midst of wolves; the Ministers having so stirred up the people, that they are ready to tear them in pieces. Most of them have passed through the fire of *stillness*, which came to try them, as soon as they tasted the grace of the Lord.

At six I went to the Society-house, next door to our brother Bennet's. Hell from beneath was moved to oppose us. As soon as I was in the desk with David Taylor, the floods began to lift up their voice. An officer (Ensign Garden) contradicted and blasphemed. I took no notice of him, and sung on. The stones flew thick, hitting the desk and people. To save them and the house, I gave notice I should preach out, and look the enemy in the face.

The whole army of the aliens followed me. The Captain laid hold on me, and began reviling. I gave him for answer, "A Word in season; or, Advice to a Soldier;" then prayed, particularly for His Majesty King George, and preached the Gospel with much contention. The stones often struck me in the face. After sermon I prayed for sinners, as servants of their master, the devil; upon which the Captain ran at me with great fury, threatening revenge for my abusing, as he called it, "the King his master." He forced his way through the brethren, drew his sword, and presented it to my breast. My breast was immediately steeled. I threw it open, and, fixing mine eye on his, smiled in his face, and calmly said, "I fear God, and honour the King." His countenance fell in a moment, he fetched a deep sigh, put up his sword, and quietly left the place.

To one of the company, who afterwards informed me, he had said, "You shall see, if I do but hold my sword to his breast, he will faint away." So perhaps I should, had I had only his principles to trust to ; but if at that time I was not afraid, no thanks to my natural courage.

We returned to our brother Bennet's, and gave ourselves unto prayer. The rioters followed, and exceeded in their outrage all I have seen before. Those of Moorfields, Cardiff, and Walsal, were lambs to these. As there is no King in Israel, (no Magistrate, I mean, in Sheffield,) every man does as seems good in his own eyes. Satan now put it into their hearts to pull down the Society-house, and they set to their work, while we were praying and praising God. It was a glorious time with us. Every word of exhortation sunk deep, every prayer was sealed, and many found the Spirit of glory resting on them.

One sent for the Constable, who came up, and desired me to leave the town, "since I was the occasion of all this disturbance." I thanked him for his advice, withal assuring him "I should not go a moment the sooner for this uproar ; was sorry for *their* sakes that they had no law or justice among them : as for myself, I had my protection, and knew my business, as I supposed he did his." In proof whereof, he went from us, and encouraged the mob.

They pressed hard to break open the door. I would have gone out to them, but the brethren would not suffer me. They laboured all night for their master, and by morning had pulled down one end of the house. I could compare them to nothing but the men of Sodom, or those coming out of the tombs exceeding fierce. Their outcries often waked me in the night ; yet I believe I got more sleep than any of my neighbours.

Thur., May 26th. At five I expounded the pool of Bethesda ; and stayed, conversing with the Society, till eight. I breakfasted with several of the brethren from Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire. I met a daughter of affliction, who had long mourned in Sion. God gave me immediate faith for her, which I made proof of in prayer ; and in that instant she received *the comfort*. It being agreed that I should preach in the heart of the town, I went forth, nothing doubting. We heard our enemies

shouting from afar. I stood up in the midst of them, and read the first words that offered : " If God be for us, who can be against us ? He that spared not his own Son," &c. God made bare his arm in the sight of the Heathen, and so restrained the fierceness of men, that not one lifted up hand or voice against us.

I took David Taylor, and walked through the open street to our brother Bennet's, with the multitude at my heels. We passed by the spot where the house stood : they had not left one stone upon another. Nevertheless, the foundation standeth sure, as I told one of them, and our house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. The mob attended me to my lodgings with great civility ; but as soon as I was entered the house, they renewed their threatenings to pull it down. The windows were smashed in an instant ; and my poor host so frightened, that he was ready to give up his shield.

He had been for a warrant to Mr. Buck, a Justice of Peace, in Rotherham ; who refused it him, unless he would promise to forsake this way.

The house was now on the point of being taken by storm. I was writing within, when the cry of my poor friend and his family, I thought, called me out to those sons of Belial. In the midst of the rabble I found a friend of Edward's, with the Riot Act. At their desire, I took and read it, and made a suitable exhortation. One of the sturdiest rebels our Constable seized, and carried away captive into the house. I marvelled at the patience of his companions ; but the Lord overawed them. What was done with the prisoner, I know not ; for in five minutes I was fast asleep, in the room they had dismantled. I feared no cold, but dropped asleep with that word, " Scatter thou the people that delight in war." I afterwards heard that, within the hour, they had all quitted the place.

Fri., May 27th. At five I took leave of the Society in those comfortable words, " Confirming the souls," &c. I had the extraordinary blessing I expected. Our hearts were knit together, and greatly comforted. We rejoiced in hope of the glorious appearing of the great God, who had now delivered us out of the mouth of the lions.

David Taylor informed me, that the people of Thorpe,

through which we should pass, were exceeding mad against us. So we found them, as we approached the place, and were turning down the lane to Barley-hall. The ambush rose, and assaulted us with stones, eggs, and dirt. My horse flew from side to side, till he forced his way through them. David Taylor they wounded in his forehead, which bled much : his hat he lost in the fray. I returned, and asked what was the reason a Clergyman could not pass without such treatment. At first the rioters scattered ; but their Captain, rallying, answered with horrible imprecations, and stones that would have killed both man and beast, had they not been turned aside by an hand unseen. My horse took fright, and hurried away with me down a steep hill, till we came to a lane, which I turned up, and took a circuit to find our brother Johnson's. The enemy spied me from afar, and followed, shouting. Blessed be God, I got no hurt, but only the eggs and dirt. My clothes indeed abhorred me, and my arm pained me a little by a blow I received at Sheffield. David Taylor had got just before me to Barley-hall, with the sisters, whom God had hid in the hollow of his hand.

I met many sincere souls assembled to hear the word of God. Never have I known a greater power of love. All were drowned in tears ; yet very happy. The scripture I met was, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel ; for he hath visited and redeemed his people." We rejoiced in the God of our salvation, who hath compassed us about with songs of deliverance.

By four we came to a land of rest ; for the brethren of Birstal have stopped the mouths of gainsayers, and fairly overcome evil with good. At present, peace is in all their borders. The little foxes that spoil the vineyard, or rather, the wild boars out of the wood that root it up, have no more place among them ; only the Germans still prowl about the fences, to pick up stragglers.

My mouth was opened to declare God, who spared not his own Son, &c. A great multitude were bowed down by the victorious power of his love. It was a time much to be remembered, for the gracious rain wherewith our God refreshed us.

Sat., May 28th. I preached in the morning and at noon,

with great enlargement, to this childlike people ; then at Armley, in my way to Leeds.

Sun., May 29th. Not a year ago, I walked to and fro in these streets, and could not find a man : but a spark is at last lit on this place also ; and a great fire it will kindle.

I met the infant Society, about fifty in number, most of them justified, and exhorted them to walk circumspectly, since so much depended on the first witnesses.

At seven I stood before William Shent's door, and cried to thousands, " Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." The word took place. They gave diligent heed to it, and seemed a people ready prepared for the Lord.

I went to the great church, and was showed to the Ministers' pew. Their whole behaviour said, " Friend, go up higher." Five Clergymen were there, who a little confounded me, by making me take place of my elders and betters. They made me help administer the sacrament ; would not let me steal into a corner, but placed me at the table, opposite to him that consecrated. I assisted with eight more Ministers, for whom my soul was much drawn out in prayer. But I dreaded their favour more than the stones in Sheffield.

At two I found a vast multitude waiting for the word. I strongly exhorted them to repent and believe, that their sins might be blotted out.

At Birstal I called the poor and maimed and halt and blind to the great supper. My Lord disposed many hearts, I doubt not, to accept the invitation. He shows me several witnesses of the truth which they have even now received in the love of it. I had a blessed parting with the Society.

Mon., May 30th. Near Ripley my horse threw, and fell upon, me. My companion thought I had broke my neck ; but my leg only was bruised, my hand sprained, and my head stunned ; which spoiled my making hymns, or thinking at all, till the next day ; when the Lord brought us safe to Newcastle.

At seven I went to the room, which will contain above two thousand. It was filled from end to end. My subject was, " He that spared not his own Son," &c. God gave testimony to the word of his grace. We rejoiced for the consolation of our mutual faith.

Wed., June 1st. I preached at Pelton to a people who seem as ignorant almost as the beasts that perish. But if the Lord hath given them a desire to know him, he can of these stones raise up children unto Abraham.

Fri., June 3d. Our room was crowded at the watchnight. Several gentry from the races stood with great attention, while I set forth Christ crucified. It was a season both of grief and love.

Sat., June 4th. I went on at five expounding the Acts. Some stumbling-blocks, with the help of God, I have removed, particularly the fits. Many, no doubt, were, at our first preaching, struck down, both soul and body, into the depth of distress. Their *outward affections* were easy to be imitated. Many counterfeits I have already detected. To-day, one who came from the alehouse, drunk, was pleased to fall into a fit for my entertainment, and beat himself heartily. I thought it a pity to hinder him ; so, instead of singing over him, as had been often done, we left him to recover at his leisure. Another, a girl, as she began her cry, I ordered to be carried out. Her convulsion was so violent, as to take away the use of her limbs, till they laid and left her without the door. Then immediately she found her legs, and walked off. Some very unstill sisters, who always took care to stand near me, and tried which should cry loudest, since I had them removed out of my sight, have been as quiet as lambs. The first night I preached here, half my words were lost through their outcries. Last night, before I began, I gave public notice, that whosoever cried so as to drown my voice, should, without any man's hurting or judging them, be gently carried to the farthest corner of the room. But my porters had no employment the whole night ; yet the Lord was with us, mightily convincing of sin and of righteousness.

Sun., June 5th. My soul was revived by the poor people at Chowden ; and yet more at Tanfield, where I called to great numbers, "Behold the Lamb of God," &c. To the Society I spake words not my own. At Newcastle, one, just come from the sacrament, received the seal of forgiveness among us.

I preached in the crowded square, chiefly to the back-

sliders, whom I besought, with tears, to be reconciled to God. Surely Jesus looked upon some of them as he looked upon Peter.

I wrestled in prayer for them at the Society, and found it is for their sake principally that God hath brought me hither.

Mon., June 6th. I had the great comfort of recovering some of those that had drawn back. They came, confessing their sin. I trust we shall receive them again for ever.

Wed., June 8th. I spake to the bands severally, and tried if their faith could bear shaking. We have certainly been too rash and easy in allowing persons for believers on their own testimony ; nay, and even persuading them into a false opinion of themselves. Some souls it is doubtless necessary to encourage ; but it should be done with the utmost caution. To tell one in darkness he has faith, is to keep him in darkness still, or to make him trust in a false light, a faith that stands in the words of men, not in the power of God.

Sat., June 11th. I passed an hour with the keelmen at the hospital. Eight of our brethren there have been gathered into the garner since our parting. The love of the rest is not waxen cold.

Sun., June 12th. I preached at five in the room ; at seven to the poor people in Chowden ; at nine in Tanfield. After church, in the Hospital-square, to the usual congregation, whom I warmly pressed to the great supper.

Mon., June 13th. I wrote thus to a son in the Gospel :—
“Be not over-sure that so many are justified. By their fruits you shall know them. You will see reason to be more and more deliberate in the judgment you pass on souls. Wait for their conversation. I do not know whether we can infallibly pronounce *at the time* that any one is justified. I once thought several in that state, who, I am now convinced, were only under the drawings of the Father. Try the spirits, therefore, lest you should lay the stumbling-block of pride in their way, and, by allowing them to have faith too soon, keep them out of it for ever.”

Tues., June 14th. I preached at South-biddicks to a multitude of earnest souls, who lamented my leaving them as soon as I found them.

Wed., June 15th. I dined at Stote's-hall with Mr. Williams, and rode in the bitter weather to Plessy. Here my labour has not been in vain. They even devoured the word, while I showed them what they must do to be saved.

I observed at Newcastle that many more of the gentry come now the stumbling-block of the fits is taken out of their way ; and I am more and more convinced it was a device of Satan to stop the course of the Gospel. Since I have preached it, if I can discern anything, it never had greater success than at this time. Yet we have no fits among us, and I have done nothing to prevent them, only declared that I do not think the better of any one for crying out or interrupting my work.

Thur., June 16th. I set out for Sunderland, with strong aversion to preaching. But I am more and more convinced that *the freedom of heart* which the Moravians and Quakers so much talk of, is a rule of the devil's inventing, to supersede the written word. I dragged myself to about a thousand wild people, and cried, "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself ; but in me is thy help." Never have I seen greater attention in any at their first hearing.

We rode on to Shields. I went to church, and the people flocked in crowds after me. The Minister could not be heard in reading prayers ; but I heard him loud enough afterwards, calling for the Churchwardens to quiet the disturbance, which none but himself raised. I fancy he thought I should preach there, like some of the first Quakers. The Clerk came to me, bawling out, it was consecrated ground, and I had no business to preach on it ; was no Minister, &c. When he had cried himself out of breath, I whispered him in the ear, that I had no intention to preach there ; and he stumbled upon a good saying, "Sir, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, speak it to them without."

I did so, at my leisure, an huge multitude waiting in the church-yard ; many of them very fierce, and threatening—to drown me, and what not. I walked quietly through the midst of them, and discoursed in strong awakening words on the jailer's question, "What must I do to be saved?" The Churchwardens and others laboured in vain to interrupt, by throwing dirt, nay, and money, among the people.

Having delivered my message, I rode to the ferry : crossed, and met as rough friends on the other side. The mob of North-Shields waited to salute me, with the Minister at their head. He had got a man with an horn, instead of a trumpet, and bade him blow, and his companions shout. Others were almost as violent in their approbation. We went through honour and dishonour ; (but neither of them hurt us ;) and by six, with God's blessing, came safe to Newcastle.

Sat., June 18th. A woman told me she had received a great measure of the love of God in her heart, and thought it forgiveness. I thought so too, especially as it was in immediate answer to our prayer. Upon my warning her against pride, she very innocently told me, "She was never proud in all her life." Now what madness to tell this soul, so utterly ignorant of herself, that she is justified ! She may be so, for what I know ; but for me positively to determine it, would be the way, I think, to stop the work in its beginning. Several have come with the same report since I have been here. I neither receive nor reject their saying, but require their fruits, and bid them go on.

Sun., June 19th. I asked the multitudes in the square, "Will ye also go away," &c. The word prospered in the thing whereunto it was sent, namely, the bringing back the wanderers. We concluded the day with our first love-feast. Jesus was with his disciples.

I took my leave in those words, "What ye have already, hold fast till I come." It was a hard parting with the Society. Their hearts were all as melting wax ; and will, I trust, retain the impression then made by every word spoken. Some cried aloud ; others knelt down for my blessing ; most laid hold on me as I passed ; all wept and made lamentation.

I preached at Swalwell. Never were people better disposed, or more eager of instruction. And their love was such, that they would, if possible, pluck out their eyes and give them me.

Tues., June 21st. I set out between three and four ; met by several parties of the Society, who had walked before some miles to watch my passing. I travelled but slowly through them, blessing and being blest.

I rode to Sand-Hutton. The poor people filled the house where I was. I showed them the way of salvation in the creditor and two debtors. They returned me many thanks.

Wed., June 22d. I set out at three ; was met and turned back, when I had gone a mile out of my way. I thought, How could this loss be repaired ? and immediately it was suggested that I should pray, till I got into the right road. The Spirit helped my infirmity ; and I continued instant in prayer for some hours ; believing that I shall, after all, escape safe to land. I prayed on, till at ten a sailor overtook me. I set upon him ; and he rejoiced in my welcome saying. God found me more work at Selby. I dined in a mixed company, where one asked me if there was any good in confirmation. I answered, "No, nor in baptism, nor in the Lord's supper, or any outward thing, unless you are in Christ a new creature." I confounded all my hearers by relating my own experience under the law. I left them some books, and went on my way rejoicing. Still the Spirit was upon me, and I felt stronger faith *for myself* than I ever did before.

By six I came to Epworth, my native place. All who met saluted me with hearty joy. At eight I preached, in Edward Smith's yard, "He that spared not his own Son," &c. Many were present, and much affected. I laid me down in peace, after one of the happiest days I have ever known.

Thur., June 23d. Waking, I found the Lord with me, even my strong helper, the God of whom cometh salvation. I preached on, "Ask, and it shall be given you ; seek," &c. : guarded some new converts against spiritual pride, that only hinderance to the work of God. I warned another against the *poor sinners*. One of them (Parker) had frankly told her, he did not understand what we meant by talking of holiness after forgiveness ; that he has all he can have, and looks for no more.

I visited Mrs. Bernard, a widow, in affliction, whose husband is just dead suddenly ; yet called at the eleventh hour. I went thence to Mr. Maw's, who received me gladly ; being again stirred up, and resolved to seek till he finds.

I passed the afternoon with our brethren from Grimsby in mutual encouragement. At seven I went out into the streets to call those that were bidden, and cried from the cross, "Come, for all things are now ready." The Minister heard me at a distance.

I provoked the Society to love and good works ; warned them, without intending it, against those that seduce them ; and insisted with all earnestness on my constant counsel, that none of them should leave the ship till all came safe to land.

Fri., June 24th. I met them again at three, and parted with the blessing and peace of God.

I rode to Nottingham with the *best company* that earth or heaven could furnish. I found my brother in the marketplace, calling lost sinners to Him that justifieth the ungodly. He gave notice of my preaching in the evening.

From him I had the first account of our brethren's persecution at Wednesbury. Their unhappy Minister was the contriver of all.

The Lord opened my mouth at seven. Many thousands attended in deep silence. Surely the Lord hath much people in this place. We began a Society of nine members.

Sat., June 25th. I came to Birmingham with the night.

Sun., June 26th. Several of our persecuted brethren from Wednesbury came to me, whom I endeavoured to comfort. I preached at eight and one, no man forbidding me. After evening service, I expounded the prodigal son to several thousands, many of whom, I observed, by their tears, were pricked at the heart, and ready to say, "I will arise, and will go to my Father."

In the name of the Lord Jesus I began our Society. The number at present is thirteen.

Mon., June 27th. I left our brother Jones to look after the little flock, and set out for London. By six in the evening I came safe to Oxford. The Society is in a flourishing condition, chiefly by means of a discreet sister from London. I met poor, languid, dead Mr. Robson. I have trusted in this child of man : therefore is he to me as waters that fail.

Tues. night, June 28th. I slept at the Foundery.

Thur., June 30th. I buried our sister Soan. A mother

in Israel she *was*; but she *is* a saint in paradise. We found the blessing which she has left behind.

Sun., July 3d. Mr. Hall, poor Moravianized Mr. Hall, met us at the chapel. I did him honour before the people. I expounded the Gospel as usual; and strongly avowed my inviolable attachment to the Church of England. Mr. Meriton and Graves assisted me at the sacrament.

It was our women's love-feast; but I turned it into mourning, by setting before them the things some of them had done, and spoken in a lying spirit against their Ministers. I challenged them, "Which of you convinceth us of sin?" and showed at large their ingratitude to God and man. Great lamentation was among them. The stumbling-block will, I trust, be soon entirely removed.

Mon., July 4th. On our thanksgiving-day, we received power to wrestle with God for a blessing on all the church, and especially our persecuted brethren.

Wed., July 6th. I showed, from Rom. v., the marks of justification, and overturned the confidence of several. I strongly warned them against seducers; found my heart knit to this people.

Fri., July 8th. John Bray came to persuade me not to preach, till the Bishops should bid me. They have not yet forbid me; but, by the grace of God, I shall preach the word in season, out of season, though they and all men forbade me.

Sat., July 9th. I read my testimony to the Society; (the letter in verse, "My more than friend, accept the warning lay," &c. ;) cautioned them against Mr. Hall, and rejoiced that I had confidence of them in all things.

Sun., July 10th. At our chapel, the galleries were filled with strangers. Many are daily added to the church.

I preached once more at the Foundery, and earnestly exhorted the Society to continue in the faith.

Mon., July 11th. I set out at two, in hard rain, which lasted all day. Yet I reached Hungerford by night, and Bristol the next day. Both my preaching and exhortation was to convince them of unbelief. I left them examining themselves whether they be in the faith.

Wed., July 13th. A brother accompanied me to Exeter, and twenty miles farther.

Fri., July 15th. I set out alone, and, by wandering, made it threescore miles to Bodmin. Both horse and rider were worked down, so that I slept till five next morning, without once waking. It cost me four hours to reach Mitchel. My colic made them seem four days. When I came in, I could not stand. I lay down, and rose with fresh strength, which carried me to Redruth. I left it at four, and wandered toward St. Ives. I passed the river Hale just before the sea came in. Two tinnerns met me first, and wished me good luck in the name of the Lord. My next greeting was from the devil's children; who shouted as I passed, and pursued me like the men out of the tombs. I met T. W., and then Mr. Shepherd, and rejoiced in the Lord our strength and our Redeemer.

Between seven and eight I entered St. Ives. The boys and others continued their rough salutes, for some time, at brother Nance's; but I was too weary to regard them.

Sun., July 17th. I rose, and forgot I had travelled from Newcastle. I spoke with some of this loving, simple people, who are as sheep in the midst of wolves. The Priests stir up the people, and make their minds evil affected toward the brethren.

Yet the sons of violence are much checked by the Mayor, an honest Presbyterian, whom the Lord hath raised up.

I preached in the room at eight, on, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall," &c. I found his presence sensibly among us; so did the opposers themselves.

I heard the Rector preach from Matt. v. 20: "Except your righteousness exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees," &c. His application was downright railing at the new sect, as he calls us, those enemies to the Church, seducers, troublers, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, &c. I had prayed for a quiet heart, and a steady countenance; and my prayer was answered. My calmness was succeeded with strong consolation.

I rode to Wednock, with almost all the brethren. Mr. Hoblin, the Curate, entertained us with a curious discourse on, "Beware of false Prophets." I stood up over against him, within two yards of the pulpit, and heard such a hodge-potch of railing, foolish lies, as Satan himself might have been ashamed of. I had asked that my countenance

might not alter, and was kept in perfect peace. The poor people behaved very decently ; and all followed me to hear the true word of God.

I stayed, and mildly told the Preacher he had been misinformed. No, he answered, it was all truth. "Sir," said I, "if you believe what you preach, you believe a lie." "You are a liar," he replied ; and I put him in mind of the great day, testified my good-will, and left him for the congregation.

God opened a door of utterance to preach the Gospel of Christ Jesus. I know they found the difference between the chaff and the wheat.

I returned to St. Ives, and met the Society. The enemies of the Lord melt away like wax ; more and more being convinced that we speak as the oracles of God.

Mon., July 18th. I went forth toward the market-house. When we came to the place of battle, the enemy was ready set in array against us. I began the hundredth Psalm, and they beating their drum, and shouting. I stood still and silent for some time, finding they would not receive my testimony : then offered to speak to some of the most violent ; but they stopped their ears, and ran upon me, crying, I should not preach there, and catching at me to pull me down. They had no power to touch me. My soul was calm and fearless. I shook off the dust of my feet, and walked leisurely through the thickest of them, who followed like ramping and roaring lions : but their mouth was shut.

I met the Mayor, who saluted us, and threatened the rioters. I rejoiced at my lodgings in our Almighty Jesus.

I preached at three on Cannegy-downs, to near a thousand tanners, who received the seed into honest and good hearts. While I pointed them to the Lamb of God, many wept ; and particularly the captain-general of the tanners, a man famous in his generation for acts of valour and violence, and his usual challenge to fight any six men with his club. He is known through the west by the title of "the destroyer." This leopard will soon, I trust, lie down with the lamb.

I expounded blind Bartimeus at St. Ives. The power of

the Lord overshadowed us ; so that many of the opposers trembled, and some wept.

Tues., July 19th. From, "Surely shall one say, In the Lord have I righteousness and strength," I showed that the two inseparable marks of justification are peace, and power over all sin.

I preached at Pool, in the heart of the tinnors. A drunkard got within two or three yards, designing, I suppose, to push me down the hill. I was forced to break off my prayer, and warn him to take care of himself. He attempted to lay hold on me ; upon which a tinner cried, "Down with him !" In a moment the Philistines were upon him. I strove to rescue him, and besought them not to hurt him ; otherwise I should go away, and not preach at all. They were entreated for him, and, taking him by the legs and arms, quietly handed him down from one to another, till they had put him without the congregation ; and he was heard no more.

I published the faithful, acceptable saying, and their hearts seemed all bowed and opened to receive it. God, I nothing doubt, will call these a people who were not a people. Our prayers for the opposers also begin to be answered ; for the fiercest of them came in this evening to the room, and behaved with great decency.

Wed., July 20th. I spake with more of the Society ; most of whom have the first knowledge of salvation, as their lives show.

A. G. tells me that faith (as he thinks) came by hearing yesterday morning. He has been a sinner, above other sinners, till, within this fortnight, God called, and made him equal with those who have borne the heat and burden of the day.

I went to church, and heard that terrible chapter, Jeremiah vii. ; enough, one would think, to make even this hardened people tremble. Never were words more applicable than those : "Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear ye the word of the Lord, all ye of Judah, that enter into these gates to worship the Lord. Thus saith the Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Trust ye not in lying

words, saying, The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord. the temple of the Lord, are these ! Behold, ye trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will ye steal, murder, commit adultery, and swear falsely, and come and stand before me in this place," &c. The Second Lesson, John viii., was as remarkable, showing the servants' treatment in that of the Master.

I preached at Zunnor, one of Mr. Symond's four parishes, which is come in, to a man, at the joyful news. Some hundreds of the poor people, with sincerity in their faces, received my saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand ; repent ye, and believe the Gospel."

I began at eight expounding the good Samaritan, but could not proceed for pity to the poor mockers. Many of them were present ; but their mocking was over. I urged, and besought, and with tears even compelled, them to come in. The Spirit made intercession for them, that God might grant them repentance unto life.

Fri., July 22d. I rode in the rain to Morva, a settlement of tinnerns ; to whom I could preach nothing but Gospel.

I had just named my text at St. Ives, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God," when an army of rebels broke in upon us, like those at Sheffield or Wednesbury. They began in a most outrageous manner, threatening to murder the people, if they did not go out that moment. They broke the sconces, dashed the windows in pieces, tore away the shutters, benches, poor-box, and all but the stone-walls. I stood silently looking on ; but mine eyes were unto the Lord. They swore bitterly I should not preach there again ; which I disproved, by immediately telling them Christ died for them all. Several times they lifted up their hands and clubs to strike me ; but a stronger arm restrained them. They beat and dragged the women about, particularly one of a great age, and trampled on them without mercy. The longer they stayed, and the more they raged, the more power I found from above. I bade the people stand still and see the salvation of God ; resolving to continue with them, and see the end. In about an hour the word came, "Hitherto shalt thou come, and no farther." The ruffians fell to quarrelling among them-

selves, broke the Town-Clerk's (their captain's) head, and drove one another out of the room.

Having kept the field, we gave thanks for the victory ; and in prayer the Spirit of glory rested upon us. Going home, we met the Mayor, with another 'Justice, and went back to show him the havoc which the gentlemen and their mob had made. He commended our people as the most quiet, inoffensive subjects, encouraged us to sue for justice, said he was no more secure from such lawless violence than we, wished us success, and left us rejoicing in our strong Helper.

Sat., July 23d. I cannot find one of this people who fears those that can kill the body only. It was next to a miracle, that no more mischief was done last night. The gentlemen had resolved to destroy all within doors. They came upon us like roaring lions, headed by the Mayor's son. He struck out the candles with his cane, and began courageously beating the women. I laid my hand upon him, and said, "Sir, you appear like a gentleman : I desire you would show it, by restraining these of the baser sort. Let them strike the men, or me, if they please, but not hurt poor helpless women and children." He was turned into a friend immediately, and laboured the whole time to quiet his associates. Some, not of the Society, were likewise provoked to stand up for us, and put themselves between : others held the ruffians, and made use of an arm of flesh. Some of our bitterest enemies were brought over by the meekness of the sufferers, and malice of the persecutors. They had sworn to drive us all out, and then take possession of our house ; but their commission did not go so far. One was overheard saying to his companions, as they were going off, "I think the desk was insured : we could not touch it, or come near it."

I proved the devil a liar, by preaching in the room at five. The words I first met were Isai. liv. : "For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left. Fear not ; for thou shalt not be ashamed : neither be thou confounded ; for thou shalt not be put to shame. Behold, I have created the smith, and the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper," &c.

I preached at Gwennap to near two thousand hungry

souls, who devoured the word of reconciliation. Half my audience were tinnors from about Redruth, which, I hear, is *taken*. God has given us their hearts. If any man speak against us, say they, he deserves to be stoned. Again I expounded in the room at St. Ives, and advised the Society to possess their souls in patience, not threatening, or even mentioning the late uproar, but suffering all things for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Sun., July 24th. At Wednock many listened to my description of our Lord's sufferings from Isai. liii. After evening service I would have finished my discourse; but the Minister's mob fell upon us, threatening and striking all they came near. They swore horribly they would be revenged on us, *for our making such a disturbance on the Sabbath-day*, our taking the people from the church, and doing so much mischief continually. They assaulted us with sticks and stones, and endeavoured to pull me down. I bade them strike me, and spare the people. Many lifted up their hands and weapons, but were not permitted to touch me. My time is not yet come.

We were now encompassed with an host of men, bent on mischief, with no visible way of escape; but the Lord hath many ways. He touched the heart of one of our persecutors, who came up to me, took me by the hand, and besought me to depart in peace, assuring me he would preserve me from all violence. Another gentleman said the same. I thanked and told them I had an unseen Protector; but as I saw there was no door, I should not attempt preaching at this season.

I stayed some time to make my observation. Ten cowardly ruffians I saw upon one unarmed man, beating him with their clubs, till they felled him to the ground. Another escaped by the swiftness of his horse. My convoy they set upon for dissuading them, and forced him to fly for his life.

I walked on slowly with all the rabble behind. One of the brethren attended me. The Lord hid us in the hollow of his hand: the pillar came between the Egyptians and us. About six we rested at brother Nance's. The enemy still pursued. I went out and looked them in the face, and they pulled off their hats, and slunk away. The right

hand of the Lord hath the pre-eminence ; and therewith hath he got himself the victory.

The Society came. Our hearts danced for joy, and in our song did we praise him. We all longed for his last glorious appearing, and with an eye of faith saw the Son of man, as coming in the clouds of heaven, to confess us before his Father and the holy angels.

Mon., July 25th. The Mayor told us, that the Ministers were the principal authors of all this evil, by continually representing us in their sermons as Popish emissaries, and urging the enraged multitude to take all manner of ways to stop us. Their whole preaching is cursing and lies : yet they modestly say, my fellow-labourer and I are the cause of all the disturbance. It is always the lamb that troubles the water.

Yesterday we were stoned as Popish incendiaries ; to-day, it is our turn to have favour with the people.

I preached on Cannegy-downs to a multitude of simple-hearted tinnerns : " Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah ? " They received the word with all gladness and gratitude ; wondered at the St. Ives people, that could endeavour to hurt us for telling them such blessed truths. At St. Ives I had warning of an approaching trial, and was led to pray that the fierceness of men might be at this time restrained. I had scarce begun at the room, when news was brought that all the gentlemen were coming to pull it down. We looked for them every moment. About half a dozen came first, and threw eggs in at the windows. Others cast great stones to break what remained of the shutters. Others struck the women, and swore they would have the house down. I prayed, and dismissed our people. J. Nance was gone to the Mayor. I followed to stop him, and met the Mayor at the head of his posse. At first hearing of the tumult, he had started up, charged all he met to assist him, and was coming to the room, when I desired him to save himself the trouble of a walk in the rain. He behaved with great civility and resolution, declaring before all, that none should hurt us. This disappointed and scattered our adversaries ; and I met the Society without molestation.

Glory be to God, that we are once more delivered out of

the mouth of these lions. They were sure of accomplishing their design this night ; but the Lord beheld their threatenings, and stilled the raging of the sea, the noise of its waves, and the madness of the people.

Tues., July 26th. I showed my brethren their calling, from Matt. x. 22 : "Ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake : but he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved."

At the Pool one stopped and demanded my letters of orders. I marvelled at Mr. Churchwarden's ignorance, gave him my Oxford sermon, and rode on. He followed me with another gentleman, and vowed I should not preach in *his parish*. When I began he shouted, and hallooed, and put his hat to my mouth. We went to another place : he followed us like Shimei. I told him, I should surely deliver my message, unless his master was stronger than mine. After much contention I walked away, with near two thousand people, most part tinnors, to the next parish, as my wise Churchwarden supposed. He followed us another mile, and a warm walk he had of it ; but left us on the borders of the neighbouring parish. However, to take my leave of it, I preached in what he called *his*. In spite of Satan, the poor had the Gospel preached to them, and heard it joyfully. Great was their zeal and affection toward me. I marvel not that Satan should fight for his kingdom : it begins to shake in this place.

All was quiet at St. Ives, the Mayor having declared his resolution to swear twenty new Constables, and suppress the rioters by force of arms. Their drum he has sent and seized. All the time I was preaching, he stood at a little distance, to awe the rebels. He has set the whole town against him, by not giving us up to their fury : but he plainly told Mr. Hoblin, the fire-and-faggot Minister, that he would not be perjured, to gratify any man's malice. Us he informed, that he had often heard Mr. Hoblin say, "They ought to drive us away by blows, not arguments."

Wed., July 27th. We could say from our hearts in the morning Psalms, "If the Lord himself had not been on our side, when men rose up against us, they had swallowed us up quick, when they were so wrathfully displeased at us.

But, praised be the Lord, who hath not given us over for a prey into their teeth, our soul is escaped," &c. The words also of the lesson gave us great comfort; but we wondered Mr. Symond could read them: "If the world hate you, ye know it hated me before it hated you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord: if they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you," &c.

Thur., July 28th. I dined at our brother Mitchel's, a confessor of the faith which once he persecuted. I rode on to St. Hilary Downs. Here the careless hearers were kept away by the enemy's threatenings; but near a thousand well-disposed tinnners listened to the joyful tidings: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people," &c. That word of grace, "Thine iniquity is pardoned," quite melted them down into tears, on all sides.

I began explaining the beatitudes at St. Ives. None interrupted. I do not despair but some of our persecutors themselves may yet, before we depart, receive that *damnable Popish doctrine*, as Mr. Hoblin calls it, of justification by faith only.

Fri., July 29th. I rode to Morva, and invited the whole nation of tinnners to Christ. I took the names of several who were desirous of joining in a Society. The adversaries have laboured with all their might to hinder this good work: but we doubt not our seeing a glorious church in this place.

Sat., July 30th. I believed a door would be opened this day, and, in the strength of the Lord, set out for St. Just, a town of tinnners, four miles from Morva, twelve from St. Ives. My text was, "The poor have the Gospel preached unto them." I showed, the sum thereof is, "Thine iniquity is pardoned: God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven thee." The hearts of thousands seemed moved as the trees of the forest, by that wind which bloweth as it listeth. The door stood wide open, and a multitude are just entering in. Here it is that I expect the largest harvest.

We rode four miles farther, to Zunning, and took up our lodging at an hospitable farmer's.

I walked with our brother Shepherd to the Land's-end, and sang, on the extremest point of the rocks,

"Come, Divine Immanuel, come,
Take possession of thy home ;
Now thy mercy's wings expand,
Stretch throughout the happy land.

"Carry on thy victory,
Spread thy rule from sea to sea ;
Re-convert the ransom'd race ;
Save us, save us, Lord, by grace.

"Take the purchase of thy blood,
Bring us to a pardoning God ;
Give us eyes to see our day,
Hearts the glorious truth to' obey,

"Ears to hear the Gospel sound,
'Grace doth more than sin abound ;'
God appeased, and man forgiven,
Peace on earth, and joy in heaven.

"O that every soul might be
Suddenly subdued to thee !
O that all in thee might know
Everlasting life below !

"Now thy mercy's wings expand,
Stretch throughout the happy land,
Take possession of thy home,
Come, Divine Immanuel, come."

I rode back to St. Just, and went from the evening service to a plain by the town, *made* for field-preaching. I stood on a green bank, and cried, "All we like sheep have gone astray ; we have turned every one to his own way," &c. About two thousand, mostly tanners, attended, no one offering to stir, or move an hand or tongue. The fields are white unto harvest : Lord, send forth labourers !

I returned to our host at Zunning. He is just entering the kingdom with the harlots and publicans. I went early to bed, having lost most of my senses through the constant fog, in which we have laboured to breathe this fortnight past.

Mon., August 1st. I saw a strange sight, the sun shining in Cornwall.

I expounded at nine the song of Simeon. Several very aged people were present, whom I left waiting for the consolation of Israel.

I took my leave of Cannegy-downs, in, "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk," &c. ; and returned to St.

Ives in peace. I showed the blessedness of persecution ; then exhorted the Society to pray without ceasing for humility, the grace which draws all others after it.

Tues., August 2d. I carried my tinnerns from the Pool to the next parish. It was a glorious sight, the wide-spread multitude walking up the hill, eager for the word of life, hungry and thirsty after righteousness. I met with that, in St. Matthew, "A certain man had two sons," &c. These publicans know the time of their visitation, and bring forth fruit meet for repentance.

An elderly man pressed us to turn into his house, near Camborne. It was a large old country seat, and looked like the picture of English hospitality. When he could not prevail on us to stay longer, he would ride two or three miles on our way with us, and listened all the while to the word of reconciliation.

Wed., August 3d. I took my leave of the dear people of Zunnor, in our Lord's words, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." With many tears they besought us to come again, and evidently showed that our labour has not been in vain in the Lord.

Fri., August 5th. I preached my farewell sermon to our sorrowful brethren in Morva. Many from St. Just increased the lamentation. I shall think it long till I see them again : but my comfort is, that I leave them following hard after God.

We took our leave of the friendly Mayor, whom we acknowledged, under God, our deliverer from the hands of unrighteous and cruel men. He expressed the same affection for us as from the beginning ; listened to our report, for which our Lord gave us a fair opportunity ; ordered his servant to light us home ; in a word, received and sent away the messengers in peace.

Sat., August 6th. I rode to Gwennap, and with many words exhorted them to save themselves from this untoward generation. They were exceedingly moved, and very urgent with me to know when I should return ; when my brother or any other would come. Surely they are a people ready prepared for the Lord.

I began at St. Ives, before the usual time, "And now, brethren, I commend you to God," &c. I had no thought

of the rioters, though the Mayor had informed us, they were so impudent as to tell him to his face they would have a parting blow at us. As soon as we were met in the Society at brother Nance's, they came to the room, ready to pull it down. The drunken Town-Clerk led his drunken army to our lodgings; but an invisible power held them from breaking in, or hurting our brother Nance, who went out to them, and stood in the midst, till our King scattered the evil with his eyes, and turned them back by the way that they came.

The great power of God was, meantime, among us, overturning all before it, and melting our hearts into contrite, joyful love.

Sun., August 7th. At four I took my leave of the Society, with that apostolical prayer: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly," &c. Great grace was upon them all. Their prayers and tears of love I shall never forget. I nothing doubt, if I follow their faith, that I shall meet them in the new Jerusalem.

At six we left the lions' den, with about twenty horse. Some would have us take a back-way; but I would not go forth with haste, or by flight, and therefore rode slowly through the largest street, in the face of our enemies.

At eight I preached faith in Christ to many listening souls, in Velling-Varine: they received the word with surprising readiness. Their tears, and hearty expressions of love, convince me there is a work begun in their hearts.

I rode on rejoicing to Gwennap. As soon as I went forth, I *saw* the end of my coming to Cornwall, and of Satan's opposition. Such a company assembled, as I have not seen, excepting some few times at Kennington. By their looks I perceived they all heard, while I lifted up my voice like a trumpet, and testified, "God sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world." The convincing Spirit was in the midst, as I have seldom, if ever, known. Most of the gentry from Redruth were just before me, and so hemmed in, that they could not escape. For an hour my voice was heard by all, and reached farther than their outward ears. I am inclined to think that most present were convinced of righteousness or of sin. God hath now set before us an open door, and who shall be able to shut it?

At four we rode on to Mitchel ; my brother having summoned me to London, to confer with the heads of the Moravians and predestinarians. We had near three hundred miles to ride in five days. I was willing to undertake this labour for peace, though the journey was too great for us and our weary beasts, which we have used almost every day for these three months.

Mon., August 8th. I took horse with brother Shepherd at four, and rode as far as Oakhampton.

Tues., August 9th. I breakfasted twelve miles short of Exeter, at an house where the maid and landlady's daughter were convinced, by a few words spoken, that they were lost unbelievers.

At Exeter I met F. Farley. I called to about a thousand sinners, mostly gentlemen and ladies, with some Clergy, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." God gave me favour in their eyes, although I did not prophesy smooth things. I found, as soon as I began to speak, that the fear of the Lord was upon them. Many followed me to my inn, to take their leave, and wished me good luck in the name of the Lord. I left one behind to keep up the awakening, and pursued my journey alone to London.

Wed., August 10th. I missed my way, and thereby met, at Bridport, a poor creature, ready for the Gospel. It was glad news indeed to her. When I said, "God sent me to you," she cried, "And did he, indeed?" and fell a trembling and weeping. We prayed together ; and she seemed not far from the kingdom of God. She innocently asked me what church she should be of. I showed her the excellency of our own ; and got to Blandford by night.

Thur., August 11th. My landlord was greatly moved by my discourse, and owned he had never seen a Christian in his life. I trust he will obey the call at his eleventh hour.

From ten to two I got with my sister Hall in Salisbury. She stands alone. Every soul of his [her husband's] Society has forsaken the ordinances of God ; for which reason she refuses to belong to it.

I gathered up a few more scattered sheep, between this and London ; not one of whom had ever before in their

lives been spoken to by any man concerning their souls. God's people perish for lack of knowledge. How can any one be so devilish as to forbid our speaking to such outcasts, that they may be saved?

Fri., August 12th. By nine at night I hardly reached the Foundery. Here I heard the Moravians would not be present at the conference. Spangenberg, indeed, *said* he would, but immediately left England. My brother was come from Newcastle, John Nelson from Yorkshire, and I from the Land's-end, to good purpose.

Sun., August 14th. At the chapel I expounded the Pharisee and Publican. The two-edged sword slew some, I am persuaded. Mr. Garden helped to administer the sacrament.

Sat., August 20th. I preached for the first time at the new chapel in Snowsfields.

Sun., August 21st. My brother set out for Cornwall. I received supernatural strength to expound, after a restless night of pain.

Tues., August 23d. The Spirit sealed those words on our hearts, while I expounded at Deptford, "The Spirit and the Bride say, Come." I rode to Bexley, and found my friend on a sick-bed, but full of peace and comfort.

Wed., August 24th. While I was exhorting them at the Foundery to constant prayer, several bore witness of the great benefit they had found therein, since our last meeting.

Thur., August 25th. I was sent for to Mr. Piers, who lay a-dying in convulsions. I prayed for him first with a friend, who said, "If he is not dead already, he will not die now." I got to Bexley by three. My brother had recovered his senses about the time we were praying for him. I was much comforted by his calm resignation; and in prayer saw, as it were, heaven opened, having seldom had greater freedom of access.

I hastened back to the Foundery, and preached without any natural strength. One testified his then receiving forgiveness.

Fri., August 26th. I met Mr. Robson, who is now quite removed from the hope of the Gospel; denying both justification and sanctification.

The Lord answered for himself at the chapel, while I

spake on the threefold office of the Spirit. His power overshadowed the Society also, and applied my exhortation to many hearts.

Sat., August 27th. I found the blessedness of mourning with them that mourn, even the penitents, whom we met this evening at the Foundery.

Sun., August 28th. At the chapel I discoursed on the good Samaritan; and we felt his oil and wine poured in. To many more he was made known in the breaking of bread. Honest Howel Harris was partaker of our joy.

At the Foundery I preached Christ, our Prophet, Priest, and King, in his own words, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me," &c. Strong words of consolation were given me now, and at the following love-feast.

Fri., September 2d. I visited our brother Parker near death, as was supposed, but triumphing over it, through Him that giveth us the victory.

News was brought me again, that Mr. Piers was dying. Next morning I found him more than conqueror in a mighty conflict he had had for eight hours with all the powers of darkness. "Now," he told me, "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord."

Sun., September 4th. I baptized a woman at the chapel, before the service. She was in the spirit of heaviness; but God magnified his ordinance, and she was therein enlightened to see her sins forgiven.

Wed., September 7th. I visited one struck down on Sunday night, both soul and body, but now rejoicing in the sense of God's pardoning love.

I delivered my own soul by speaking my mind to a reviler and hater of God in his children.

I rejoiced to hear of happy Miss Cowper's release; and found my soul mounting up after her all this and the following day.

Sat., September 10th. I went to the house of our late-translated sister, and rejoiced over the breathless temple of the Holy Ghost.

Sun., September 11th. I met one of the Tabernacle, thoroughly convinced of the necessity of holiness. Many more shall follow if we tarry the Lord's leisure.

Tues., September 13th. At Mr. Watkins's I told his

pharisaical sister that she was then in a lost estate, and took my leave till she feels the wrath of God abiding on her.

Fri., September 16th. I received great power to invite poor sinners at the chapel, while enforcing, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord."

Sat., September 24th. I reproved one for swearing, among an army of porters and carmen. I spoke to them for some time, till all were overpowered. I carried two away with me to the Foundry. They received my saying and books, and departed with their eyes full of tears, and their hearts of good desires.

Wed., September 28th. At the chapel I preached through this man forgiveness of sins; never with greater demonstration of the Spirit.

Sat., October 1st. I rode out of town to friend Hiam's country house, and had much useful conversation with him.

Wed., October 5th. I described the Laodicean spirit, with great convincing power.

Thur., October 6th. I expounded wrestling Jacob at the Foundry, and promised the Society an extraordinary blessing, if they would seek the Lord early the next morning.

Fri., October 7th. The Foundry was full; and God confirmed the word of his servant, while I explained, "All power is given unto me." Some received *the blessing* of the Gospel, or forgiveness: and no one, I verily believe, was sent empty away. At intercession a great awe of God fell upon us, and we trembled before the presence of the Lord, before the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

Sun., October 9th. Still He meets us in the place which he has chosen to record his name. J. Bray was one of my joyful congregation. It was a passover indeed.

Fri., October 14th. A mighty awakening power was with the word, "The blind receive their sight," &c.

Sat., October 15th. At Short's-gardens I preached, "It is of thy mercy only that we are not consumed;" and we were all melted down by the sense of His infinite patience and long-suffering.

Sun., October 16th. I administered the sacrament, and found after it the usual power in prayer.

Mon., October 17th. I set out to meet my brother at Nottingham.

Wed., October 19th. I preached twice in Markfield church, and was much comforted with my brother Ellis, and his little increasing flock. I talked with several, and took knowledge of them, that they have been with Jesus. One received the atonement under my word.

Thur., October 20th. I preached at Nottingham-cross, and met the Society we began half a year ago, increased from eleven to fifty. They have been sifted like wheat by their two potent enemies, stillness and predestination. One simple soul I was enabled to rescue. I discerned her at first sight by her form of humility and meekness: her tone and posture spoke her a poor sinner. She confessed that the Germans had taken great pains to wean her of her bigotry to the Church and ordinances; that they laughed at her reading the Scriptures; at her praying, and fasting, and mourning after Christ. When she quoted any Scripture-proof, they set it aside with, "O, that you must not mind; that is all head-knowledge." When she said she could not rest with such an evil heart, they answered, "O, you are not willing to be a poor sinner." They were always happy, they told her, always easy; without trouble, care, or temptation of any kind: but all her sorrow, and poverty, and hunger, and heaviness through manifold temptations, was bondage, and the law, and works, and because she would not be a poor sinner.

I prayed over her in faith; and the scales fell from her eyes. She saw through them in a moment, and all their pretences to humility, liberty, and faith. The tempter left her for a season, and the angels came and ministered unto her.

This people, I think, are faster asleep than ever, through their having been once awakened. Satan could not have gained a greater advantage than by Mr. Rogers's misconduct. How is the shepherd smitten, and the flock scattered! Woe unto the man who does not continue in the ship! They only shall prosper that love Jerusalem.

Fri., October 21st. My brother came, delivered out of the mouth of the lion. He *looked* like a soldier of Christ. His clothes were torn to tatters. The mob of Wednesbury,

Darlaston, and Walsal, were permitted to take him by night out of the Society-house, and carry him about several hours, with a full purpose to murder him. But his work is not finished ; or he had now been with the souls under the altar.

Sat., October 22d. The spirit of prayer was given at the Society, so that every soul was in some measure sensible of it.

Sun., October 23d. I went to church with Mr. How, (for they cannot yet wean him of that bigotry,) and found a great spirit of mourning for the captive daughter of Sion.

I met at the Cross the largest concourse of people, they told me, that had ever been seen there. They were more concerned than I had before observed them, and listened for an hour in fixed attention.

Mon., October 24th. I had a blessing at parting from the Society. I set out at five, and by night came weary and wet to Birmingham.

Tues., October 25th. I was much encouraged by the faith and patience of our brethren from Wednesbury ; who gave me some particulars of the late persecution. My brother, they told me, had been dragged about for three hours by the mob of three towns. Those of Wednesbury and Darlaston were disarmed by a few words he spoke, and thenceforward laboured to screen him from their old allies of Walsal ; till they were overpowered themselves, and most of them knocked down. Three of the brethren, and one young woman, kept near him all the time, striving to intercept the blows. Sometimes he was almost borne upon their shoulders through the violence of the multitude, who struck at him continually that he might fall. And if he had once been down, he would have rose no more. Many blows he escaped through his lowness of stature ; and his enemies were struck down by them. His feet never once slipped ; for in their hands the angels bore him up.

The ruffians ran about asking, "Which is the Minister?" and lost, and found, and lost him again. That Hand which struck the men of Sodom and the Syrians blind withheld or turned them aside. Some cried, "Drown him ! throw him into a pit !" Some, "Hang him up upon the next tree !" Others, "Away with him ! away with him !"

and some did him the infinite honour to cry, in express terms, "Crucify him!" One and all said, "Kill him!" but they were not agreed what death to put him to. In Walsal several said, "Carry him out of the town: don't kill him here: don't bring his blood upon us!"

To some who cried, "Strip him, tear off his clothes!" he mildly answered, "That you need not do: I will give you my clothes, if you want them." In the intervals of tumult, he spoke, the brethren assured me, with as much composure and correctness as he used to do in their Societies. The Spirit of glory rested on him. As many as he spoke to, or but laid his hand on, he turned into friends. He did not wonder (as he himself told me) that the martyrs should feel no pain in the flames; for none of their blows hurt him, although one was so violent as to make his nose and mouth gush out with blood.

At the first Justice's, whither they carried him, one of his poor accusers mentioned the only crime alleged against him: "Sir, it is a downright shame. He makes people rise at five in the morning to sing psalms." Another said, "To be plain, Sir, if I must speak the truth, all the fault I find with him is, that he preaches better than our Parsons." Mr. Justice did not care to meddle with him, or with those who were murdering an innocent man at his Worship's door. A second Justice in like manner remanded him to the mob. The Mayor of Walsal refused him protection when entering his house, for fear the mob should pull it down. Just as he was within another door, one fastened his hand in his hair, and drew him backward, almost to the ground. A brother, with the peril of his life, fell on the man's hand, and bit it, which forced him to loose his hold.

The instrument of his deliverance at last was the ring-leader of the mob, the greatest profligate in the country. He carried him through the river upon his shoulders. A sister they threw into it. Another's arm they broke. No farther hurt was done our people; but many of our enemies were sadly wounded.

The Minister of Darlaston sent my brother word, he would join with him in any measures to punish the rioters; that the meek behaviour of our people, and their con-

stancy in suffering, convinced him the counsel was of God ; and he wished all his parish Methodists.

They pressed me to come and preach to them in the midst of the town. This was the sign agreed on betwixt my brother and me : if they asked me, I was to go. Accordingly, we set out in the dark, and came to Francis Ward's, whence my brother had been carried last Thursday night. I found the brethren assembled, standing fast in one mind and spirit, in nothing terrified by their adversaries. The word given me for them was, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit yourselves like men, be strong." Jesus was in the midst, and covered us with a covering of his Spirit. Never was I before in so primitive an assembly. We sang praises lustily, and with a good courage ; and could all set to our seal to the truth of our Lord's saying, "Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake."

We laid us down and slept, and rose up again ; for the Lord sustained us. We assembled before day to sing hymns to Christ as God. As soon as it was light I walked down the town, and preached boldly on Rev. ii. 10 : "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer. Behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried ; and ye shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." It was a most glorious time. Our souls were satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and we longed for our Lord's coming to confess us before his Father and his holy angels.

We now understood what it was to receive the word in much affliction, and yet with joy in the Holy Ghost.

I took several new members into the Society ; and, among them, the young man whose arm was broke, and (upon trial) Munchin, the late captain of the mob. He has been constantly under the word since he rescued my brother. I asked him what he thought of him. "Think of him !" said he : "That he is a mon of God ; and God was on his side, when so many of us could not kill one mon."

We rode through the town, unmolested, to Birmingham ; where I preached, and one received faith. I rode on to

Evesham, and found John Nelson preaching. I confirmed his word, and prayed in the Spirit.

Thur., October 27th. I preached at five; then read prayers, and preached twice, at Quinton; and the fourth time in Evesham, with much life and liberty.

Fri., October 28th. I called on the eager, loving souls at Gutherton, "Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world!" Again at Cirencester, and slept at a well-disposed widow's.

Sat., October 29th. I came once more to Bristol, where I have spent but one day these six months.

Sun., October 30th. I rejoiced among our colliers, who receive the word as at the beginning, "with power, and the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance."

I preached in the Horse-fair on, "The Spirit and the bride say, Come;" and gave the Society an account of the late persecution. God sent a gracious rain upon his inheritance, and refreshed our weary souls.

Mon., October 31st. I set out at five for Wales, commended to the grace of God. I preached in the way at farmer Whitchurch's. When we came to the Passage, the boatmen refused to venture over in such a storm. We waited till four; then committed ourselves to Him whom the winds and seas obey; and embarked with Mr. Ashton and faithful Felix Farley. The rest of the passengers stayed on the safe side.

The waves of the sea were mighty, and raged horribly. When, with much toiling, we were come near the opposite shore, the storm caught the vessel; our sails were backed, and we driving full on the Black-rock, where thirty-two persons lost their lives a few weeks since. But the answer of prayer, after much fatigue, brought us to the haven. O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness, and declare the wonders which he doeth for the children of men!

It was dark when we landed: however, we had a good Guide, (the darkness is no darkness to Him,) who conducted us, through the heavy rain, to the rock and fountain. I spoke a word in season to the poor young women-servants, who dwell as in the confines of hell, and in the midst of human devils.

Tues., November 1st. I took horse some hours before day, and by ten reached Cardiff. The gentlemen had threatened great things, if I ever came here again. I called, in the midst of them, "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by," &c. The love of Christ constrained me to speak, and them to hear. The word was irresistible. After it, one of our most violent opposers took me by the hand, and pressed me to come to see him. The rest were equally civil all the time I stayed. Only one drunkard made some disturbance, but, when sober, sent to ask my pardon.

The voice of praise and thanksgiving was in the Society. Many are grown in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus.

I passed an hour with the wife and daughter of the Chief Bailiff, who are waiting as little children for the kingdom of God.

Wed., November 2d. I declared, in the Castle-yard, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." At noon my commission was still, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people." I find the truth of Mr. Hodges's observation, "The Gospel makes way for the law."

Thur., November 3d. I read prayers and preached at Wenvo; then in our old chapel at the Castle; and rejoiced with my dear friends in sure and steadfast hope of the glory of God.

Fri., November 4th. I prayed with the Society at five; preached at seven; rode back to Cardiff, and joined in fervent intercession. I preached faith in the blood of Christ to the poor weeping prisoners; made a collection for them, and distributed books; besought them at the room to be reconciled to God; and the power of the Lord bore all before it.

Sat., November 5th. I took a sweet leave of the brethren, and got to the Passage by ten; but the boatmen, notwithstanding our entreaties, could not be persuaded to pass in that weather.

Sun., November 6th. I took boat at nine, nothing doubting. The floods lifted up their voice; but faith saw Jesus walking on the water, and heard his voice, "It is I, be not afraid." In eight minutes we were brought safe to land, by Him who rides in the whirlwind.

At two I preached to the colliers, from, "Said I not unto thee, If thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" Their spirit bore me up, as on eagles' wings. We all rejoiced in our strong salvation.

Sun., November 13th. In the word, and sacrament, and love-feast, the Lord showed that the efficacy of his ministration doth not depend on the life or holiness of the Minister.

Wed., November 16th. I preached in Bath, on my way to Cirencester. There the Lord gave testimony to his word, "I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions." I preached at Gutherton, Evesham, Quinton, Oxford; and on Thursday, November 24th, at the Foundry.

Sun., November 27th. I gave the sacrament to about a thousand of the Society; and we poured out our souls in prayer.

Wed., November 30th. I was greatly assisted to declare, "The Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost."

Thur., December 8th. I called on Mr. Witham, given over by his Physicians; trembling at the approach of the King of terrors, and catching at every word that might flatter his hopes of life.

Fri., December 9th. I prayed with him again, and found him somewhat more resigned.

Mon., December 19th. I was mostly employed for some days past in comforting an afflicted friend, whose son lay dying of the small-pox.

Tues., December 20th. I prayed in great faith for Mr. Witham; the time of whose departure draws nigher and nigher.

Fri., December 23d. At half-hour past seven in the evening he broke out, "Now I am delivered! I have found the thing I sought. I know what the blood of sprinkling means." He called his family and friends to rejoice with him. Some of his last words were, "Why tarry the wheels of his chariot? I know that my Redeemer liveth. Just at twelve this night my spirit will return to Him." While the clock was striking twelve, he died like a lamb, with that word, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Sat., December 24th. I called on friend Keen's son, just as his wife had told her dream, that I should come that morning. They both seem truly simple of heart.

Our meeting was not in vain. I rode in the afternoon to Bexley.

Christmas-day. I heard that one of our fiercest persecutors, who had cut his throat, and lay for dead some hours, was miraculously revived, as a monument of divine mercy. Many of his companions have been hurried into eternity, while fighting against God. He is now seeking Him whom once he persecuted; was confounded at the sight of me, much more by my comfortable words, and a small alms. He could only thank me with his tears.

I read prayers, and preached, "Glory be to God in the highest," to a people who now have ears to hear.

Mon., December 26th. I spent four days between Wilmington, Welling, and Bexley, preaching the Gospel.

Fri., December 30th. I called on a friend, near death, yet unprepared for it; and faithfully, not fashionably, told him his condition.

Sat., December 31st. I visited, at his desire, an opposer of the truth, till softened by the approach of death, and showed him his want of a Saviour. He now expresses incredible eagerness for redemption in the blood of Jesus.

PART VIII.

FROM JANUARY 1ST, 1744, TO DECEMBER 30TH, 1744.

SUNDAY, January 1st, 1744. I rode to Bexley, and expounded the character of wisdom. (Prov. iii.) God, as it seems, is turning the heart of this people back again. A surprising change I find in walking the streets. Nothing but kind salutations, instead of my usual reception with stones and curses.

Tues., January 3d. I triumphed with an old disciple of fourscore, dying in the faith.

Thur., January 5th. I finished H.'s account of the iniquitous Synod of Dort; iniquitous even in the judgment of a predestinarian. God deliver me from their tender mercies!

Sun., January 8th. At the chapel I explained and applied the barren fig-tree. The convincing Spirit was present. A company of players roared mightily for their master; but could not stop the course of the word.