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JOURNALS, DOCTRINAL TREATISES, AND OTHER WRITINGS

OF

MEMBERS OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

EDITED BY WILLIAM EVANS AND THOMAS EVANS.

VOL. XII.

CONTAINING

A MEMOIR OF MARY CAPPERS;—JOURNAL OF DANIEL STANTON;—SOME ACCOUNT OF
AMBROSE RIDGE;—LIFE OF SARAH GRUBB;—JOURNAL OF JAMES DICKINSON;—
MEMOIRS OF MARTHA ROUTH;—AND RICHARD SAMBLE.

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A MEMOIR OF

MARY CAPPER,

LATE OF BIRMINGHAM,

A MINISTER OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.*

"The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."—Prov. iv. 18.

PREFACE.

The journals and other papers of Mary Capper, were entrusted by herself to the care and revision of the editor, with the understanding that any use might be made of them which, after her decease, should appear to be right. The present compilation is, in consequence, now offered to the public, with the hope that the cause of truth and righteousness—that cause which was so dear to the subject of this memoir through a long life, may be served thereby.

The character of Mary Capper is pretty fully developed in the subsequent pages; yet it may be allowed to the editor, who had the privilege of near intimacy with her for almost half a century, to remark, that in preparing this work for the press, and consequently dwelling much on the life and conversation of this devotedly pious individual, she has been particularly impressed with the cheerful contentment of spirit, manifested under the varying circumstances of her life. This is the more striking, when the feebleness of her bodily powers, the enlarged liberality of her mind, and her deep feeling for human sorrows, are taken into account, together with her limited pecuniary resources and small personal accommodations. It is true, she was often entrusted with the means of relieving those in distress, which was to her a source of genuine delight; but she steadfastly refused repeated offers of increased comforts for herself; preferring to dwell in comparative obscurity, and in the close vicinity of those dear friends whose society and kindness had largely contributed, for a long course of years, to her enjoyment. Another object which she had in view was, to be so situated as to occasion, to such friends as might be passing through the town, little inconvenience in paying her a visit; for such was her modest estimate of her own attainments, that she could not suppose her friends would incline, or could suitably be expected, to come far to make her a call.

Many, however, as will be seen in the following pages, could bear their testimony to the solid satisfaction which such visits afforded them; and this undoubtedly proceeded from the conviction, that the chief pursuit of Mary Capper's life had been to honour her Lord and Master; by this she gave the strongest proof of her gratitude for the love of God, extended to her in Jesus Christ her Saviour; whose peace was richly shed abroad in her heart, and more especially so as she approached his heavenly kingdom, where all is peace and love, and joy in the Holy Ghost, and that for ever!

KATHARINE BACKHOUSE.

Darlington, 1847.
MEMOIR OF MARY CAPPER.

CHAPTER I.

PARENTAGE, EDUCATION, &c.

MARY CAPPER was born on the 11th of the fourth month, 1755. She was the daughter of William and Rebecca Capper, of Rugeley, in Staffordshire. They had a very numerous family, consisting of ten sons and four daughters; some of whom lived to advanced age. John, their first-born, was a merchant in London, where he died in 1835, after completing his eighty-eighth year; James also died the same year in that city, at the age of eighty-one; having been, during fifty years, Rector of Wilmingston, Sussex.

The whole family were brought up by their parents as members of the Episcopal Church to which they themselves were conscientiously attached.

Mary, the subject of the following Memoir, possessed a mind of no ordinary description; energetic and contemplative, she seemed peculiarly prepossessed as Divine Grace was allowed to operate upon her gifted mind, to throw aside the prejudices of education, and to stem the torrent of opposing opinion.

Her susceptible heart was, however, keenly alive to the sorrows of others, and deep were her sufferings, when, for a time, her religious views broke the harmony of the domestic circle; but having taken up the cross of Christ, she was manfully enabled to follow her Lord in simple obedience, and in full reliance upon his power to preserve and strengthen her through every trial.

Much of the account of her childhood was penned after she had attained the age of eighty years; and a more lively description cannot be given to the reader than in her own words.

"My dear parents," she writes, "accustomed their children to read the Scriptures. The religious instruction of my childhood was, I think, received from my dear mother. She was a deeply tried Christian mother.

I think it was about the tenth year that I was sent to my aunt Langford, at Macclesfield in Cheshire. She was a serious member of the National Establishment, a very respectable, widowed gentlemanwoman. Under her kind care, I was instructed in the strict observance of religious forms; to remember the text of every sermon that I heard; to write the Collects, &c., but I do not recollect much serious impression being made on my mind. About this time, there was a great talk about Methodism; our relations, the Rows, of Macclesfield,* were said to have turned Methodist, and were lightly spoken of and ridiculed. I well remember that I felt sorry for this; because I thought, if they were good people, and only differed from others in the way that they thought was right, they ought to be loved.

I was allowed to go, with my young companions, to the theatre and various other places of amusement; and I do not recollect that any remark was made, upon time being thus squandered and mis-spent.

On my return home, some domestic changes had taken place; my second brother, Samuel, was settled in business at Birmingham; and as he was still young, it was considered best for my father to be much with him; so that my dear mother was frequently left with my eldest brother, John, and the younger children, at Rugeley. Nursing and needlework were my proper employments, but I was fond of active play; out-doing my companions at ball, jumping, sliding, &c."

The following extracts from a diary kept by Mary Capper, about this period, show the manner in which her time was chiefly occupied, and the unfoldings of her youthful mind.

"9th. My friend K. Barlow drank tea with me. How delightful and improving is the company of a good and worthy friend! I think I have read that friendship is too noble a passion for female minds; but why so? Have we not souls as well as men? and are capable of the worthiest attainments!"

"15th. My brother prevailed upon mamma to stay till to-morrow. I am grieved at the thoughts of leaving the country, just now that everything is in perfection, to go and bury one's self in Birmingham, where one does not feel a refreshing breeze, nor see a green leaf, except a few withered things in the church yard, once in the year. I have no patience to think of it! but parents must be obeyed."

"8th. Went to Church; we were very fortunate, as we got there before it was much crowded; when we were confirmed. I walked in a very grave and serious humour."

Respecting this circumstance, she subsequently remarks: "At a suitable age, with great sincerity, a mother chooses to take a little child and put a girdle upon it."* One of these was Hester Ann Rogers, of whom an instructive little memoir ispublished—Ed.
ouess, and heart contriving impressions. I went through the ceremony of confirmation by the Bishop; a ceremony of no small import in my view; as what had been promised for me by my sponsors, I was, in accordance with this outward rite, bound to perform, as then of age to take the responsibility myself; viz. to deny all pomp and vanity; to walk in God’s holy will and commands all the days of my life. Knowing that I came very short of this, I was distressed, and mourned much in secret. I was afraid to mention my feelings, as they seemed strange, and I did not know of any one who had the like.

14th. Mamma told me of a fault in my behaviour, a repetition of which I will endeavour to avoid.

November 10th. Received a very polite invitation from M. Capper to spend a few days at Castle Bromwich.

14th. Arrived there.

19th. I do not know the meaning of it, but I never in my life wished more sincerely to be at home. I shall be heartily glad when I get into Bell Street.

23rd. Set out for home with a joyful heart. My father received a sensible and dutiful letter from brother Jasper. Oh how my father’s eye glistened with true paternal tenderness! That we may all unite, and strive to give joy to the hearts of our worthy parents, is and shall be, my constant prayer.

The following letter was addressed to Mary Capper by her mother, when left on one occasion as housekeeper at Birmingham:

"April 17th, 1769.

My dear Molly,—You are a good girl for writing, agreeable to promise, every week; pray continue to do so. I observed what you said about the riding-dress; but, my dear child, consider you are one of number twelve; therefore, no superfluities can or ought to be expected. I was much pleased with one of your letters, wherein you say, ‘I have been strongly solicited to go out this evening, but have withstood the temptation.’ Oh my dear girl, may you have grace to withstand every temptation to evil, or imprudent things; and that you may be able to say, ‘Get thee behind me, Satan.’ I for I am resolved already; and my Jesus, who vanquished thee upon the cross, will assist my weakness, and enable me to overcome thy temptations! Assist and enable us He will, whenever we call sincerely upon Him; and I doubt not, my dear child, you have already experienced a pleasing satisfaction whenever you have denied yourself any amusement, though innocent, if it interfered with what was right and necessary to be done. Your mother, Rebecca Capper."
nately rebellious, though my temper was naturally hasty and impatient. On some occasions, my brother James was a gentle reprover, and was, in example, kind. In after years, he became my advocate, as a Christian brother; for he believed me sincere, though his religious views were not in accordance with mine.

My brother John married and settled at Rugby, after which event the rest of the family went to reside at Birmingham with our parents.

This brings us to a new era in the domestic circle, to which M. C. makes some allusion in mentioning the change which afterwards took place in her religious views; and as this change of view and practice first became obvious in her brother's case, a few particulars relating to him may here be acceptable to the reader, and useful, as a connecting link in the history of M. C.

He was about four years older than she was, and tenderly attached to her. When quite young, he was sensible of the quickening influence of the Holy Spirit visiting his soul, and it became his practice reverently to read a portion of the Holy Scriptures before he left his room in the morning. On these occasions he frequently sat for a time in silence, in order to wait upon Him, who, he felt, persuaded, shone could open the sacred writings to his understanding.

While a young man, he accompanied his brother James (who was about to take orders as a clergyman) to London; and during their stay there, they called upon Mary Knowles, who was an acquaintance of the family. On being informed of James's prospects, she gave them a description of the qualifications which she deemed essential to a true minister of the gospel. This address, while it produced little effect upon the mind of James, sank deeply into that of Jasper, and he was, in consequence, induced to go to a Friends' meeting. Further reflection, enquiry and conviction were the means of attracting him very closely to this religious society; but he had much suffering to pass through, in various ways, before he became a member of it.

His parents, who appear scarcely to have considered the Society of Friends to be Christian.
Our misfortune is, we cannot always maintain such a zeal. If you call it a fit, because it is a frame of mind which I am likely to fall from, I agree to it; but this is owing to my own weakness, and for want of steadfast faith and trust in Him who would support me; but to prove that I was, at the time of writing to you, under proper impressions, could I constantly maintain them, they would not only warm my heart with a continual sense of the gratitude due to my Redeemer, but render it impossible for me to do any one an injury, or fall into the least sin. Ought then these impressions to be stifled? or ought we not to press after them?

If I remember right, I addressed myself to your heart before, but you have answered me in haste, and I am sensible never asked your poor heart one question about it; but in the strength of your own reason you have confided, and I will endeavour to prove that you have trusted to a broken reed; therefore answer me a question; and if your heart does not give it the negative, then ask yourself, if you do not deny your Redeemer, by making the Gospel of none effect. Did your heart consent to this assertion in your letter? viz. that you look upon a sincere, humble and uniform adherence to the rules of moral duties as the substance of our faith and doctrine.' Surely not! for this excludes Christianity; as it is possible to be a strict moralist without one grain of true religion; for many of the Heathens were so, and even Atheists may be so.

Our blessed Saviour himself condemned the Scribes and Pharisees, who were strictly moral; they carried themselves uprightly as to their moral characters, and were looked upon by the world as the best of men; they fasted twice in the week, and were not (as one of them said) extortioners, unjust, &c. and they gave titles of all that they possessed; yet what does the Lord, who knew their hearts, call them? Hypocrites, who prayed to God with their lips, but whose hearts were far from Him!

How is it frequently with us? are not you and I like unto them?

If I have advanced anything in my letter which is unscriptural, point it out to me; if not, how is it enthusiastic?

If we believe that we must one day give an account for every idle word; and that, whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, we must do all for the glory of God; (which we must believe, or deny our professed faith,) can we watch too narrowly over ourselves? or endeavour, too carefully, to avoid what may tend in the least to alienate our affections from the things which are above?

'To enjoy is to obey.' Was our Saviour sent upon earth as a pattern for us? Did He enjoy the good things of this life in the manner you speak of? We are told to use the things of this life so as not to abuse them, but never to rejoice in them, that I remember. When the Apostles were beaten, and departed from the presence of the council rejoicing, was it enjoying the good things of this life? No! it was rejoicing in the Lord; and I believe, that to enjoy his presence, we must obey his commandings. Read the first chapter of John, and tell me what you can make of it without this belief. In the Epistle to the Corinthians, the ministers of God are spoken of 'as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.' Were not these, think you, called by those who did not listen to them, a morose set of fellows? Yet, were they not enjoying and obeying? Thus it is with almost all religious people.

I shall not wish for quite so sudden an answer as to my last, but one more to the matter, and honestly produced by serious judgment; a little farther from the surface than your other. My intention was, not to accuse nor to dictate, but to warn you with a desire to enquire after these things.

In true brotherly love, being sensible of my own errors, from a very sinful neglect. Your true friend and affectionate brother,

JASPER CAPPER."

No remark is preserved respecting the effect of this letter on Mary Capper's mind, but it appears to have induced her to reflect very seriously upon her own condition, and to make some enquiry into the faith and practice of the Society to which her brother had become so much attached. She was, at that time, in very delicate health, and her parents resolved (probably under the influence of various motives) to place her in a family in France, for a time.

On this account she was brought into new and trying circumstances; and it is thought that extracts from her journal at that time, will not be without interest in many ways; especially to those in early life, who will see that she possessed a very lively imagination and warm feelings; and who may, by the perusal, be the better prepared to appreciate the sacrifices which she had afterwards to make, in order to obtain peace of mind, and to become the humble disciple of a crucified Lord.

CHAPTER II.

SOJOURN IN FRANCE.

* Birmingham, October 19th. 1776.

Very busy making preparations to set out for London, in the Diligence, to-morrow morning, with M. and M. Bingham; the latter pur-
posing to accompany me to Paris, or some other part of France, where I am going for the recovery of my health, which has been upon the decline for some months.

London, 21st.—Just arrived at the Castle and Falcon; much fatigued, having travelled all night without sleep. We arrived at Stratford at ten o'clock, and there met with several of Bingham's friends, who were at the inn; we supped together, after which we resumed our journey with fresh spirits; indeed we then stood in need of our best courage, for it was very dark and the roads bad; this, with the fear we had of being robbed, was damnable enough. Just as morning began to dawn we reached Oxford; the daylight advanced with all the beautiful attendants of a fine morn, and it was most delightfully pleasant. Breakfasted at Tetworth; and heartily rejoiced we were, for we were really hungry. I love the journey better than I could have imagined; after paying proper attention to the bread and butter, we once again set forward; it was a glorious day, and the country appeared beautiful, in spite of the rigorous season. Immediately on my arri-
val at my journey's end, I wrote to my brother Jasper, and he came half an hour after. I fainted several times, which is not surprising, as I was much fatigued.

22nd. Was taken to bed last night very ill. My affectionate brother, who had never seen me in that way before, was quite alarmed, and sent for Dr. Knowles. I have slept tolerably. Walked with my brother and my friend Bingham, into Christ's place. Dined with my uncle Smallwood, and spent a rational, agreeable evening with Dr. and M. Knowles, at their house in Ingram Court. I admire the doctor more, I think, than any man I ever met with. He strikes me as a man of learning and affability; polite without ceremony; perfectly good humoured without the least tincture of levity; charitable to all, in thought, word and deed. It is easy to imagine that no one could possess all these qualities without being, in the true sense of the word, a Christian. Though the doctor is, by profession, a Quaker, he is far from endeavouring to influence the judgement of others. We had much serious conversation, and my heart felt interested in every word that fell from the mouth of the worthy doctor. I wish, if my stay in town permits, frequently to repeat these visits. I do not wonder at my dear Jasper being impatient to introduce me into such company, as he knew my inclinations too well to suppose that I should find it irksome. I wish I could prevail upon all my acquaintances to lay aside all their trivial ways of killing time, by playing at cards and such diversions; and in their room to institute improving, rational conversation; it would undoubtedly be better for society in general; we should then enjoy ourselves in reality. How far more praiseworthy those are who spend their time in searching after and admiring the wonderful power and goodness of the Almighty, than such as think of little but the gratification of the senses; who scarcely know or consider how or wherefore this grand universe is supported, or whether governed by a Supreme, All-powerful Being!

Nancy Fry, a very pleasing young person, drank tea with us; I was struck with her appearance and wish to be better acquainted.

The doctor does not approve of my intention of going into a Convent, as he thinks I shall be in great danger of having my sentiments as to religion totally changed; he remarked that the transition from our form of worship to that of the Roman Church was very trifling, and might possibly be brought about, almost imperceptibly, as they spare no pains to gain a proselyte. This has quite unsettled my designs, as I would by no means throw myself into the midst of dangers, the nature of which I am entirely unacquainted with. We took our leave of these worthy Friends, with a promise willingly made on my part, to dine with them on Friday, if nothing prevent.

23rd. My brother Jasper called and took us to dine with my brother William, who lives at Holborn Bridge. He appears to be a sensible worthy character. After we had coffee we called a coach, intending to go and spend the evening with my uncle Capper, in Berkeley Square; but an unaccountable whim entering the head of my brother William, (prompted, I make no doubt, by his wish to give us pleasure,) he asked if we should have any objection to see the Opera, to be performed that night. I was inclined to refuse; but fancling that my friend had a desire to go, I accompanied her without reluctance. My disappoint-
ment and disgust are not to be described; I had heard much of the shining qualities of [the actress,] and therefore expected something extraordinary; but of all the figures I ever saw, she is the most miserable; and her impudence is inconceivable. In the midst of my chagrin, I could not help feeling emotions of pity for the poor unhappy wretch, who, in her serious moments, must call to mind a life spent in such a manner; how melancholy a re-
trospect! I may truly say, my intended pleas-
ure was turned into actual pain. I was very ill afterwards.

24th. My brother Jasper called upon me; he was not pleased at my last night's expedition; in truth I was vexed at myself. I could not help making a comparison between the different feelings with which I retired to rest last evening and the night before; one all
hurry and confusion, without one rational idea; the other calm, serene and pleasing; with a train of ideas, delightful, quiet and composed. I very joyfully performed my promise of spending the day in Ingram Court, and it was as agreeable as I expected. The doctor was at home all the afternoon, and we had much serious conversation, in which my heart was interested, the doctor and his wife explained the benefit arising from silent meetings, which I am convinced must be very great; we are then freed from all external objects, and wait upon the Lord, in silent submission; which must doubtless be a far more acceptable sacrifice than those forms of prayer that are repeated by the lips when the spirit is far from God. This silent meditation is certainly an excellent preparation for vocal prayer.

25th. Nancy Fry called, and went with us to M. Williamson's, a person who keeps bees in a glass hive; it is very entertaining to see these industrious little creatures all busied in their various occupations.

26th. Went, with my brother Jasper, to the Quakers' meeting, and was exceedingly pleased with one of the female preachers. There was silence nearly an hour and a half, in which time I was prepared to receive instruction, and I felt the force of what I heard. Returned to our lodgings well satisfied with silent worship.

27th. Dined and spent a very agreeable day with Nancy Fry's parents in Whitechapel. I admire the whole family exceedingly; such marks of sincerity and friendly civility I scarcely ever received. I shall actually venerate this society of people; for among those that I am acquainted with, there reigns such a universal spirit of affection, with a real desire to please, that I cannot help being strongly attached to those sentiments which are productive of these social and engaging qualities, to me so rare and purifying.

29th. M. Bingham and my brother went with us to the Tower, in order to look at the vessel in which we propose embarking; the Captain is an elderly polite man; he informed us that his daughter would accompany us to Boulogne, where his family resides. He could not say when he should sail; as there are Press Warrants out, a Protection is necessary, or it is possible that all the men may be taken. On expressing our desire to see the curiosities in the Tower, our obliging conductors willingly complied; and being informed that there were no beasts worth seeing, the old lion, &c. being gone to the shades of their noble ancestors, we visited the Arsenal. I was much pleased with the regular form in which all the arms are placed. Could the mind be divested of the idea of destruction, for which these weapons are designed, it would be possible to behold, with pleasing astonishment, the perfection which has been arrived at in the manufacture. On our return we had some conversation with two young girls who had just come from the Ursine Convent at Boulogne, and were not discouraged by their account. About five o'clock I took leave of my friend, as I had accepted of M. Morris's invitation to spend a few days with her at Tottenham. She received me with that good nature and affability which characterise her. I cannot but spend my time agreeably here, as in the company of M. Knowles and M. Morris, it is impossible to be otherwise than happy. Very poorly and retired to rest early; Mary Booth, an agreeable girl, was my companion.

31st. Poorly all day. M. Knowles was so obliging as to read in the life of William Penn, an eminent Quaker, who suffered much from persecution, being imprisoned and cruelly treated on account of his religious views and practices. He bore all with fortitude; supported by the true spirit of Christianity, he overcame all difficulties.

November 4th. In tolerable health and spirits; have fainted but twice since Saturday. We had company to dinner—Friends, a new married couple! The more I see of these people, the more I admire them; they receive each other with such marks of sincere love and friendship, that my heart partakes in their apparent satisfaction. Spent the afternoon in serious conversation.

5th. Read part of the life of George Fox, and found myself interested in his sentiments, which appear to me noble and full of weight. I quit these kind friends to-morrow.

8th. We embarked on board the "Four Friends," Captain Merriton, accompanied by my brother Jasper. Our fellow passengers appear tolerably agreeable.

11th. After a very tedious passage, landed at Boulogne, surrounded by a number of strange creatures; but my attention was fixed upon two delicate figures, dressed most fantastically, for beneath that creature man, who is so proud of being rational! Their coats were blue and purple, and their hats covered with various coloured feathers; a delicate tincture of rouge, and an enormously large muff completed the whole. A polite Englishman stept from amid the throng, and I willingly permitted him to conduct us to the "Ville de Londres," a poor, dirty inn compared with English houses. After dinner we walked in the town. I admire the dress of the tradespeople, which has an air of decent simplicity, but what appeared the most diverting and extraordinary, was that all men and women,

* Mary Booth was afterwards the wife of John Fell.
rich and poor, had each a muff; it was very
droll to see a miserable creature in rags and
wooden clogs, with a large muff.
12th. Between eight and nine o'clock, we
were surprised by the entrance of an old dame,
pale and mangy as an inhabitant of the grave,
attended by two or three young girls. After
our astonishment had a little subsided, and
they were seated, we took the liberty of en-
quirign from what cause proceeded the honour
of this early visit; which, in reality, gave us no
satisfaction, as we were not dressed, having
only left our beds a few minutes before. They,
however, made no apology for throwing us into
such consternation, but informed us that they
were come for two young ladies, who came
over with the intention of entering the Convent.
Poor Nicholls and Powell did not seem over
pleased with the appearance of their future
companions; however they agreed to wait upon
them after dinner; upon which they rose and
took their leave.
A little after four o'clock, we attended our
fellow travellers to the Ursuline Convent, and
delivered them into the hands of six nuns, who
were dressed perfectly neat and plain. We
were informed that the Pensioners rise at five
o'clock, all the year. To breakfast is not the cus-
tom of the country; but at ten o'clock, they dine
upon soup, with a moeul of course beef boiled
to strings. This is served in a manner by no
means elegant. After this frugal repast, they
are occupied in studies till five o'clock. Their
supper is roast meat; with a salad, when the
season permits. The hour of rest is seven.
These particulars did not give my friend and
me any strong desire to join them; and what
weighs still more with us is, that we should be
under the necessity of submitting to all their cus-
toms and superstitions. They have mostly fifteen
prayers each day, which would be a burden
unto those who do not imagine that they
shall be heard for their much speaking. Re-
turned to our Auberge, and gave up all thoughts
of entering a Convent.
14th. Called on our friends in their prison,
as it may justly be termed; we were only al-
lowed to speak to them through an iron grille;
poor Powell appeared dissatisfied with her sit-
uation, though she was obliged to put on her best
looks, and to say that she liked it very well, as
the governess who was with them understands
English. We returned to the inn by the rump-
parts, which command an extensive view of
the sea, and of distant hills, woods and villages.
I observed a large crucifix, placed on an emi-
nence in the middle of the town, and was in-
forned that the people, on certain days, flock
in great numbers, to offer their prayers before
this figure. Surely this is a zealous blindness,
which raises compassion in a thinking mind!
15th. M. Thomas conducted us to one of
the best looking houses in Boulogne, situated
near the ramparts in the High Town. We
were introduced into a pretty parlour; and after
a few minutes, M. Brunet made her appear-
ance. I was much pleased with her, and we
soon fixed upon terms.
21st. Most tempestuous weather; many of
the poor are great sufferers from the high winds,
some of their habitations being laid level with
the earth; indeed they are not calculated to
stand against a storm, being made of nothing
but a sort of clay and sticks; the lower sort of
people live miserably in this country. They
are in general very idle, and consequently very
poor; and their religion rather encourages their
natural antipathy to labour.
22nd. Fridays and Saturdays we have no
rlesh meat, which they pretend is a mortification
of the body; but for my own part, I cannot
consider it any merit to abstain from meat,
when the whole art of cookery is exerted to pre-
pare fish, roots, &c. in the nicest manner.
23rd. The whole family at Mass; as the
road to their place of worship is too bad for
the coach, my friend and I have not the op-
opportunity of going with them. I know not
whether I ought to regret this, for I should
possibly be under the necessity of submitting
to their ceremonies; at the same time I feel a
longing desire to join in the assemblies of the
faithful. From an idea of politeness, the family
desisted from cards; but what was more dis-
greelable to us, as it prevented our retiring,
an optic glass was produced, in order, as they said,
to amuse us without wounding our consciences;
but they know not our real sentiments.
28th. A great feast; the family at Mass.
We walked out, but were glad to return, as it
was inanimately cold; we found an excellent
fire in our chamber, at which we enjoyed our-
selves till dinner. M. Brunet gave us some
books to read, telling us she should think it
a favour if we would conform to their custom
of not working on their holidays. This is dis-
agreeable, as they are numerous, and I cannot
find that laziness promotes godliness.
27th. Rose very unwell. Bingham is ex-
ceedingly kind and attentive; and nothing can
exceed the tender affection of my dear brother
Jasper. I think I can never be ungrateful to
my indulgent friends.
December 3rd. Company to dinner; never
was I so tired! I hope it is not customary to give
many dinners; if it is, I must provide myself
with a large stock of patience. I really seem to
pick like a sparrow among eating creatures;
four hours at table, eating all the time! The
dinner I thought extravagantly profuse; served
in three courses of nine or ten dishes each; and
afterwards an elegant dessert; then coffee, and
10th. Company to dinner! I do detest these dinners; one loses more time than it is possible for any reasonable person to imagine. It is really a melancholy consideration that so many beings, with faculties sufficient to render them useful and happy, should content themselves with eating, drinking and playing. I hope these feasting will soon cease, as I should suppose they pass Lent in a more serious and moderate manner. I shall rejoice heartily when we return to the peaceful Hertlings; for the more I see of the world, the more I am enchanted with solitude, and its lovely train of innocent amusements, that prompt the mind to gratitude and contemplation. Charles received a letter from Jasper containing excellent advice.

Am very determined about attending a large party to the play and a masked ball. Had I only my inclination to consult, I should not hesitate a moment in refusing; but my refusal is considered as a stubborn resolution to be singular; this is a character that I am by no means desire of, and many ideas rush into my mind to vindicate a compliance with the wishes of others; but on the other hand, I am, from experience, convinced that these noisy diversions intoxicate the mind, enfeeble it, and render it incapable of performing the duties for which we were born. I presume not to judge for others; but for myself, I find it necessary to guard against the tumultuous joys of the world. Nine o'clock. Not at the ball, which is satisfactory, though the cause gives me pain, as it is the illness of M. Brunet.

16th. Received a pleasing epistle from M. Knowles, containing a few serious directions on the most important object of our lives. My heart melts with the earnestness of my desires to become one of those few that labour after the perfection of holiness.

20th. We are quite pleased with the progress we have made in learning the language, &c. since M. has kept her room. I am not sorry that Lent has begun, as there are no balls, &c. They are not very strict in this family, as they eat meat once or twice a week; in short, I think it is but a farce their pretending to fast; for though they do not eat flesh, they feast upon delicate fish, swimming in butter, &c. This, in reality, I prefer to their days of Gras; and although they scribble to eat a morsel of meat, they do not scribble to give way to their anger.

26th. Walked round the ramparts; the Castle is an ancient pile of building, now made use of as a prison. Two or three rooms, which look upon the ramparts, are particularly reserved for the confinement of young gentlemen who are extravagant, or any way disobedient to their parents. Every father or mother has
power to shut up their children for any time they may think proper; for life, if it is thought their crimes deserve it.

March 1st. Received an invitation from an English family, to a ball and concert. Bingham, &c. went, but I was not well enough. Employed the time in reading Thomas à Kempis, and felt more satisfaction than I should have done in their splendid assembly.

11th. Was exceedingly shocked to hear of the death of the young lady whose wedding I saw, not many weeks since; she was taken ill on Thursday, and died this morning, leaving a distressed husband and mother. Who, that has any consideration, would be so anxious after the happiness which is so uncertain! These daily instances of the instability of earthly joys should certainly warn us against a reliance upon them. What a melancholy change in this family! the other day, all gay, and flattering themselves with the prospect of many succeeding years! Happy is the mind whose dependence is not upon the fluctuating joys of this world, who can contemplate all with the eye of a passenger that is seeking rest in another!

At 7th. A great feast-day. At Vespres, could not be so attentive to myself as I wished, for there were a number of ceremonies which I could not help observing. It is strange to me that so many absurdities should be considered an acceptable sacrifice to the Lord. I think the priest does little but change his clothes; but I must say that the whole congregation seem to attend with seriousness; much more so than the protestants; and I doubt not the sincere in heart reap the benefit arising from true devotion.

10th. A most delightful day! We walked in the wood, and fixed upon a romantic spot, to build a grotto in. Heard of the death of a near neighbour, who dined with us soon after our arrival. I think it is remarkable that, out of the families with whom we have dined since we came to this part, three of the principals are dead.

16th. St. Omer's is delightfully situated, and the streets long and spacious. Went to the college where my brother Charles and Brunet are. Le Frère Avventin attended us to the noble structure of St. Bertin's Abbey. There are a number of very fine paintings, which I examined while M. Brunet and the Frère repeated their prayers; this they are obliged to do when they enter the church, as they consider it a spot sacred to the Lord; but in my opinion, all places are alike to our God, who dwells not in temples made with hands, but takes up his abode in the hearts of the meek and humble. Round the chapel are hung the arms of the Monks, as they are all descended from grand and ancient families; they have large fortunes, which they give up, and have all things in common, foreaking the allurements of the world. They at least pretend to lead a life of mortification; fasting and praying continually; but how far they may be inwardly detached from the follies of life is best known to themselves.

Christ and his disciples never excluded themselves from the eye of the world; and I should imagine it is not the design of our Creator that each individual should live to himself. After having expressed our thanks to the polite Monks, we departed.

26th. St. Mark. A grand feast! I think these people do little else but feast; we went with M. de Mass to a long and tedious ceremony. I believe they consider the bishop as a being of a superior order; he walks to the church, surrounded by almost all the village, who join in singing psalms, &c. A canopy of crimson, fringed with gold, is supported by four old men; and under this, the great man sits or walks, in state. They say he is a man exemplary for his piety, charity, &c. I hope that all proceeds from the right spring. Education may so far have influenced his mind, that the forms and ceremonies may to him appear necessary; but I must acknowledge that I beheld them with an emotion which I cannot describe. The bishop wears a large ring upon his little finger, which the priest kneels to kiss; the servants kneel when they present water to wash his hands. I was so much affected by these strange, and as I thought, presumptuous ceremonies, that I could not restrain my tears; and how earnestly did I wish that all the world were acquainted with that gentle tranquility which results from a humble waiting upon the Lord!

29th. I could not but make the secret comparison between these thoughtless people, who meet for no better purpose than to idle away their time, and those friends whom I have left in England. I daily wish to be again among them; it would then be my own fault if an hour passed unimproved.

May 4th. Paused the morning alone. I pity those who are unacquainted with the sweet consolations resulting from serious meditation; and with that peace which the world cannot give nor take away.

29th. Boulogne. Arrived in the afternoon. Dressed and sallied forth to spend the evening at an English lady's; when we arrived all the party were at cards, to which we also sat down. While we played, a circumstance occurred which made me feel in a way that I cannot describe. The sacrament which is carried to the sick, and is always announced by the ringing of a
hand-bell, passed by the windows. The company, being mostly French, threw down their cards, knelt and prayed for a few minutes, and then set to cards again. I mean not to censure them; they may set up to their judgment and feelings, but I must confess it would appear to me very presumptuous to address the great Almighty in a form of words, at a time when the mind was interested in affairs so trifling, so inconsistent with that awful sense with which we ought to present ourselves, when disposed to offer prayer.

On our return I found a very affectionate epistle from my honoured mother; all friends well, and kindly anxious for my health.

7th. After dinner, the conversation turned on religion; they were very severe upon me, and railed me unmercifully, giving me the appellation of Quaker or Trembler. Nothing could be more unjust than their censures of this people, whom they conclude to be unworthy of the name of Christian. I heard all with silent patience. After having listened for some time, I declared myself quite in favour of the real principles of Quakerism; and retired, leaving them to make what comments they pleased.

July 8th. Dined at Marquise; never spent a more disagreeable day; the gentlemen drank a great deal, and in consequence were very noisy and troublesome. I was truly glad when the coach was ordered, but we were no sooner seated in it, than we perceived that our coachman had made as free with the bottle as his master, and we were obliged to get out and march back, about half a mile to Marquise, where we again arrived at the Cure's. To our great satisfaction we found the company dispersed; beds were ordered, and we soon retired; but my spirits were so agitated by the scenes I had witnessed, that I faintcd several times. I wished myself in some secluded spot, where I might never more be in company with those, who so shamefully abuse the reason they are blessed with. I am certain that, if others enjoyed those extravagancies no more than I do, they would soon be excluded, as destroyers of our peace. Those recreations which will not bear reflection, are ill suited to rational, intelligent creatures. A train of such ideas kept me awake most of the night. Arrived at Herdington the 9th.

August 3rd. Spent a few quiet hours in my own room. Walked into the country, where we partook of a frugal repast, at a farm-house, sitting upon hay, with a plank for our table. The clouds were remarkably beautiful, and I was disposed to enjoy the calm contemplation in which the surrounding objects seemed to invite.

4th. In the evening Félicité and I took our book to the garden, and seated ourselves under a clump of trees; we stayed nearly two hours, and enjoyed a pleasing calm; all nature glowing around us. I could not but regret the folly which leads men to search for happiness in crowds, and in pompous parade, when real satisfaction may be purchased at so cheap a rate. As a flower unfolds in the genial warmth of the sun, the mind expands in serious meditation and reflection.

9th. Dined at M. Router's with three Anglais. I was not satisfied with our amusements; they were of a nature too gay and noisy to contribute to the real delight of the mind which desires something more than momentary enjoyment.

22nd. Félicité and I took a ride to the Bois de Boulogne, about four miles off; it is a delightful spot. We sat under the trees, and enjoyed the tranquillity of the scene. The disposition of my friend seems formed to enter into my tastes.

26th. Received letters from my kind patrons; they are anxious and unhappy at my indisposition.

28th. The palpitation at my heart returned with great violence. The physician assures me that it is only the effect of the weak state to which I am reduced. I pass the nights almost without sleep, and have very little appetite, therefore I cannot, at present, expect to regain my strength. I hope I am not impatient under these bodily affections; they are light in comparison with a wounded spirit. I have that trust and confidence in my God which makes his will my delight. Though he afflict me, yet will I trust in Him; and while his grace supports me, I can, as it were, forget the present pain, and look joyfully forward to that glory which shall be revealed to those who persevere.

September 1st. A comfortable day, without pain or sickness. Walked out and enjoyed the air, though winter begins to creep upon us, and as Thompson finely expresses it, 'lets loose his northern blasts.'

2nd. Much indisposed, but as it proved a delightful afternoon, my friend and I went in the cabriolet, to the Bois de Boulogne, and restored under the spreading branches of a fine old tree. As we generally take our books on these excursions, reading and conversation have their turn, and we enjoy many pleasing moments, untasted by those who are engaged in a continual round of more expensive luxuries. How greatly are we mistaken when we consider riches as the only happiness! The truly pious mind exults in well-grounded hope, and steadfastly fixes the eye of faith beyond the present scene.

4th. Again visited the wood, and returned about sunset, which afforded us many delightful views. They brought to my mind those beautiful lines beginning, 'These are thy glorious
works. Parent of good! It is impossible to contemplate the wonders of nature without feeling the heart glow with gratitude to the great Author, whose goodness is but dimly seen in these his works.

16th. Spent the morning chiefly in my own room; the extreme gaiety does not suit me. I feel like a stranger indeed! I have no inclination to familiarize myself with this mode of life; it may do for others, but give me sobriety, with a mind disposed for reflection. A letter just received from my dear Jasper, informs me that he has some thoughts of coming here. I shall greatly rejoice to see him. I cannot but observe how ill-informed we English females find ourselves, in comparison with the French ladies; they appear perfectly acquainted with the rise and progress of all material events in the history, both of their own and other nations. This is certainly a part of education not merely ornamental, which might well be substituted for more trivial acquisitions.

17th. I walked to the grotto, and found it improved in beauty, as the moss has taken root, and flourishes in all its various colours. Boulogne; evening. I can scarcely believe that I am now writing in the chamber of my friend Fellow! At dinner time an arrival was announced; I ran out of the room, and had the satisfaction of embracing the most affectionate of brothers; I readily agreed to return here with him, as fresh company had arrived.

It will here be needful to break off from the journal for a time, in order to take a glance at the state of things in the family at home. It appears that the decided attachment of her brother Jasper to the principles and practice of the Society of Friends, had awakened many fears in the minds of his parents, who were much alarmed for the consequences of his influence among their numerous children; especially as they could not but see that Mary was strongly attracted to unite with the views of Friends. A letter, written about this time by Rebecca Capper, to her son William, will depict her feelings, in this trying exigency, so as to excite the sympathy of every susceptible mind. It may be premised that William never made much, if any, change in his religious observances, and always remained a member of the Episcopal Church.

Birmingham, September 18th, 1777.

My Dear William,—A complaint in my eyes still remains; but I am induced to run the hazard of hurting my sight, to say a few words respecting a letter which your brother Samuel put into my hand last night. Your dear father (for he is indeed dear to me) has not seen your letter, nor if I can help it, ever shall; for the blow which your brother Jasper has given him, has almost struck him to the ground, and I am apprehensive that he could not support another such. Aroseg my own feelings, I forbear to mention them; for I know, and am fully persuaded that, grievous as they are, they ought not to be held in any estimation against which there teacheth, 'He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and if it has been your lot, my child! (for so I will yet call you) to be born of parents that were ignorant and ungodly; that neither by precept nor example taught you to serve God in spirit and in truth; but on the contrary, that it was enough to honour Him with the lips, though the heart was far from Him—but stop, and examine, O! my soul, dost thou not, in this, stand self-accused! I have indeed been guilty of great neglect of my duty, in that state in life in which it pleased God to place me! in caring too much for the things of this world, and in neglecting myself, and also in not instructing my children, to seek after the kingdom of God and his righteousness; not remembering that all those things would be added unto us. But sinful and wretched as I am, well knowing, that as his justice, so his mercy is great; and that, upon sincere repentance and amendment, which, through his grace or Holy Spirit, that He hath promised to those who ask for it aright, and without which we cannot do the least good thing—I say, by this I hope, and will endeavour to live better, for the short, perhaps very short, time I have to remain here. Now in the midst of this grievous and very heavy affliction, that we your parents are at this time under, on account of the separation which is already made in the family, and more that are likely to be made; I say, in this I can see a ray of comfort, and can draw this from it; that the Almighty Disposer of all things hath permitted, for wise and good ends, this afflictive hand to be laid upon us; that He chasteneth and correcteth those whom He loveth and would draw unto Him; that it hath already inclined my heart more unto Him, and hath caused me to look more strictly into my way and manner of life, and hath raised in me a hope that, by his divine and inspiring grace, I shall be enabled to bring forth good fruits; to avoid those things which are contrary to my profession, and to follow all such things as are agreeable to it. Now this I knew before to be my bounden duty; but we are such poor frail creatures, at least I find myself such, as to stand in need of frequent stirring up; and it may be one among the various and mysterious ways of Providence, that He permitts so many different sects and opinions; as I make no doubt all believe, at least, that they are guided by the same
divine grace or Holy Spirit, faith and Holy Scriptures.

You say you are inclined to attend the meet-
ings of Quakers by stronger motives than
compliance to Jasper; that you find yourself
enriched by the plain truths they deliver; that
you are charmed with the love, sweetness, and
tenderness of affection which appear among
them. Oh! my child, you see not beyond the
mask, nor why it is occasionally put on; but
to gain three proselytes all at once is a great
acquisition!—But stay! where am I running?
or where is my Christian charity, if they think
they are in the right way? A crowd of ideas
press upon my mind, but I will only beg one
favour of you; it will perhaps be the last I
shall ever ask of you; it is this: that you will,
for a few Sundays, go to the Church of which
you have been a member, (though perhaps an
unworthy one) and set your mind in a right
frame of devotion, remembering that you are,
at that time, as well as at all others, immedi-
ately in the presence of that God who knoweth
the secrets of all hearts; and though He re-
garded not time nor place, yet reflect and con-
sider for what purpose you are come there;
and as much as lieth in you, suppress all vain
and wandering thoughts; keep your eyes from
looking on the faces of others; and do not,
from their look and manner, judge of what
passes in their hearts, but be careful of your
own; and with fervent zeal and humility, at-
tend to those prayers, praises, and adorations,
those offered to the throne of Grace; and though
they may be uttered by a man of like infirm-
ities with yourself, yet let not that hinder you
from sincerely seeking for the assistance of
God's Spirit, to enable you to do that which is
right in his sight; and as I am sure you will
find what will suit your own feelings; in them
join, with sincerity of heart; for though God
knoweth our necessities before we ask, yet hath
it pleased Him to command that we, his poor
creatures, should lay our wants before Him;
and if at times and in all places, why not
when we are gathered together?

I have reason to believe my dear Mary's
health is but very indifferent at this time, and
that her old complaints return with greater
force than ever. I firmly believe that the agi-
tation of mind she has laboured under of late,
has greatly increased her bodily infirmity.
I think it likely that she and I may never be
permitted to meet again in this world; but
though by different roads, my sincere hope is,
that we shall all meet again in the next. I had
promised to myself some pleasure in coming
up to London to meet your sister there, and
with joy to bring her home; but I fear that is
over; her home cannot be with us, her parents;
for well I know that would be the cause of strife
and debate, which I think it is best to avoid;
and if we must be separated, may that Being
who first gave you all to me, enable me with
patience resignation to part with you in whatever
way He shall think fit; but I find myself a
poor frail creature, and do indeed, at this mo-
ment fear and tremble before Him.

I had much more on my mind to say to you,
but I have lost it; so conclude, with sincere
prayer for your present and eternal welfare,
your truly affectionate mother,

Rebecca Capper.

From this letter and from some subsequent
remarks in Mary Capper’s journal, it appears
that she entered perfectly into her brother’s
change of religious view, and that this had been
so far made known to her parents as to make
them hesitate about allowing her to return
home. She deeply felt her trying position, and
she also sympathized tenderly with her brother,
who was, at that time, much distressed in mind.
He seems to have been sent, to convey her
back to England, without loss of time. While
they were detained before sailing, they were in
the practice of frequently retiring together, for
the purpose of silently waiting upon the Lord,
that they might know his will, and experience
a renewal of their spiritual strength; and they
were often comforted together, on these occa-
sions.

Resuming the journal, Mary Capper pro-
ceeds:

September 18th. My kind friend expresses
much satisfaction at my quick return. I really
feel greatly at the thought of leaving her, it
may be for ever! Her tenderness and amiable
disposition have gained my admiration and my
warm affection, and have greatly interested me
in her future well-doing.

19th. Much in my friend’s room, either read-
ing or preparing for my departure.

20th. My brother and Felicity accompanied
me to the Bôis de Boulogne, and we passed an
hour very pleasantly under the shade of the
fine trees, not in the least regretting the par-
ties at Herdington. Mere sensual delights are very
unsatisfactory to a mind, capable of testing the
pleasures which result from contemplating the
wonders and the goodness of Him who created
and preserves this universal frame. All nature
speaks forth his praise; and shall not his intel-
ligent creatures admire and extol his infinite
wisdom and excellence!

21st. My brother and I declined going to
Mass; we passed the time very agreeably; and
I experienced true satisfaction in silence.

23rd. My brother and I rode out in the cab-
rice; he made me acquainted with some cir-
cumstances, relative to himself, that are very far
from giving me pleasure; however I must not
suffer myself to be cast down, but be firm in hope, trust and confidence.

October 12th. My brother and I sat together,
13th. We have not determined when to go, but I hope soon, as the family are in a condition of quietness, which seems not to allow a moment for serious reflection. My brother and I are considered stupid mortals, for we cannot join in the vacant laugh, noisy song, &c.

18th. It is with difficulty that I keep up an appearance of cheerfulness, for my spirits are uncommonly affected. The thought of leaving my friends here, and of seeing those in England, causes an agitation which I can scarcely endure.

22nd. On board the same vessel which brought us to this place! I have left the arms of a tender, affectionate friend, and the tears still steal down my cheeks.

23rd. Arrived safely in London last night, after a tedious voyage. We were both very ill. This morning we landed from a small boat, and drove to my uncle Smallwood's. I had scarcely sufficient strength left to embrace the tenderest of mothers!

CHAPTER III.

Return home in 1777, and memoranda during her stay there.—Removal to Wilmington, and journal while there in 1781 and 1782.

The return of Mary Capper to the paternal dwelling, was the occasion of much trial and difficulty both to herself and to her affectionate parents. She thus writes, respecting this interesting period of her life. "It was after my return from France that an obvious change took place in my manners, &c., so as to attract observation. The ceremonies of the church, when I attended with my parents and the family, affected me in a very unusual manner; I do not know that I can say painfully, but with a desire to act more conformably with what was preached. Sometimes I wept, and sometimes had to be taken out, nearly fainting; but could not describe my sensations. I had then no intention of making any change in my religious profession; but my dear mother's disappointment was keen, when, in process of time, I felt that I could not conform to what I had been taught was necessary to salvation; and kept much retired, without attending any place of worship."

About the end of the year 1777, her brother Jasper joined the Society of Friends, and in 1778, he married Anne Fry, the daughter of John Fry, of Whitechapel. In regard to these important changes, his mother remarked that, if the thing were of the Lord, it would stand; if of man, it would come to naught.

Mary Capper appears to have made very few memoranda during her stay at home; but the few which have been preserved, and which are here presented, give proof of the continued seriousness of her mind, and of her desire, under a complication of difficulties and disadvantages, to follow on to know the Lord for herself.

September 8th. 1779.

If men are born merely to live, or rather breathe, a few short years, and then fall to nothing; if virtue is only a name, or a habit required by certain modes of education, why have we a secret, unconquerable knowledge of right and wrong? If it be possible to believe that annihilation takes place, after this span of pain and sorrow, we are of all creatures the most deplorable. Brutes have capacities to desire and enjoy, but man has a reasonable soul, which is not to be satisfied with sensual gratifications. How vain! how weak is the human heart! Can a reflecting mind be ignorant of its own instability! Can the maxims of the most learned sophistry fortify us against the alluring poison of those temptations which surround us! Can speculation, or gratified passions, produce those calm, happy effects, which result from a firm dependence on a superior Power, who will reward our humble faith, or assuredly punish our arrogant pride! How amiable is the humble mind, which trusts not in its own strength, which is not above acknowledging its own weakness, and glories only in its hope and confidence in the living God!

March 12th, 1780.

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower!" O! who is like unto our God!

What am I, O Lord, what am I, that thou shouldst so wonderfully extend thy love towards me! Of myself I am worse than nothing; all weakness and contradiction! One moment, forrest in desire; the next, cold and languid in the performance of the least of thy commands. O! woe is me; who shall deliver me from this body of treachery! The Lord himself! The mighty Lord who is my strength, and my help in the time of need. He will graciously dart a ray of divine light into my soul; then shall I plainly perceive that He is the ancient of days, that was and is, and is to come; the sure Rock of defence to all that trust in Him.

How comfortable are the dawnings of divine grace! How encouraging are thy promises,
my God! Let me rest in thy truth! Give me sure confidence in thy mercy! Suffer me not to dwell in darkness! O! turn not thy wrath upon her who is insufficient to bear thy displeasure! Let me not put any confidence in my own strength; for, Lord! thou knowest my impotence; the secret thoughts of my heart are not hidden from thee! How shall I stand if thou leave me to my own guidance! but thou art wonderful in goodness, and I will trust in thy mercy. I have tasted of thy loving kindness, and my soul aspires to the fruition of joy, at thy right hand for ever. Amen.

Soon after making these memorandums, and while in a state of much conflict of mind, Mary Capper was consigned by her parents to the care of her brother James. Concerning this event she thus writes: “I went to Wilmington, in Sussex, my dear brother James being married and fixed as Rector there. His wife, who was a Biddulph, was an interesting, intelligent, pious Christian, who had her own peculiar scruples of conscience, on various subjects; and very tender was my dear brother of her feelings on these points; so that the removal into his family was some relief to me. He affectionately enquired into my religious views, and sympathized in my distress.

I had sometimes secretly attended Friends’ meetings, at Birmingham, in which I remember experiencing much brokenness of spirit; but while with my kind brother, I attended his little church. The private, as well as the more public devotion to which I was witness, wrought much consideration and deep inward thoughtfulness; especially as respected participating in what is termed the sacrament, or the Lord’s supper, as it came in usual course to be administered by my brother. It had been, on former occasions, a solemn ceremony of peculiar comfort to my longing soul; and I had much comfort and prayer that I might be satisfied whether the outward and visible sign was important to salvation. With reverence, deep humility and fear, I received the bread and wine. I do not recollect that any observation was made on my being evidently agitated. I sought no human counsel, but the satisfactory, abiding instruction on my own mind was, that the inward and spiritual grace, of which this was only the visible sign, must be something of a higher nature, not dependent upon uncertain means. The best of teachers was pleased to calm and quiet my mind on this important subject, and I no more repeated the ceremony; but these convictions and changes were no light matters to me.

Upon leaving home for Wilmington, Mary Capper resumed her journal, from which the following extracts are given:

Having passed a sleepless night I rose early, to go by the London coach; the morning was glorious, and the rising sun presented a beautiful autumnal prospect.

10th. When we reached the Castle and Falcon, London, I was rejoiced to meet my brother John, who conducted me to Gracechurch street, where my brother Jasper lives. He and Nancy expressed their satisfaction on seeing me, in terms the most affectionate, and my heart beat responsive. I was surprised and pleased to meet with M. Nicholls, whom I had known at Boulogne. I enjoyed a comfortable evening, and was relieved from all sense of fatigue by the kindness of my partial, indulgent friends.

11th. A seat being engaged for me in the Lewes coach, to set out early in the morning, it was judged best for me to sleep at the Adelphi Hotel, my brother William accompanying me as protector.

12th. I was lucky in my company in the coach; a resident in Lewes, from whom I received every possible civility during the journey, and upon our arrival obligingly introduced me to his sister, a polite, gentle woman, to whose friendly attention I am greatly indebted. Being much in want of rest, I was prevailed on to accept a bed there.

13th. Rose comfortably refreshed, and after a good breakfast, and making the best acknowledgments I could, for my entertainment, I set out for Wilmington. I greatly admire the country; the views of the fine hills diffuse a calm which induces sweet contemplation, and leads the mind to the Grand Source whence flows every pleasant stream. The beautiful valleys are a delightful contrast, and attract particular admiration.

14th. In the night the wind was very high; I like the awful sound, and find it pleasing music. A fine, calm morning. This place is delightful; the hills are beautiful, even now; covered with the finest verdure, and appear towering almost to the clouds. The north aspect commands a most extensive view; part of Kent, the wilds of Sussex, &c. My father looks remarkably well and cheerful. We enjoyed a comfortable fireside in the evening; my brother reading to us.

15th. The weather astonishingly fine and warm. Assisted to finish some necessary work; am always pleased when I am considered of any use. Tasted the sweets of an hour’s recreation; then joined the fireside, and enjoyed the pleasures of friendly intercourse with a mind at liberty, glad, and confident in the living God.

21st. My father talks of leaving us to-morrow; we shall be sorry to part with him, and his employments turn greatly to advantage;
the shady walk will be much improved by his labours.

22nd. The day fine, though cold. Rose early; my father set off between nine and ten o'clock; my brother accompanied him as far as Lewes. The original manuscript has a note affixed to this sentence, viz: "This was the last time I ever saw my dear father!"

23rd. A fine mild morning; travelled in idea with my father; admired with gratitude the beautiful scenes of nature.

27th. Mild and clear as summer; the sun shone on the tops of the hills, casting a dark shade on the valleys below; the scene was picturesque, and I enjoyed it with the calm satisfaction of a grateful heart. Rode with my brother to Eastbourne. I was charmed with the country; riding on the Downs is pleasing beyond all that I could imagine; the air is, even now, quite fragrant with wild thyme, &c. We had an extensive prospect of rich pasturage, with small villages romantically situated; and a fine view of the sea.

December 4th. Read French; in my closet, read Boyle. With a thankful spirit, I have confidence in the living God; my soul rests in his promises, and shall be satisfied. With hope and confidence I will wait the appointed time. Be steadfast, O! my soul, for the Lord regards the sincerity of thy desires; weak in thyself, be strong in faith, and fear not!

February 1st, 1782. Mounted Windsor Hill with my brother, I had no idea of the beautiful view which the hill affords; nor could I have imagined that deep snow and cold winds had such charms. Never let us complain that winter robs the plains of their beauty; each season is fraught with instruction and delight.

28th. Had a charming walk before breakfast; the sun shone gloriously, and almost every spray was vocal with the song of joyous birds. Is it possible that the midnight dances, or tiresome frolic, should exhilarate the spirits, or afford the sweet calm satisfaction which arises from the contemplation of nature? Surely no! My soul now expands and breathes in silence for the only state fittet to enjoy perfect beauty!

March 2nd. Walked near two hours before breakfast.

10th. Rose at seven; walked till nine. Went to church. Whom have I in heaven, but Thee, O! God; and there is none upon earth I would desire in comparison of Thee!

19th. Bear patiently the infirmities of others; thou must be borne with of others! 27th. Retired with my mind disquieted. How many and various are the conflicts with busy passions! folly and vanity rise up daily, and gain strength from our too flexible resistance. My King, and my God! to thee I cry for strength. Humbled by a sense of my weakness, to whom can I apply but to the Fountain of Grace! Still I have faith in his bounty. My soul waits for the living God; and when He shall have purified me by his Spirit, all shall be peace and joy! Let none trust in their own strength, but let all praise and exalt the Lord.

April 1st. In pain most of the day, but was thankful for a calm fortitude of mind, that disposed me to submit with patience. In the day of trouble I will trust in the Lord my God. Had I the eloquence of angels, I would exhort all nations to trust in the living God. Though he correct, he will never forsake the faithful.

8th. Rose before seven; it was quite an effort, but I should be sorry to fall into my former custom, of losing in sleep many hours which I find, by experience, may be used with pleasure and advantage.

21st. Employed in preparing for my brother's going to Cambridge; he thinks of being absent a month; we shall think it a long time. In the evening I retired to my closet, where I indulged the sweet satisfaction of contemplation; the beauties of nature presented themselves in an extensive view, and nature's God was the object of my grateful praise.

23rd. Walked to Falkington with my brother. Had a letter from my friend Felicité Dupont. To-morrow we purpose going to Lewes.

27th. My stay at Lewes was longer than I expected, and I feel pleased to return to my favourite scenes. Lewes, though a pretty town, is not in my estimation, comparable with Wilmington. The fashionable modes and ceremonious of the polite circles, give not the pure, simple delights arising from the study of nature; in the former pursuits, the mind seems carried from itself, and wanders in confused trifles; on the other hand, the glowing beauties of nature irresistibly lead to the great Almighty Power, whose wisdom and goodness are inexhaustible.

May 11th. Enjoyed my closet in the evening. It is wonderful that so few seem to be acquainted with the value of quiet.

18th. My brother returned; our mutual satisfaction at meeting is easier imagined than described.

21st. Spent some time in my closet. It will not be long ere the final end of all created things shall come. Watch therefore! be steadfast in prayer, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

29th. Unwell, and my spirits depressed. I earnestly wish to be patient, but I fail daily; yet will I call upon my God, my strength and my only hope.

6th. My mother received a letter from my brother William, with an account of his being fixed in a new situation. In the evening we
walked up the hill; the weather was fine, and the sky beautiful, yet was my mind in a disposi-
tion not to be pleased. In vain do I search for the cause which frequently indisposes my whole frame, and gladly would I lay aside ever-
y unamiable propensity. Our happiness would be too great, should no internal difficulties arise. Perfect serenity and peace of mind are fore-
tastes of future bliss, only permitted at seasons, to encourage our hope and strengthen our faith. Trails are necessary, that by faith and pa-
tience, we may obtain the prize of our high calling.

Although Mary Capper does not seem to have been fully aware of the cause of her fre-
quent depression, during her mother’s stay at Wilmingotn, it appears probable that no small part of it might be occasioned by the know-
ledge that her parents disapproved of the change of religious profession and practice which her brother Jasper had made, and to which her own convictions powerfully attracted her. Her father however made affectionate mention of Jasper in writing to William, as appears by the following extract of a letter to him:—

Birmingham, September 9th, 1782.

My Dear William,—I cannot say but John’s letter gave me some pangs for your dis-
appointment, though I think you judged right in rejecting the offer at Norwich. Though a suspicious temper is a disgrace to human na-
ture, yet as the world goes, it is prudent to be circumspect. It gives me pleasure that your undertaking is with the approbation of all your friends; it was sure to have mine, if likely to be for your good. You may depend on your mother rendering you every service in her power, with the utmost pleasure. Jasper may be of service to you, and it gives me pleasure to find you speak so kindly of his brotherly love, &c. True affection, love, and blessings to you all, from, dear William, your most affectionate father,

WILLIAM CAPPER.

In her journal Mary Capper continues:—

18th. “Forbear all, and thou shalt find all; leave thy inordinate desires, and thou shalt find rest.” This is no easy task; self will loudly plead her own cause; but as we keep low, and attend to the voice of Truth, there will be a for-
seeking of self, and a witnessing God to be all in all. There is a charm in the very dawns-
ings of virtue that irresistibly attracts our ad-
miration, and lends sweetly on in the pursuit of true wisdom.

19th. Walked to Milton Farm, and found them preparing for their harvest supper. The quantity provided on these occasions is really astonishning. We went to see our neighbour

King’s tables set out; they had two boiled rounds of beef, and several roasted pieces, two quaters of mutton and six legs of mutton; with six plum puddings. Their company consisted of men, women and children.

28th. My mother and I went to Lewes. *

27th. My mother left me there; she was in much better spirits than myself.

30th. We called at friend Rickman’s at the Bridge; we also went to Lambert’s, the portrait and landscape painter. Mrs. Lambert showed us the plates designed for the first number of Curtis’s botanical work; they appear exceedingly well executed.

October 1st. I had a letter from my mother, who got safe to town, and found our friends well. My brother William is very desirous to have me with him. I am distressed at the thought of leaving Mrs. Capper, nor can I per-
suade myself that my poor abilities can be any advantage to my brother; however I am ready to try my best skill in his service.

6th. Went to Church. Reflected with gra-
titude that I had neither opportunity nor strong temptation to join the giddy crowds, who seem to live wholly strangers to the still, small voice, which is not to be heard in tumult and confu-
sion.

8th. Letters from London. My brother ex-
pects me in a fortnight.

9th. We drank tea at a friendly Quaker’s, and were treated with freedom and simplicity.

10th. I have fixed to be in London this day fortnight; with reluctance I leave those scenes, where I have felt calm, peaceful delight, and with satisfaction have contemplated the beauties of simple nature; but the pleasures of the mind are confined to no place; in every situation, I am persuaded the bountiful Hand that enriches the field and the grove, ever affords subject for admiration, gratitude and praise.

17th. My brother went among the sick; though he cannot administer health, I hope the balm of comfort will be permitted to flow from his lips. The glad tidings of peace are sometimes suffered to reach the afflicted, through the faithful servants of the Lord.

27th. The last day of my residence at Wilmingotn! Words would fail to describe my feelings!

CHAPTER IV.

Residence in London till 1793.—Removal to Bir-
mingham.—Death of her mother in 1798.

In the sketch which Mary Capper subsequently gave of her early life, she remarks:

From the time that I went to live with my brother William, in London, I regularly attend-
ed Friends’ meetings, not that I was acquainted
with their peculiar religious views; indeed there seemed to be a prohibition of might but simple evidence and obedience. The experience of others did not seem to reach my case; all was to be given up, that all things might be new; all such were the sacrifices required, from time to time, as none can know or understand, save those who have been led in a similar way.

About this time, in consequence of my decided resolution to attend the meetings of Friends, my dear father (no doubt in faithfulness to his own religious views, and from the desire to rescue a poor child from apprehended error) requested me not to return to the parental roof, unless I could be satisfied to conform to the religious education which he had conscientiously given me. This, with a tender, heart-piercing remonstrance from my dear, dear mother, was far more deeply felt than I can describe; and marvellous in my view, even to this day, was the secret, firm belief that I must follow on, to know the soul's salvation for myself; truly in a way that I know not!

In this time of deep affliction, she wrote, as follows, to her only sister—

February 11th, 1783.

My very Dear Rebecca,—Must I for ever give up the dear, pleasing hope of being received into the house and affections of my own kind, indulgent parents! Oh! my sister, will you, can you despise me! I have no firm consolation but in the belief that I am guided by a superior Power. I have exerted every faculty of my mind; I have absolutely mortified my body, endeavouring to bring it to subjection, free from the influence of passion and deceiving sense; and I have a secret intuition that the kingdom of Heaven is within us; that in the silence of the creature, is the power of God made known.

Of my Rebecca; if you would examine the uniform desire of my life, the earnestness of my supplications, and my present wish of being humble, pure, wholly dependent upon God my Maker, (without any confidence in man; if you would thus consider me, without prejudice, I think you would not, could not, reject me! Of my own willings, or self abilities, I deserve little; but in my heart and understanding, I submit to a perfect Teacher; and in his Light, is my life and my hope. Think not, my Rebecca, that I have contracted ideas, which circumscribe salvation to any particular sect. God forbid! my heart is contrariwise enlarged in universal charity. Let each be satisfied in his own mind, and the censure or applause of multitudes can only be a secondary consideration, of no weight.

Would my dear parents deliberately compare my conduct with their own principles, I think they would not find that essential difference which a superficial view represents. I wish, and really mean to act as a reasonable creature; redeemed, and born to newness of life, through the death, sufferings and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; by whose intercession and promised spiritual assistance, I am encouraged and strengthened to call, and wait upon the living God. If there is presumption and self-exaltation in this faith, I am utterly at a loss how to act; for I dare not trust in man, whose breath is in his nostrils. My hope and my confidence are alone in the Redeemer of his people.

No earthly satisfaction could equal that of being approved by my dear parents; but in deed Rebecca, I cannot—cannot act contrary to what I believe tends to my advancement in faithful obedience to the law of God; the law which I find written in my own heart; for I believe, from that law shall a man be judged. When faithfully followed, it cannot, will not, lead him from the Supreme Good. Every line in Holy Writ tends to strengthen or encourage our hopes, in humble confidence in the One only Good; opening our eyes to the folly of trifling amusements, and to the vain fashions of the world. Farewell, my dear Rebecca! believe me, I never was more affectionately your sister Mary.

The foregoing letter appears to have been answered by the following from her mother.

Birmingham, February 15th, 1783.

You have kept me in painful suspense for some time, by not answering a plain, simple question; that is, whether you wished ever to return, to give comfort to a poor afflicted parent or not. You have now answered fully to your sister; but why trouble her with a repetition of the same, or to the same purport, that you had written from France? You did very well in not sending the letter you mention to have written to me, if it run in the same strain, and I am inclined to believe it doth; for my present intention is, that I shall neither read nor hear any letter or writing that shall come from you to myself or others, if I can without difficulty avoid it; in consequence of which this probably may be the last time I shall trouble you; and this I intend to be very short; for what can be said to one under such strong, enthusiastic delusion, as to declare against all prescribed rules in worship, &c., and at the same time, hath entered into a Society who do not act, speak or move, or even conduct the most trifling affairs but by precept? I mean, in anything that carries the form of religion; but you presume to have an immediate call, or direction, from that Supreme Being, whose positive command-
ment you dare to break, for the sake of a few speculative opinions, made known to you by those whom you esteem; not by persuasion; no! for that way they disclaim, but by a far more sly and insinuating way.

O! my child, I could tell you by what means they have worked upon your judgment, but I forbear, as I have not a glimpse of hope that it would be to any good purpose. Of how does my heart, as it were, die within me, when I think of the effect it will have on your poor father? What would I give that it could be kept from him! and that it may be, as long as possible, shall be my care; for my firm belief is, that if he was to know the contents of your last letter, whilst he is under his present bodily infirmity, he would hardly long survive it; but of what consequence is that to one who, I fear, fancies herself under conviction! but do reflect a little, my dear child; what is it that thee art called upon to do, or what to forego? Our most fervent desire and prayer is that you, and the rest of our dear children, should, through the Grace or Light that is afforded us by our all-gracious God, worship Him in spirit and in truth; without which, most certainly, our prayers become unprofitable, and only vain lip-labour. But there are some forms, you will say, that you cannot assent to; I will admit it may be so, and perhaps there is no system at this time existing that is entirely perfect; but I firmly believe ours to come nearer to perfection than any other. You think otherwise; so did Naaman when he prayed, that when he was performing his duty in that state of life to which he was called, and bowed in the house of Rimmon, that in that thing, the Lord would pardon him; and the prophet said, Go in peace! Three o'clock. I wrote the above last night, after your poor father was gone to bed; I thought to have written yesterday; but for some time past, he wrote a letter to your brother John, and was in good spirits; but in the night, was seized with a cold shivering, and hath ever since been very ill. He has not been up to-day, and I am now attending by his bedside; he is quiet and seems more comfortable than he has been. The great Disposer of all events only knows what may happen; but whatever it may be, I earnestly pray that He will permit me such a measure of Divine grace and assurance, as shall enable me to bear, in a Christian manner, whatever may be laid upon me.

I have run on much more than I, at first, thought to have done, when I sat down to write. I intended it to be but a very few lines. My heart still dictates much more, but I will forbear, as they will not let my child off; one convinced member, as they term it, is of more esteem in that Society than twenty born and bred in it; but I have done; farewell! may you be happy, whatever be allotted for the short remains of your mother's days!

Rebecca Capper.

One other word will drop from my pen, in spite of me. Return; return, my child! and I will receive thee with more joy than I did the first moment I beheld thee!

Deeply was her mother to be felt for, and great was the anguish with which this letter was perused; indeed this period of Mary Capper's life was seldom, if ever, alluded to by her without much emotion. The conflict was distressing; yet was she strengthened to persevere in what was clearly manifested to be the path of duty; and although her father recovered from that attack of illness, yet as he did not allow her to return home; and as his last illness was both sudden and short, she was deprived of the consolation of again seeing him, and of receiving from his own lips, an assurance of his affection. It may easily be conceived that this was indescribably trying to her; but she was enabled to lift up her heart, and to commit her cause unto Him, for whom she was thus forsaking her earthly home and parents; and He was pleased to speak peace to her afflicted soul; and in his own good time, to grant her the hundredfold, even in this life. The following memoranda, and letter, will bear witness to the state of her mind at this period, and for some time after.

London, 6th of Ninth month, 1783.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and be exceeding glad in the God of thy salvation; for he hath done great things for thee, and wonderful is his power! He hath plucked thy feet out of the mud and clay, and hath set them upon a rock; the only true foundation, throughout all ages to the end of the world! My spirit is exceedingly glad that the Lord hath heard the prayers of his handmaiden, and in great mercy, granted my earnest request. He hath strengthened me to part with all the nearest and dearest of his gifts; to sit loose from the tenderest connexions, that I may be free to fulfil the great command of loving the Lord my God, with all my heart, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

O! let none think the terms hard! our God is a God of infinite mercy; he is not a hard master, reaping where he has not sown! My soul can testify of his bounty; and my desires, and my glory, is to adore, to praise and to magnify his holy name! Amen! Amen!

24th of Fourth month, 1784.

There seems a state brought to the view of my mind, as being attainable even during our
MEMOIR OF MARY CAPPER.

[1785.

The righteous one which he worketh in us must be perfect; every will and working of the creature being laid low, God shall reign over all, blessed for ever! In this state of freedom from the dominion of sin, temptations and trials may, and assuredly will come; but as we keep close to the light of Christ, inwardly manifested, I believe we shall be preserved blameless; without spot or blemish, to the honour of our great and holy Teacher; to whom be ascribed power, majesty and praise, now and for ever. Amen!

22d of Seventh month, 1784.

The ways of the Lord are wonderful and past finding out. O! let none be weary of waiting upon him, for he will be gracious to all those who faithfully call upon him! My earnest cries have gone forth, and I believe the Lord hath heard the voice of my prayer. My groans and my tears have not been hid from him. Glory, praise and honour be to his name! Let the creature lie low, that the Creator may be all in all for ever and ever. Amen!

14th of Twelfth month, 1784.

O! how pure, how perfect is the Truth as it is in Jesus! Keep to it, O! my soul; turn neither to the right hand nor the left, but press forward, through all difficulties; for the light of Christ within thee will break forth into perfect day, if on thy part thou art steady, daunted, and of a right faith.—O! my God, help me! leave me not to the delusions, the buffetings of my soul's enemy! Keep me in the patience, that I may watch thy coming, and be found of thee. Thou art worthy to be waited upon, O! Lord, my God! in thee is my hope, and my trust for ever:

As rest to the weary traveller, so is true silence to the deeply exercised mind.

M. C.—To W. B.

11th of Third month, 1785.

DEAR FRIEND,

With propriety I believe I may use the term, dear friend, as all in the Truth seem dear to me. Since our conversation this afternoon, I have had to remember, in a very lively manner, the Lord's dealings with my soul in early life. I was at times visited with a sweet sense of purity and truth; but from my situation and mode of education, I was at a loss how to come at that which my soul seemed to see at a distance. For several years the prospect was, as it were, closed, or very rarely opened. I thought myself a useless being; and I believe sometimes almost repined that I was born; but about the twenty-third year of my age, the Lord graciously re-visited my soul; and it was, indeed, as the dry and barren wilderness, refreshed with dew. I think I cannot forget the sweet incomes of divine favour. The whole creation seemed new to me; all things spoke the love and mercies of a gracious God. Scarcely a day passed over without some sweet openings, some renewal of my great Master's consolation. I thought myself the happiest of human creatures. Thus delightfully did the God of all my mercies allure me into the wilderness! Every required sacrifice seemed ready prepared by his own hand, and I had only to wait his own time. Happy have I thought it, that he was pleased to stay my mind! When my dear, loved parents expressed their concern at my change, it was suggested to me, that for a time, it was my place to be subject in all things lawful, and way would be made where I saw no way; and far beyond my expectation, this has indeed been verified. But what seems more immediately to dwell upon my mind to communicate to thee is, that I live, in my measure, found that the Lord's merciful dealings stir up the envy and malice of our grand enemy, when our gracious Father is pleased to hide his countenance and try our faith, after having sweetly led us in the right way. Then is the enemy as one triumphing over his prey. O! how he is permitted to buffet, to terrify the poor, timid soul! My mind has sometimes been as one almost without hope; and had not the hand of the Lord been underneath, I had surely faint ed; but my spiritual eye was led to retrace the paths I had trod, and I was favoured to see the Lord's dealings, and that tribulations were appointed to the faithful followers of a crucified Jesus.

With affectionate wishes for thy prosperity in the Truth,

I am, sincerely,

MARY CAPPER.

The following brief remark is among her memoranda:—On the 2nd of the fourth month, 1785, my dear father died without my seeing him! I heard that he enquired with affection for a pair of garters which I had knit for him, and that he spoke with tenderness of me. O! this was like precious balm!

No special mention is made of a change in her mother's feelings towards her, but there is reason to believe that she gradually, from the time of her widowhood, became reconciled to her daughter's proceedings; being doubtless convinced of the rectitude of her motives; so that the way was at length made for Mary's returning to the parental dwelling.

It appears that Mary Capper was received into membership with the Society of Friends.
about the year 1785, also that she spoke as a minister in their religious meetings soon after that event. With respect to the latter circumstance, she writes: "It sometimes arose in my mind, that possibly I might have to tell unto others how I had been taught, and kept from the broad way of destruction; and a few words arising, with something of unusual power, I think at the Peel meeting, I stood up and spoke them, and felt very quiet; nor did I anticipate that such a thing might ever be required again; and thus I was led on, from time to time, not knowing but each time might be the last. About 1798, I came to reside with my dear mother, at Birmingham, and she did not object to my regularly attending Friends' meetings." The occasion of her leaving London, and going to reside with her mother, appears to have been the indisposition of the latter, and is briefly alluded to in the following extract of a letter to her from her brother William.

London, 17th of February, 1796.

My very dear sister,

I cannot delay writing to you, since you say that my silence adds to the painful sensations of your heart. Indeed, my dear Mary, if I could write anything that would alleviate one anxiety of thy dear breast, I would not let a post go without a letter. You will be glad to hear that all things in the family go on as though you were present. I called this afternoon in Berkeley Square; uncle John has had a severe fit of the gout. I spent Friday evening with Jasper and Nancy; they are well and comfortable. How could I write so much, and not once mention our dear mother? I am much grieved at the account you give of her, and hope to have a better in your next. Comfort her, my dear girl! give her my sincere duty and affection, and tell her I am happy that I had such a sister as you, to send to her consolation. Remember me in affection to brother Samuel, to his wife, and to George.

I am, dear Mary,
Thy truly affectionate brother,

William Capper.

Though very little allusion to the circumstance is found in any of Mary Capper's papers, it seems scarcely right wholly to omit the mention of a yet more costly sacrifice than any that she had previously made, which was called for at her hands, before she quitted London as her home. She had formed a strong attachment to a young man Friend, to whom she expected to be married, when she discovered that he did not set a high value on his membership in the Society of Friends, and that he was inclined for more liberty in practice than their principles allowed of. This was a most painful discovery to her; and as further communication with him proved to her, that he was one who could not fully enter into her religious feelings and views, she felt it to be her duty to break off the connexion, though it nearly cost her her life; and she could never afterwards entertain the prospect of matrimony.

The following extract from a letter of her mother's, will show how changed were her feelings towards Mary, and towards Jasper and his wife.

Birmingham, June 16th, 1798.

My dear Mary,

In answer to your last, I feel truly concerned that poor *Smallwood has fresh appearances of his disorder; and sorry I am at the disappointment which his parents must suffer. If necessary I advise, by all means, that you should attend him; for whatever my own views may have been, I readily give them all up, for the good of this poor afflicted child, and the comfort of his father and mother, to whom give my most tender love.

With respect to the other proposal that your brother and sister have signified to you, I believe the bent of your own mind must determine you; this I verily believe; that the goodness of your own heart will incline you to undertake that which is the most needful for your friends.

I have only to add, that (wherever you may fix yourself for a time) whilst you remain single, I would have you to look upon my habitation, so long as I live, as your fixed and settled home. Thank your brother Jasper, in my name, for his attention to your aunt Ch-as. Tibbets was here on Sunday; he says Rebecca is well. Believe me, dear Mary,

Your affectionate mother,

Rebecca Capper.

Mary Capper does not appear to have kept a journal regularly till after the death of her mother, but a few remarks were penned occasionally; and sometimes the petitions of an exercised soul. The following will, it is believed, be acceptable to the reader.

10th of Sixth month, 1798.

My soul! wait thou upon God; although heaviness and insensibility may perplex and distress thee, yet be not dismayed, nor weary of well-doing; for assuredly they that wait upon the Lord; that patiently and quietly wait, shall renew their strength. They shall mount upwards, they shall rise as upon eagles' wings, they shall be raised above this grovelling earth;

* The eldest son of J. and A. Capper.
† The husband of her sister Rebecca.
but it may be needful that they should feel how necessary it is to wait upon the Lord, and that with long patience and deep humility, O! Lord my God! if it be thy holy will, be pleased at this time to increase my faith and my patience, that I may more perfectly know and wait upon thee.

Eleventh month, 1790. Thou gracious Fountain of all our mercies, O! be pleased to look down upon us, and save us from our sins! Jesus, the Redeemer, has died that we might be perfected through his atoning sacrifice; let us not then make his sufferings of none effect to usward, by an evil heart of unbelief! My soul feels a weight of sorrow for my own insensibility; and many, very many, are my imperfections, particularly, O! my God! (may I call Thee my gracious Father!) I have to lament at this day, a propensity to impatience and frowardness of spirit. Gracious Father! I would confess my sins that I may be healed; but Thou knowest all my thoughts, and the devices of my heart; therefore with all my burden of infirmities, weakness and folly, I bow at the footstool of thy mercy, and hope to be kept in patient humility, waiting thy time to deliver me from my soul’s enemies; for the power is thine.

1791. At this period of my life, my faith is, that there is one God, who is supremely good, and doth good continually; that at sundry times and in divers manners throughout all ages of the world, He has been pleased to manifest Himself to the sons and daughters of men; that in this our day, He shows Himself in the glorious dispensation of the gospel; having sent his own Son to be made flesh, and dwell among men for a time, in an earthly body. Though mysterious his death and sufferings, I believe that Christ died to redeem us from sin; and that, in and through Him, believers have access to the Throne of Grace.

Eighth month, 1791. My faith being renewed in Christ Jesus, the Son and express image of the living God, I bow in humility and hope at the footstool of mercy, looking for redemption and remission of sin. O! the malady of the soul! how foul it is! There is not, in nature, an antithode to so great evil; but the Lord of life and glory came down from heaven, from the bosom of his Father, to recover lost mankind, and throw consolatory hope into the cup of human woe; made a bitter cup by man’s disobedience and pride.

Gracious, holy Father! open the blind eye! unstop the deaf ear! that we may see and acknowledge the mystery of thy condescending love!

Towards the end of the year 1793, Mary Capper appears to have been absent from Birmingham, attending upon a sick friend; during this period she received the following letters from her mother:

Birmingham, 18th September, 1793.

My Dear Mary,—I hope they will not remove the young woman till the doctor thinks it may be done with safety. Don’t be uneasy on my account. I continue tolerably well, when I am quiet; and what a blessing it is that I have it in my power to be so!

I am not so much alone as you may think, for my neighbours are kind in calling on me. Your brother George dines with me most days, comes home in good time at night, and often looks in, during the day.

Farewell, my dear Mary! I shall be truly glad to receive you, when it is proper for you to come home; but I am not impatient.

Believe me, your sincerely affectionate mother,

Rebecca Capper.

Colemore Row, 33rd September, 1793.

My Dear Mary,—I am well pleased that you may leave Park Gate, with safety to your patient. W. Shorthouse tells me he intends setting out to-morrow to conduct you. He did intimate, some time ago, a thought of taking you to Liverpool; now if circumstances coincide, I wish you to embrace the opportunity, as another may not offer. Don’t hasten home at all on my account; I seem at this moment quite well. I was out only once yesterday, for the weather was rainy, and the wind very cold. I was very much gratified, and I hope edified, by a discourse on the words of St. James, “Let patience have her perfect work.”

I am, dear Mary, your truly affectionate mother,

Rebecca Capper.

Rebecca Capper died in the twelfth month, 1793; but no particulars are known of the illness that terminated her life, or of her closing moments.

CHAPTER V.

Travels during the years 1794 to 1801.—Visits at Stoke Newington, &c.

Mary Capper appears, from the time of her mother’s decease, to have devoted herself to the service of her Divine Master; being a diligent attender of religious meetings, and travelling much to promote the spread of Truth and righteousness in various parts of this country. She was acknowledged as a minister in the early part of the year 1794. Her ministry was sound and of a spiritual character; having herself largely partaken of the conflict between
1794. Third month, 8th. I set out with a minute expressive of the concurrence of my own monthly meeting, to meet Mary Beasley at Bromsgrove, in order to unite with a committee of men Friends appointed by the quarterly meeting, to visit our monthly and preparative meetings.

19th. After attending various meetings, returned to Birmingham, where the meeting for ministers and elders was held in the evening. Ruth Fallow and Sarah Stephenson were present.

22nd. The friends of the committee met, and had a solemn opportunity of conference with us, children in the work; to our edification and encouragement. It was judged best to proceed in the engagement, previous to the yearly meeting.

24th. Monthly meeting at Shipton; the gathering was large, and measurably favoured with solemnity; to the comfort and encouragement of rightly exercised minds. We called upon some families, after which we sat awhile together, under humbling feelings; then separated to return to our several allotments, having finished the engagement; through which we had been favoured with tender unity of spirit, and we now part desiring each others welfare and growth in the Truth.

Yearly Meeting 1794.

Fifth month. 10th. Martha Roath spread before the meeting of ministers and elders, a concern to pay a religious visit to Friends and others in America; also John Wigham, a similar concern; these came under weighty consideration. In the afternoon there was a meeting for discipline, at the new meeting-house, for women Friends; the gathering, very large. Patience Chester is clerk, and Sarah Hunter assistant.

20th. An affecting epistle from women Friends in Philadelphia was read; it set forth their deep suffering and humiliation, when that city was awfully visited by the yellow fever.

21st. Attended the meeting for worship in White Hart Court, to my refreshment and comfort. Mary Ridgeway was particularly favour ed, on the words, "Be still, and know that I am God!" I was inwardly made sensible of the great need there is to keep on the watch, in these large meetings. O! saith my soul, that we little ones may be preserved in the quiet, humble, silent, resigned state! Aware of the great importance of speaking in these assem-

blies, we should wait for that which burns as a fire that will hardly be restrained.

22nd. Certificates were read, in the select meeting, expressive of concurrence with the concern of the Friends for visiting America. Some weighty counsel was given, recommending that they who speak in those meetings should be careful only to speak from necessity. The meeting broke up under a covering of solemnity; and my heart's desire is that we may study to dwell in the stillness, wherein self is abashed, and the Power of Truth exalted.

I believe that some of us are tempted to think, that unless we appear to take some active part in Truth's service, we may be looked upon by others, and perhaps by ourselves, as useless, lifeless members; but far otherwise is my judgment at this time. The humble patient traveller, who bears the burden of the word, until the right time comes for deliverance, (when the message will be accompanied by a measure of power and authority,) assuredly works essentially for the general good.

23rd. At Horleydown, gospel ministry was dispensed through Mary Ridgeway, a devoted servant. In the afternoon, several testimonies concerning deceased ministers were read, to the tendering and humbling of some minds; raising desires to run with patience, the race set before them. One was from Wales, respecting Dorothy Owen; and one from Ireland, relative to Job Scott.

24th. Our esteemed friend Samuel Emken, accompanied by another Friend, made us a very acceptable visit. The men's meeting sent us for a personal, a very interesting communication from Friends in America; some of whom, in considering the late awful visitation of some parts of that Continent, were so deeply concerned for the general good, that they had believed it required from them, to represent to the Rulers and persons in power, the necessity for their exerting their authority, to endeavour to suppress all public amusements, gaming, stage entertainments, and dram shops, as being sources of much immorality and profaneness, widely estranging the mind from God and godliness.

27th. A caution was given to be especially careful that our conversation savour not of the spirit of this world; that at a time like the present, when nation seems rising against nation, and the rumour of war sounds in our ears, we may get every one to our tent, and there wait to be rightly prepared to meet the overtures which may come; not presuming to offer our own conjectures upon events, but rather studying to be quiet, and to mind our own business; the important business of knowing a preparation to meet our God.

28th. Answers to some of the epistles were
A sentiment ran through my mind, that a day may come when we shall feel some restrictions in our correspondence; at least in the length of our communications; refraining even from good words.

We had a very acceptable visit from Thomas Shillito and others, who exhorted us to keep to the power in which our meetings were first established; that no mouth should utter words without life; but that in humble waiting upon God, we might know a being baptized into the one Spirit, wherein all are brought into true harmony.

Ann Tuke and other women friends mentioned a concern to visit the men's meeting; they had the sympathy and concurrence of feeling minds. Susanna Row accompanied them, and on their return, she expressed her satisfaction in having been with them. The meeting concluded in awful, reverent silence, and we separated under humbling impressions.

**JOURNEY IN WALES.**

1794. Eighth month, 3rd. Mary Boosley having long felt a deep concern of mind, to pay a visit to Friends in Wales, and in the county of Hereford, my mind was, after serious consideration, engaged to accompany her; for this purpose we obtained certificates. On first-day, after attending a favoured meeting at Worcester, we dined at Wick, with the parents of my friend, and parted from them in much tenderness of spirit, and in a humbling sense of our own inability for what we had in prospect. Through the care and kindness of Friends we were suitably provided. Thomas Goode, of Birmingham, was sent to accompany us through the journey, and Robert Neimension went with us to Ross. Our first stage was to Lethbury, where we lodged. One lonely woman friend, a widow, lives in the town, and received a visit from us very kindly.

Second-day. From Lethbury to Ross; at Thomas Fritchard's. Went on to Troy; we had to travel through a beautiful country, but the best life was low with us.

Third-day. Before we left William Dew's had a little glimpse of the Heavenly Father's love, on which a few words were spoken, and we separated in tenderness.

Fourth-day. Monthly meeting at Pontymoile; to which place we walked about a mile. Though but few in number, there was something of divine power to be felt, wherein we seemed to be owned as members of the living Catholic Church, which is of one spirit, and is united to the Head, Christ Jesus. My beloved friend Mary Boosley was strengthened to open, in a weighty manner, a concern to sit in the families.

Fifth-day. We came to James Lewis's, a remote situation in a valley at Lonelly, in Brecknockshire. Rough and fatiguing roads; we walked part of the way, though heavy rain made it difficult.

Sixth-day. Set out in the morning to visit Richard Harford and his wife, five miles off; the road is here esteemed good, and indeed so the main road is; but to us the rocks and precipices were alarming, though to be admired as awfuly grand. It is a railroad for the use of a coal company: meeting with their wagons and loaded horses was to me frightful; however we were favoured to get safely along. Friends receive us with much cordiality, making plentiful provision for refreshing the body; but ah! a few crumbs from our Master's table are still more desirable to us, for we are poor and stripped of inward consolation; yet flavoured quietly to hope for a brighter season. After dinner we sat with the family. If we are preserved from hurting others, or wounding ourselves, it is no small favour. O! Father, preserve us, and leave us not! for we cannot direct ourselves. In the evening, sat with James Lewis's family.

Second-day. Were favoured to leave Pontypool in peace, and came to Penhow Castle, a good old farm house, where we were very hospitably received. The mistress is a plain, agreeable person, not born in our Society, but convinced by the secret power of Truth in her own breast; we did not see her husband, who was engaged in harvest work. In this family lives a poor old man; blind, and with locks as white as wool; we spoke to him, and his remarks seemed to do us good, evincing that his mind was brought into childlike simplicity, as he, in a few words, described his own weaknesses, and entire dependence on Divine Goodness. The mistress of the house said he had lived with them for many years, and that she had seen him, at times, in the fields, apparently in a retired state of mind, with tears trickling down his cheeks. She accompanied us to Shire Newton, where was a small meeting. We sat with one friend's family, and some neighbours, who seemed disposed to receive the Truth in the love of it, as ministered by very feeble instruments, who sought not their own exaltation. Returned to Penhow by a beautiful road, with a fine view of the Bristol channel.

Third-day. The master of the house made way for his men and boys, with the maid servants, quite a large number, to come and sit down with us; and I think we may in humility confess that our Heavenly Father favoured us, in ministering, according to the ability given, and we trust to their edification. Staid all night at Newport.

I note down, as a watchword for myself, that I am this day made sensible that there is need to watch; and most especially in times of favour,
for here is danger of sliding into a state of ease.
I have this day felt the reproofs of instruction in my own mind, of not being sufficiently guarded in my conduct toward strangers. There is a propensity in some natures to be open and unreserved; but I wish to be thankful for the gentle, internal monitor, and to remember that it is needful to be prudent, especially when thus engaged in the service of the great cause of Truth; even innocent cheerfulness, if not strictly guarded, may lead into inconvenience.

Fifth-day. Came to the house of Evan Rees, Neath.
First-day, 17th. Attended the meetings at Swansea. A day of humiliation and suffering. Returned to Neath.
Second-day. Remain at our kind friend Evan Rees's; not being fully satisfied in our minds, which might be the right and safe way for us to move; we were thankful in believing that our friends felt for us.
Third-day. Prepared to re-visit Swansea; Evan Rees accompanies us; Friends are very kind. We visited the few in their families, there are young people growing up, whose situation seems to demand tender care.
Fifth-day. Came to the house of Jane Lewis, Haverfordwest.
Sixth-day. Received the unexpected intelligence of my brother Harry being called from this uncertain state of existence; his illness was short, and he has left a young wife, for whom I feel much. My dear brother was young, hardly past what is termed the bloom of life.
First-day, 4th. A low time in the meetings. In the family, felt more life and liberty; tender counsel, caution and encouragement flowed toward the children. Mary Beesley very poorly.
Second-day. It appears probable that we shall not feel clear of this place without sitting in the families of Friends. Jane Lewis accompanied us into one family.
Fourth-day. Came with Daniel Starbuck, to Pili, where Samuel Starbuck and wife, his son and daughter and their little ones reside. They were formerly from Nantucket; and in the time of the American troubles, were sufferers, with many others.
Fifth-day. At meeting; poverty of spirit my allotted portion. After dinner, walked about a mile to Milford, where Samuel Starbuck, jun., lives; his wife was sick, and we sat together in her chamber. We crossed the water, in a small boat, to visit a serious woman who frequents our meetings; her husband is a sailor; the vessel lying near shore she sent for him, and I thought we were favoured together, with a little sweet refreshment, though in a very humble hut, where outward accommodations were but mean; but I thought there was something to be felt far preferable to all that the world could bestow. Returned to Pili.
Seventh-day. Daniel Starbuck and his wife accompanied us to a family who profess with us; but the female branches having married out of our Society, the spiritual life seems to have received a check. Surely these marriages have proved a great hindrance to our brightness as a people! In these parts, in particular, it seems to have been the means of scattering. We dined with these friends, and had an opportunity to express the desire which was raised, that the power of godliness might be preferred to the form. Returned to Haverford.
First-day, 31st. At both meetings. A day not without some light and peace, though interspersed with bitters.

Ninth month 1st. Second-day. We are yet bound here. Called upon a Moravian teacher who had been to visit us; truly a uniting power spread over us, and I believe we parted in that Christian spirit which sincerely desires each others growth in the real principle of Truth. Surely there still are different dispensations, as to the outward, but one and the same spirit. In a few words, delivered in great simplicity, H. S. exhorted us, "as we had received Christ, so to walk in Him." In the afternoon, visited a serious family of Moravians, who seemed to receive us with open house and heart. We had a solid time together. In the evening we had an opportunity of solemn retirement with Jane Lewis and five of her children; something of the Heavenly Father's love was felt.
Third-day. Very considerable was our exercise in not feeling at liberty to go forward; after a season of some trial, and I trust unforgiven supplication, we believed it right to have an evening meeting; which, being mentioned in diffidence and fear to Jane Lewis and other friends, we were encouraged to appoint one. We particularly desired the attendance of servants and apprentice lads.
The gathering was large, and remarkably still. I believe there is a tender, honest minded people in this place; and assuredly the Heavenly Father's love is over them, and will gather them unto Himself.

Fourth-day. We attended the women's monthly meeting; no meeting for business held by the men; indeed the discipline is so low, that the very form is almost lost; we wish that a revival, through the power of Truth, may take place among them; seeing that many young people are growing up, who are much unformed. We rather hope the American Friends S. and A. Starbuck, &c. will be united, and add a little strength, to these feeble ones.
Fifth-day. Parted from our kind friends Jane Lewis and others, in an almost silent feeling of solemnity; our spirits seeming still, as it were,
to hover round them, earnestly desiring their growth in the spiritual life. We left them in a feeling of sadness, and pursued our journey in pensive quietness. Our kind and ancient friend Samuel Starbuck, with his valuable wife, accompanied us on horseback. Came as far as Westmore, where we were comfortably lodged in a Friend’s family, after arriving late, as the road was rough and difficult.

Seventh-day. Reached Caermarthen. The company of Samuel Starbuck and his wife, was a comfort and encouragement to us.

First-day, Ninth month 6th. We went to meeting in weakness and fear; several sober people came in, and it proved a season of flavour. In the afternoon there was a large gathering, and the power of Truth so far prevailed, that all seemed brought into a degree of solemn stillness. Some exhortations, and some plain truths, were expressed.

Second-day. Travelled through a beautiful country to Llandilo; we met Job Thomas, who conducted my friend and me to his own habitation, a very humble, thatched dwelling. We were kindly received by his wife, a native of the mountains, who speaks no English, but whose countenance bids us welcome to the best they can afford, and we feel easy. It is however somewhat painful that, as there is not room for our kind friends Samuel Starbuck and wife, they are obliged to ride a mile farther.

Third-day. Our kind, attentive friends came to breakfast with us, and we went nine miles on horseback, mostly over the mountains, to visit a man Friend; his habitation is mean, but his hearty reception of us, with his solid, innocent deportment, was ample amends for the fatigue. Our valued Friends Samuel Starbuck and wife were with us in the evening. Their company has been very acceptable, and we feel pain at parting from them, they having been more like parents to us than any we have met on our journey.

Fourth-day. We took tea with Job Thomas’s brother and sister. Some neighbours had been invited to meet at Job’s house, and a considerable number came. Job Thomas had something to express, but we sat silent; the people were quiet and solid; yet I thought they were too much looking without, for that which is to be found within.

Fifth-day. Went on horseback six miles to Newhouse, where we attended a monthly meeting; there seemed to be honest enquiring minds, but too much outward. The members of our Society are very few, and some of them appear not enough separated from the language and corruptions of general custom. The meeting for business very small; the order of the discipline meagrely preserved by Job Thomas; but things are low. In the evening came six miles, fording the river Towey, to Llandovery.

Sixth-day. Job Thomas accompanied us thirteen long miles, over rough mountain road, very difficult for a carriage; we walked a mile or two and stopped at a very poor looking thatched house; we had a comfortable dinner, well cooked, for which they charged only eight pence each. We afterwards forded the river Ivon, and came ten Welsh miles to Builth.

Seventh-day. Job Thomas left us, and the inn-keeper came guide with us to Rees Bowen’s quiet habitation. The road was rugged, and we were glad to reach the house of our kind friend, being weary in body and mind.

First-day, 13th. Walked to the Pales meeting.

Fourth-day. Set forward, but it rained smartly, and we were very wet before we reached the Friend’s house; appearances were rather discouraging, the master and mistress being from home, and a poor servant girl, with three or four children, seemed almost frightened at us; the house very mean, but like many others we have seen; and of this we hope never to utter a word of complaint; indeed we felt it to be cause for thankfulness to be received, and after a time, things became more comfortable. When the woman friend returned, she made up a good fire, and gave us some tea, with a hearty welcome, which quite satisfied us. Being fatigued, we soon retired to rest, and were accommodated far beyond our expectation, with a good bed, dry linen, &c.

Fifth-day. We had a religious opportunity with the family, under a measure of our Heavenly Father’s love. We then set out for Penclawdd; a terrifying storm of wind and rain came on, such as we had never experienced; but at length, being sometimes on horseback and at others walking, we safely reached our journey’s end, to our no small comfort. Poor, wet, dirty figures we were! so we went to bed while our clothes were dried. We here met with James Lewis, from Lanelly, who had kindly been from place to place, in order to join us; it is some encouragement to our feeble minds, when we find valuable friends so disposed to help us on our way.

Sixth-day. A season of religious retirement in the family. Walked to visit a poor man, with whom we had an affecting time, under a sense of a tried, tempted state. Left him in a very tender frame of mind.

Seventh-day. Weather bound; which is no little disappointment; however we are preserved tolerably quiet in our minds.

First-day, 12th. Sat their morning meeting; the afternoon being favourable, we returned to Rees Bowen’s, and were thankful to be once more quietly and comfortably accommodated.

Second-day. My dear friend much indis-
1794.]  
MEMOIR OF MARY CAPPER.  

posed and very low, which is discouraging to me; I strive after resignation, and hope for a brighter day.

Third-day. Mary Bensley is better; we went, on horseback, to visit two families, each consisting of a man and wife, and five children. In the evening, Timothy Berington, Thomas Colley, Joseph Gurney Bevan, and Richard Phillips, arrived very unexpectedly at Rees Bowen’s, appointed by the yearly meeting to visit the meetings in Wales; a service which I hope will prove edifying, for they are in want of help.

Fourth-day. Went to Builth, after having a meeting.

Sixth-day. The week-day meeting; a comfortable season in silent waiting.

First-day, 27th. Sat the meeting in poverty, though not without some sense of good. Father of mercies! if we are right, strengthen us still in the right to stay! if we are wrong, thy light impart, to lead and teach the better way! Surely Thou hast raised in our hearts a sincere desire to be thy obedient children! the desire after good is thine, and the work of righteousness is altogether thine; and thy power alone can carry on and perfect thy own work!

Very unexpectedly, a little light broke in upon us, as we were sitting together, retired in spirit, after some Scripture reading, and a few words, spoken in tenderness by Rees Bowen. It was a refreshment, to our drooping minds, and we retired to rest, somewhat revived.

Second-day. Rees Bowen accompanied us to the school, near Llanidloes, where we were kindly received by Robert Whitaker and his wife.

Third-day. Sat with one family. After dinner our certificates were read, before the children withdrew, and we had an opportunity of explaining to them the nature of our engagement. Had a very pleasant walk to visit the family of Richard Brown; and another family, in a very poor cottage. Our minds were comforted in these lowly cotes. We had also a time of solid retirement in spirit with Robert Whitaker and wife.

Extract of a letter from Abigail Starbuck to M. C. and M. B. received at R. B—’s.

Milled, 17th of Ninth month, 1794.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—We were much pleased to hear from you, as you have been much the companions of our conversation, since we left you in this your arduous undertaking, sincerely wishing you comfort and encouragement in your passing along; which we have no reason to doubt, as I believe your minds are engaged to discharge the trust that is committed to you. Dear Friends, I may assure you it was with reluctance we left you; for the little time that we were with you had made you feel very near to us, and we felt a near sympathy with you at parting.

We were obliged for your information of the committee’s intention of visiting us, and hope they may be the means of strengthening the weak among us, for we have need of help; though I am sensible they cannot do the work for us, (although far more experienced) but that we must each look to our own standing. It is my wish that we may; and that we were worthy to be remembered by you, and to unite in desire after strength to press forward. I believe you will be often remembered by us, in our sequestered situation and lonely situations. We are obliged to you for your care about our getting home, and can say the satisfaction we received in your company, more than compensated for the little fatigue of the journey. We found our children well. With our united love to you, in which they heartily join, your affectionate friend,

Abigail Starbuck.

Fourth-day. A very exercising time in a family; yet we had to believe that Divine love is extended, to gather the returning prodigal. Sat also with a young woman who frequents our religious meetings; her parents being present. It was a time of renewal of strength. Had a satisfactory opportunity with the children after dinner; all seemed attentive, and some tendered; as were our own spirits. Our minds have been a little refreshed in this place.

10th of First month. Fifth-day. Left Llanidloes, and came eight miles to Eskergoch, where we sat their small meeting. The accommodations very lowly; we had a little refreshment with us, after partaking of which, and distributing our morsel, came twelve miles to Machynlleth. Richard Brown accompanied us; his pleasant countenance and his solid conduct, seemed to do us good.

Sixth-day. The morning wet, but we set forward with our acceptable guide; afternoon fine; got to Llyweds, and were kindly received at the house of Henry Owen, which is surrounded by huge rocks; with a grand view of Cardigan Bay.

First-day, 4th of Tenth month. The meetings were held at Henry Owen’s; some sober people attended.

Second-day. We set out, accompanied by Henry Owen and wife, and our pleasant guide, Richard Brown. I rode single; the road rugged and stony, surrounded by prodigious mountains, with precipices, and the sea rolling below; the appearance awful, but my mind was preserved from apprehension of danger, which was no small favour. After emerging from
between lofty rocks, just at twilight, Dolgelley appeared rather a pleasant spot, though it is a poor mean town.

Third-day. Went to a meeting appointed at Tydlyn-y-garreg; but few Friends. After some conflict, we gave up to what we apprehended might tend to peace; and accompanied by Richard Brown, proceeded to sit in the families separately, and were favoured to get through to satisfaction.

Fifth-day. Breakfasted at Welchpool, where we parted, in mutual tenderness, from our kind guide Richard Brown. The country now open and beautiful, but my thoughts were much with the inhabitants of the mountains. Reached Shrewsbury. Buildings and signs of opulence, very different from what we have left. Our minds in a low spot; though through condescending mercy, no railing accusation disturbed our measure of peace.

Sixth-day. The few Friends met us here. Received letters.

Among these was one from Abigail Starbuck, of which the following is an extract.

Milled, 10th of Tenth month, 1794.

DEAR AND DEAREST FRIEND, MARY BRESELEY—We have been anxious to hear how you get along, and we had the pleasure to hear from you by the Friends that visited this quarter; their concern was to strengthen what remained, and to endeavour to build up the waste places, and to encourage us in a diligent perseverance in the Truth. It appeared to me that their counsel and admonition was dropped in much caution and tenderness, and I hope it may be attended to by us all. Their visit was truly acceptable.

My dear friend, I feel myself much obliged to thee for thy tender counsel and advice to our son Samuel, and hope it may make lasting impression on his mind. It is my desire, for mine, that they may be enabled to make straight steps, having their eye single, to that which is able to preserve from the snares and temptations which may present; and as for us that are advanced in years, though we are far short of being as way-marks, it is my desire that we may so conduct ourselves as not to be stumbling-blocks; but that we may endeavour to press forward, though many times under a sense of our own weakness and unworthiness, feeling desires to unite with the living, and to be favoured to partake of the crumbs which fall from their tables.

Samuel desires gratefully to acknowledge thy kindness to him; and Daniel presents his dear love to both his beloved friends, he was pleased to hear of their being at Llandidnoes, and would be obliged by their opinion respecting the school.

Seventh-day. Set out for Coalbrookdale; good road and fine country; the Severn winds beautifully. Not a little gratified in meeting with our very kind friend, Richard Reynolds, his wife, and dear P. H. Gurney.

First-day, 11th. Sat the preparative and other meetings.

Second-day. Called at two schools, supported by the Dale Friends, for the instruction of poor children. It was pleasant to sit with the children, and to observe the care exercised, toward them. We then walked to the cottage, a quiet retreat; we were accompanied by dear P. H. Gurney, who has an apartment at the cottage, for her own accommodation, furnished in simplicity.

Fourth-day. Several Friends accompanied us to their monthly meeting, at Shrewsbury. A small gathering.

Sixth-day. Came to the house of T. Waring, at Leominster. Our mare failing in strength, we judged it best to send her to Worcester, under the care of our attentive and constant guide, Thomas Goode, whom we also think it right to set at liberty to return home. We have to acknowledge his uniformly obliging care towards us, throughout our long journey.

Seventh-day. Again set our faces toward the mountains, to attend an adjourned monthly meeting, at the Pales, in Radnorshire. William Young was so kind as to accompany us. Got to Rees Bowen's about dusk.

First-day, 18th. Agreeably surprised to see Richard Brown, who had come to meet us. Several sober people attended the meeting, to our satisfaction, and we hope in no way to their own hurt. At the meeting for discipline, most of the few members and their children were present, and we have some ground to think it was a favoured opportunity, to our encouragement. The hands of the very few rightly concerned Friends in these parts stand in need of strengthening, and the dear children of instruction.

20th. A beautiful day for our return to Leominster.

21st. At meeting. A weighty part of our concern remains to be accomplished; that of sitting in the families of Friends of this county.

23rd. Entered on the service; the company of our friend William Young is very acceptable to us.

24th. Simple obedience to apprehended requiring is no small exercise; but worthy is the Lord to be waited upon, and in humility obeyed!

29th. Came to meeting at Bromyard.
30th. A day of humiliation and poverty of spirit. Sat with the families; in the evening favoured with a peaceful calm.

Eleventh month 1st. Came to Thomas Pritchard's at Ross.

4th. A little favoured with that which tenders and contrites the hard heart; which is not at our command, but is very precious, and worth waiting for.

6th. Went ten miles to visit a family; very affecting was the situation of the man Friend; amending, in much contrition, time passed, with faculties abused; an awful lesson!

10th. Rode on horseback to Cowkerry, and sat with the family; this concludes the engagement here. My mind is in a low spot; but upon a retrospection, do not feel condemnation, but encouragement to continued prayer to the Father of mercies, that I may be a humble, patient believer, sitting at the footstool of Divine grace.

11th. We have not felt at liberty to leave this place, to-morrow being the monthly meeting. If favoured with a little renewal of strength to our edification, we shall not murmur, though we feel it desirable to reach our journey's end.

12th. Set the meetings under close exercise; we trust that our desires were honest, and the rest we must leave; but O! may the Father of mercies more and more manifest of his own wisdom and pure righteousness, in the secret of our hearts; and may we who profess the Truth, be humble, patient and faithful!

14th. Favoured at Worcester meeting, with inward comfort and peace.

Soon after the conclusion of this journey, Mary Capper went to pay a visit to her brother Jasper, at Stoke Newington, during which she wrote as follows—

1796. First month, 4th day.

As I rode this evening from London to Stoke Newington, it came under my consideration whether it might not be profitable to myself, or in some measure to the dear children with whom my lot is now cast, to take some written account of my daily thoughts and actions, with the most prevailing dispositions of my mind. It is under humiliating apprehensions that I enter upon this work, as I mean to be honest in the main, though I often think it a favour that we are not obliged to tell all we think; for strange is the motley throng of human thoughts!

This morning after walking to town with my brother, Molly* and the children, went to meeting, where our friend Thomas Scattergood was favoured, in gospel love and power, largely to minister instruction, consolation and encouragement to the devoted in heart; particularly to the young and the rising generation; and I think that according to my measures, my desires were sincere and earnest that the dear children (some of whose minds I am persuaded are favoured with pious impressions,) may be rightly encouraged to hold on their way, in holy integrity.

In the afternoon, after some conflict of doubts and fears, I ventured to express a few words; whether under right influence I must leave to Him who judgeth in mercy; but for this sweet, consolatory word mercy, as a distinguishing attribute of our Creator and Redeemer, surely my heart would faint within me! At the close of the day, while my sister was reading the Scriptures, my mind was favoured with a little overflowing tenderness.

Second-day. I attended the morning meeting. I trust it was not an unprofitable season; it is not pleasant, but I believe it is well for us to be sifted as wheat.

Third-day. Favoured with a renewed desire to walk in humility, simplicity and faithfulness, under which I felt affectionately united to the dear children, their beloved mother, &c.

The children went to their grandmother's, and Elizabeth Fry, with her daughter Elizabeth, took tea here, I thought their company pleasant. In the evening my brother read some chapters of the Bible to us, and my mind was comforted. In humble gratitude I may note that, during the greater part of this day, I have been, through adorable mercy favoured, with a secret hope of preservation, and desire after it; of myself nothing; but in mercy, not consumed!

Fourth-day. Without much hesitation, left my bed soon after six. Had a gentle reproof from my niece Rebecca, for being too long in dressing; she seemed to think I had lost some time, which I might have employed in improving myself with her, in the French language; we read together before breakfast. Went to town; it was monthly meeting. Desires that I may be favoured to distinguish the voice of the true Shepherd from the voice of the stranger, and that I may be made humble, willing and obedient.

Fifth-day. In the Scripture reading and solemn pause, my mind was comforted. My brother was so kind as to read us a little account of the method, pursued by himself and my sister, in the instruction and education of their children. With some parts my mind was much affected, even to tears; and a language arose in my heart, O! that all parents were thus solidly concerned for the good of their offspring! As I look toward my other near and dear relatives.

* Mary Whiting, afterwards Harling; for thirteen years the faithful and beloved nurse in J. C.'s family; and one to whom Mary Capper was much attached.
who stand in this important station, and towards those who are unmarried, my desire is that genuine religion, in its true spirit and power, may so work upon their minds as to open their understandings in the way that is right, and that will lead to peace, when the world, and all its gay, busy scenes, shall vanish as a dream.

Sixth-day. Dear Rebecca showed some disposition to self-will and ill-humour at her studies this morning; in the evening, in some ten- dencies of spirit, I mingled my tears with hers, I trust to our mutual comfort, and renewed encouragement to strive against the evil propensities of our nature, and to wrestle for the everlasting blessing. Experienced sweet reviving hope and faith, while my brother read a portion of the prophecies of Habakkuk. Retrieved to rest in peace.

First-day, 11th. At meeting, my mind rather insensible to good, but kept alive in the secret hope and belief, that none ever sought the Lord in vain, though He is pleased at times to hide the light of his countenance from his waiting, dependent children. In simplicity, humility and faith is our safety.

Third-day. Still favoured with desires after preservation, and with some sense of my own weakness, and utter inability to help or save myself. Felt also a strong and affectionate desire for the best welfare of my near and very dear relatives.

Fourth-day. After the usual reading, M. Whiting walked with me to Tottenham meeting. A little act of obedience to apprehended duty, in visiting a family under affliction, seems to have relieved my mind from some oppression; and the kindness of some friends was comforting to me. May the Fountain and Father of living mercies be pleased, in his own free grace, to preserve me, with all his little ones, in simplicity and in true lowliness, and in obedience to his own requiring; in doing condescending mercy, giving us to distinguish what is his holy will concerning us!

Sixth-day. The first breathing of my spirit was after preservation from all evil, and that I might more fully know the Power that leads from every hurtful thing. In the afternoon the little girls and I visited some poor families, and had a degree of sweet satisfaction in being empowered to give some relief. Great are the necessities of the poor at this day; added to the extreme severity of the weather; every article of food is at a high price; a quarten loaf is 1s. 5d.; much is done by subscription, to alleviate their sufferings, much is wanted.

Seventh-day. In my private cogitations, found self still living, and that its branches shoot in all directions, and still want the pruning knife. One of the dear children a little untoward; but upon retiring to rest, after lying awhile upon the pillow, tenderness and contrition were granted. Precious are the evidences of a broken heart and contrite spirit; it is my joy to be permitted feelingly to participate.

19th. Second-day. Another little girl added to my sister's olive branches. My niece Rebecca, with her little sister Katharine, went to Plashett, with their aunt Fry. The dear remaining children were as quiet as might be expected, but I felt myself a very poor substitute among them, and was rather uncomfortable. I endeavoured to fill my sister's station, by attending to the little one's lessons. In the afternoon more at leisure, and enjoyed the repose; in the evening the subject of our reading was very affecting; relative to some of the grievous iniquities of the Slave Trade. O! how cruel is the human heart, when not changed by the power of God! I feel and under the consideration.

Sixth-day. The night was so intensely cold that I could scarcely sleep; what then must be the sufferings of the half-clothed and hungry poor!

A French lesson before breakfast; read afterwards in the Epistle to the Hebrews. The children, at their usual occupations, did not give much trouble, but my mind was anxious and not comfortable. I seemed to wish for more ability to instruct the young mind, and felt myself very ignorant in divers useful things. I thought it would be pleasant to be learned, without the trouble of learning; as in a higher concern, it is desirable to be humble, but who is there that likes to be humbled?

25th. First-day. Walked to town; on our way there and back, my nephew Samuel and I called upon some poor families, and gave a little, through the bounty of a Friend in London. The long continued severity of the weather calls for consideration of the poor. The river is so frozen that the banks are covered with a thick layer of snow. Coals are three shillings per bushel, and I am told that some of the poor buy them by the quart. Thermometer twenty-one degrees below the freezing point.

A warm desire has been raised in my heart, on my own account, that I may both be preserved from offering the sacrifice of fools, and from keeping back what may be compared to the small tithes, when they are really required at my hands. O! for a right spirit, and a discerning judgment!

28th. The meeting proved a time of conflict. Surely our spiritual enemies are lively! Still I have hope in the promises. The Redeemer of men is my Captain and my Saviour. O! may my spirit cleave unto him, then will my soul be kept from the jaws of the devourer. Elizabeth Fry took me back to Newington. In the evening my mind was not in a desirable state.
I spoke to my niece Rebecca in a wrong manner; which upon cool reflection, I was made willing to acknowledge and condemn. Of the implications which fallen nature stands in need of.

29th. Surely our Heavenly Father deals graciously with us, when He discovers to us our insufficiency, our weakness and our dependent state! During the morning’s reading and retirement, my spirit was raised in desire to follow our spiritual Joshua, that I may witness all the polluted inhabitants to be destroyed; and I wished the dear children might be fed with the sincere milk of the word, and grow thereby, so as to become valiant in resisting evil.

31st. A dawn of fresh comfort this morning, and the day passed in more tranquility than some preceding ones. It seems probable that my sister may soon be restored to her important station in the family. May she grow in spiritual strength!

Second month, 1st. First-day. Mild but gloomy morning. We walked to town; the meetings were dull. If the great Lord and Master shine not in upon our souls, how is our brightness obscured? yet though he tarry, let us wait for Him. I dined with Elizabeth Bevington, and lodged with A. Christy. In the evening we had a time of retirement, in which I felt a glow of desire that the dear young people might press through every discouragement, and follow their spiritual Leader. And O, gracious Behaviour! preserve and lead me also; that while I apprehend it right to speak unto others, I myself become not a castaway.

Third-day. Our usual engagements gone through with calmness. M. Whiting and I visited several poor, and relieved their wants, through the bounty of others; to our gratification and their comfort. Coals and provisions still advancing in price, and many are thrown out of work by the frost.

Fourth day. My nephew Samuel accompanied me to distribute to the sick and distressed. In the evening, as I was sitting by the bed-side of one of the dear children, and reflecting on the prevailing disposition of my mind during the day, I was favoured with brokenness in the recollection that hasty and impatient expressions had escaped my lips, to my own hurt and that of these dear child, who gently, and with becoming diffidence, became my instructor. Sweet and very precious is such a monitor, and my desire is that I may really profit.

Sixth-day. “The word of the Lord is quick and powerful; a reprover of evil, discerning and manifesting the thoughts; and I have believed it no small favour to be made sensible of such a secret Power. This morning the dear children not quite so well disposed for application as at some times; but who is uniformly disposed toward good? There is need of patience, both with ourselves and others.

12th. Very severely cold. At the morning reading and retirement, a little secret hope arose, that the power and mercy of our Heavenly Father was extended toward us. My sister went through some of the children’s lessons; they also studied with their master. A liberal and guarded education, under the eye of judicious and well informed parents or teachers, appears to me no slight privilege, where the young mind is preserved from imbibing false ideas, and is instructed as to the different natures of things, with a foundation of useful knowledge, instead of that superficial learning which puffis up, and does not profit. Rebecca and I visited some poor families, and had the comfort of finding them in improved circumstances.

28th. Second-day. The morning meeting was a time of solemnity and instruction. Dined at Joseph Smith’s, with T. Scattergood and William Crotch. Called on a sick friend and was comforted. The frost seems again broken up; dreadful have been the accounts of floods in various parts, and complicated are the distresses of many.

Third-day. My brother far from well.

Fifth-day. In the night he was much worse, and our distress was great, yet something of resignation was felt; my dear brother expressed that if the time of separation was come, he had nothing to depend on but mercy; and indeed I believed that, had he then breathed his last, he would have been received into the arms of descending Mercy. He has been very weak to-day, though in a favoured, tender frame of spirit. If we dare desire, it is for his restoration; nevertheless resignation is our lesson, and may the great Master give us ability to learn, Himself being our Teacher.

Sixth-day. My beloved brother is much better, and it appears likely that he may be spared a little longer, to fill the important stations of husband and father; which is no small favour. I think my spirit craves for him, as for my own soul, that we may find a Redeemer’s love and mercy, to strengthen and sustain, in every succeeding combat with flesh and blood, which can never enter the kingdom of rest and peace. My purpose of leaving this family, so as to be at my own quarterly meeting at Birmingham, brings me into a strait; nor have I yet fully determined.

Seventh-day. My brother continues to improve. In the evening we were favoured with a little quiet waiting in his chamber; wherein my mind was affected with a sense of our Heavenly Father’s love, and gracious design, in
handing the cup of affliction. My dear Rebecca was particularly brought near to my best feelings, and some remarks, made in our little private retreat together, affected me; surely the dear child is under the preparing, purifying Hand! May all the dear children be preserved from every thing that can harm them!

Third month 1st. London, first-day. I have this day thought it matters little what we suffer, if it have but a tendency to stay our minds upon God. The two little girls and I rode to town; there was much snow. In the evening we had a time of retirement. It is our design to stop a day or two with my brother and sister in Martin's Lane, as I still think of returning to Birmingham soon.

Third-day. The weather still cold and gloomy. I attended Devonshire House meeting; a solid opportunity. My dear little girls rather too much dissipated, to the hurt, as I thought, of their own peace, and to my dissatisfaction.

4th. Fourth-day. We attended Gracechurch street monthly meeting. Went to see my dear brother Jasper, and were comforted to find him better. I think I feel desires for our growth in the Truth, and establishment therein. In the prospect of leaving, I may add, that my visit has been some help, strength and encouragement, to my feeble mind.

Extract of a letter from Jasper Capper to Mary Capper.

Stoke Newington, 10th of Third month. 1796.

MY DEAR SISTER,—I feel inclined to write to thee, though at present, I see but one sentence before me; which is, that since our separation, the little sittings we were favoured to have during thy visit, have returned with savour to my recollection; and some words then dropped have seemed to yield secret nourishment; particularly those recommending us not to look for great manifestations, but to keep little and low. I have been, many times of late, made prisoner under the cruel hands of Giant Despair; that is, so far as Doubting Castle; yet through mercy, not given over into his power. Now and then a dawn of hope revives my soul; and having no other refuge but mercy, through Jesus Christ, who “came into the world to save sinners,” I endeavoured to hold fast this confidence.

No further memoranda occur till the summer of next year.

Birmingham, 1796. Sixth month 21st. Returned to my lodgings, after having been absent two months or more, in which time I have visited agreeably and I hope not unprofitably to myself, some of my friends, attended the yearly meeting, and stayed some time with my brother Jasper's family; setting my brother and sister at liberty to make a little excursion among their friends and relations in Wiltshire, &c.

27th. Called at Bingley, and saw our suffering friend P. Farmer, who appears near her end; long and trying has been her bodily affliction, and exemplary her patience, through the aid of that Divine power that helps us in our infirmities.

Seventh month 3rd. I have spent a few days agreeably with T., and E. Biddle. My mind is under an increasing weight of concern, in the prospect of joining some Friends, in a religious visit to the families of our monthly meeting.

7th. An evening meeting was held, at the request of William Savery, from America.

8th. Our conflicting friend, P. Farmer, was released. Dined at Samuel Baker's, with William Savery, with whom I felt a sweet fellowship. Secretly and earnestly engaged in desire for preservation; and if it be meet, enlargement in thy law, O! my Heavenly Father.

13th. Laid before the monthly meeting my prospect of joining in a religious visit to the families of Friends.

14th. We proceeded in the visit, and were encouraged to go forward in the strength granted; not looking to ourselves. John Southall and Mary Beasley are our companions.

Ninth month 6th. Concluded the family visit. I have little to say, but have a humble hope that mercy will yet be extended to myself, a poor unworthy servant.

Third month 5th, 1797. Our valued friend John Southall was removed by death. I look back with comfort to his simple, humble dedication; and I have also felt a little consolation in having accompanied him last summer in the visit to the families of this monthly meeting.

22nd. Our friends Ruth Fallowes and John Cash, sat our meeting; examples of silent retirement in spirit.

26th. Ruth Fallowes left us. I wish instruc-tively to remember her quiet example under suffering.

Fifth month 12th. Having heard of the death of our much valued friend Hannah Burgess, I think to set out for Leicester to-morrow, in order to be at the interment at Oakham, and to proceed to the yearly meeting.

13th. Reached Leicester, and was kindly helped forward by John Priestman, to Ridington Park, a house of solemn mourning. John Cash and William and Henry Tuke, attended the burial.

London. The yearly meeting was well attended, and in some of its sittings, much solemnity was to be felt; to some of us it was a very humbling time, but perhaps not unprofitable.
MEMOIR OF MARY CAPPER.

1797.

George Dillwyn, David Sands and William Savery, gave a satisfactory account of a religious visit which they had paid in some parts of Germany and France. Mary Beesley left London soon after the close of the yearly meeting, but my mind seemed, from the little I could feel, still bound to London. I have attended various meetings, and hope I have from time to time been instructed and strengthened to hold on; in the renewed belief that it is good to wait, and quietly to hope, and to be patient, when we are tried and sifted as wheat.

After some consideration, I thought I might be doing my brother and sister a kindness by staying with their family, and setting them at liberty to attend the general meeting at Ackworth, &c. They were about six weeks.

Nineteenth month 2nd. I left Stoke Newington and came to Hertford. Went to Special West’s, in his little cart; found them in pretty good health, and in more comfortable outward circumstances than formerly. I believe their concern for the welfare and prosperity of Zion and her travellers, is still alive and daily cherished.

8th. A certificate was brought in to the monthly meeting for signature, expressive of unity with Mary Fryer, in her concern to visit some parts of America.

8th. Concluded it best to proceed homeward, having for some time had a view of accompanying Mary Beesley in a visit to some of the meetings of Friends in Worcestershire and Herefordshire; with which I had acquainted my friends. John Fry was so kind as to bring me to Luton, in Bedfordshire. I was very kindly received, entertained, and I may add comforted, at the house of Daniel Brown; their son took me to Dunstable.

11th. Came home by coach; ’tis pleasant to return in safety; for this favour I am thankful.

13th. At the monthly meeting, spread my prospect before my friends, with a sincere desire to have their judgment and feeling, and to submit thereto.

25th. Quarterly meeting at Leicester. Some moans were entrusted to women Friends for distribution. It is a right and a good thing to inspect, and cheerfully to relieve, the necessities of our poor.

Twelfth month 2nd. Arrived at Wick, and found my dear friend Mary Beesley tolerably well.

8th. First-day. We were at a meeting at Almerly, a spot where none of our Society now reside. We hope that neither the cause that we were engaged freely to support, nor the mind of any honest enquirer, was wounded. The company of our valued friend William Young, with some others from Leominster was particularly acceptable. We sat a meeting at Leominster in the evening, with Friends and others.

10th. Set out for Ross and arrived late.

11th. We attended the monthly meeting, and called on Thomas Pritchard, who is very unwell, but in a lively, tender frame of mind; expressing his humble desire for daily supplies of patience, that he may bear his afflictions with propriety. We thought it a lesson of instruction.

16th. At Stourbridge monthly meeting. Approaching it right for us to propose sitting with Friends in their families, it was concurred with; Elizabeth Lowe joined us, which was helpful to us.

24th. Proceeding with the work. There are seasons when these times of retirement in families are made refreshing to both visitors and visited. The means in view is, that all within us may be humbled, and our spirits contrite, and sweetly united in a harmonious labour for the prosperity of Truth in ourselves and others.

25th. Dudley. We have been closely engaged; not loitering, but humbly desiring, as enabled, to help and to be helped.

28th. Stourbridge. Visited two very poor creatures, from misconduct and mismanagement. They have been disunited from our Society, not marrying members of it, nor showing any regard for its excellent order or wholesome discipline; yet to such as these, tenderness and love should be extended; and I thought we felt, in one of these opportunities, that precious, sacred influence which breaks the hard heart; and this condescending favour is worth seeking for. O, how it unites! how it humbles the families of the whole earth, when submitted to; without distinction of high or low, rich or poor!

30th. Left Stourbridge; not without painful feelings, as it did not seem a time for our minds to obtain full relief.

Edreenth month 2nd. Came to Worcester, and dined at T. Bevington’s, where we met with Sarah Stephenson, Mary Jeffries, Ann Hunt and Elizabeth Bevington; the two former were engaged in a visit to the families of Friends in this place.

In the afternoon we came to Wick, and passed the evening quietly together.

8th. Mary Beesley returned her minute to the monthly meeting. I concluded to remain awhile with her, as her mother is from home.

Twelfth month 2nd. Returned to my own comfortable home.

3rd. First-day. Sarah Lynes, a very young ministering Friend, was at our meeting.

13th. Sarah Lynes attended our monthly meeting, and was largely engaged in the ministry. Ann Baker requested the concurrence of
Friends in her desire to accompany Sarah Lynes.

18th. Our quarterly meeting at Coventry. Sarah Lynes engaged in stirring up the members of our Society to a closer attention to the pure principle of Truth, as we profess it.

20th. As Sarah Lynes had a meeting in the evening, we thought it might be right for M. B. and me to stay here, and endeavour to strengthen her hands. The meeting was large.

22nd. Sarah Lynes was concerned to go into the market and call the people to amendment of life, &c. During our stay at Coventry, we attended several meetings appointed by her, and accompanied her to visit the prisoners in the county gaol; an affecting scene!

29th. We returned to Birmingham.

1788. First month 1st. My beloved friend Mary Beesley left me.

Third month 23rd. Attended the interment of Sarah Atkins, Jun., at Chipping Norton. William Savory was unexpectedly there. Went to the quarterly meeting at Worcester, and afterwards spent a few solitary days at Wick, my dear friend Mary Beesley being at Worcester, fitting up some rooms which she has taken for a residence.

I stayed several weeks with M. B. in her new home, and found the accommodations comfortable. With peace of mind, all places and all circumstances are made more supportable than we may anticipate.

While at Worcester, Mary Capper thus addressed her endeared friends Ann Baker and Sarah Lynes, who were still labouring together in the work of the ministry.

Worcester, 28th of Fourth month, 1788.

DEAR LOVED ANN AND SARAH,—How very often have you been the subject of our thoughts! We have spoken of you, I believe, daily, and yet more often secretly breathed in spirit that the Father of mercies might be with you; the account of your exercises affects us with an awful sense of Divine condescension and care, renewedly manifested on your behalf. We have often to believe that it is your meat and drink to do your Heavenly Father’s will, and that you have, at times, to partake of food which the world knows not of; but we are ready to fear that natural strength must sink under such exertions; nevertheless we desire to trust in that Power that constrains, and also abilities, far beyond our comprehension; so may you be directed, helped and strengthened! In unfeigned affection,

M. C.

Seventh month 11th. Requested permission, from my monthly meeting, to accompany Mary Beesley in a visit to Friends of Bristol, &c.

22nd. First-day. After our morning meeting, I walked to Wednesbury, Deborah Darby and Rebecca Young having an evening meeting there; it was very fully attended, and proved a solemn time. Of all that might profit by opportunities like these, and gather to God.

Eighth month 22nd. At the monthly meeting at Atherstone; received my certificate. It is my desire to have the unity of my friends, in all these important concerns.

23rd. I thought our meeting was favoured with a renewed sense of our Heavenly Father’s regard; such seasons incite us to hope and persevere under discouragement. Mary Lloyd was enabled to supplicate at the footstool of mercy.

Ninth month 17th. Mary Beesley and I had a meeting at Gloucester, and then proceeded to Bristol, where we were accommodated at Thomas Pritchard’s, and attended the quarterly meeting.

24th. Were at the quarterly meeting at Melksham, from whence we went to Exeter, and sat the meetings on first-day. Our valuable friend Ann Byrd was with us at these meetings, and at the quarterly meeting at Kingsbridge, where she was a help and strength to us. The young men were, in a particular manner, warned and tenderly exhorted, on the subject of unbelief. A dark and subtle spirit of scepticism seems, as it were, to lose itself in many places. O may the God of Truth preserve us.

Tenth month 9th. We were at Thomas Fox’s, Wellington; sat with the families there, and had a meeting with Thomas Fox’s work people. Went to Milverton; sat in the families, and had times of religious retirement in the two schools; the children were remarkably sedate, and some of them tendered in spirit.

17th. Came to Taunton, where I saw my nephew Edward Capper, (the son of my brother John,) who was stationed there, having enlisted under the banner of man.

29th. Came to Bridgewater, indisposed from a cold, and under trial of mind, having felt a secret impulse to visit the prisoners in the gaol at Ilchester; but a fear took hold of my mind, lest we should undertake such a thing without right qualification; or that having heard of others being so led, we might mistake tender sympathy for a call of duty. Under this secret fear, I did not strengthen my beloved friend in her apprehension of duty, but rather desired that we might again try the fleece; so we went to Bridgewater, where we passed a tried week, finding our way closed up. We then judged it best to open our minds to a few Friends, who, to my admiration, felt for and with us, and pointed out a way for our relief. Richard Bull wrote to John Hipsley, who came to us and accompanied us to Ilchester. He spoke to the
Eleventh month 22nd. Came home to the house of our kind and fatherly companion, and friend Josiah Naish, who has been with us a considerable time.

29th. At the monthly meeting at Claverham, and sat in some families; but receiving information from Worcester, of the death of H. Bessley, and of the alarming illness of Joseph Bessley, after deliberate consideration, with the concurrence of our friends, we concluded to go to Worcester.

30th. At Worcester, had the satisfaction to find our valued friend better.

Twelfth month 10th. Came home to Birmingham.

31st. Went to Worcester. Visited the poor unhappy prisoners in the castle. Mary Bessley's state of health, a heavy fall of snow, and other impediments, detained us long from our journey.

1799. Third month 9th. We set forward.

31st. At Glastonbury, Joseph Naish joined us.

Fourth month 2nd. We went to Compton, passing through Ilchester. We remembered our feelings there, and were depressed.

3rd. At the monthly meeting at Yovil. Returning to Ilchester, we gained admittance into the jail, to visit the three poor unhappy men, who were to be hanged in a few days. Oh! wretched, wretched man, when separated from the love of God in Christ Jesus! 9th. Came to Bristol quarterly meeting.

12th. We went to Newgate, accompanied by several Friends. It proved a solemn time of warning, exhortation and encouragement, to the poor prisoners; Oh! that men would fear the Lord, and walk as in his presence.

13th. With Samuel Dyer, Mary Dudley and others, we visited the asylums for the blind, and for orphans; in both places there were religious communications.

Dear Mary Bessley alarmingly unwell, which occasioned a painful delay of two weeks; but every dispensation, if rightly submitted to, is profitable. When she had a little recovered, we ventured out together, and were at the small meeting of Lawrence Weston; dined at John Harford's, Blaine Castle, and had an opportunity of serious communication in the family.

30th. At the monthly meeting, at Bristol, where we proposed going into the families of Friends in the city. After so doing we felt our minds, through condescending favour, humbly and quietly stayed, in the secret hope that we should be helped forward in the line of duty, through all discouragements.

Fifth month 4th. We came to the house of our very valuable friend Joseph Naish, who accompanied us to the families at Claverham, Yatton and Sidcot.

16th. We came again to Bristol, where we met our dear friends Sarah Harrison and Ann Byrd. They, like tender, nursing mothers, entreated us kindly, and cheered our drooping minds, with the language of encouragement.

19th. First-day. We entered upon the serious business of visiting the families, also the schools, and the house of reception for the destitute and vagabond poor.

We remained in and about Bristol for three months, and on the 27th of eighth month, left our kind friend Thomas Priesthard's with quiet and thankful minds.

Ninth month 4th. We reached Worcester; and although we feel poor and unworthy, yet we can humbly acknowledge that the gracious Creator and Preserver of men is ever worthy to be served.

10th. Returned to my own home.

1800. First month 2nd. This year is ushered in with dearness of all provisions. The poor are helped by the establishment of soup shops, and have a quart of good soup for a penny; some of the respectable inhabitants attend, to serve it out and keep good order. This mode of relief gives much satisfaction.

12th. First-day. At Gracechurch street meeting. Thomas Scattergood was engaged in the ministry, in language somewhat prophetic of a trying day to come, and earnest exhortation to be prepared for it. I saw and spoke to Sarah Lynes. She continues to exercise her extraordinary gift, and has lately visited the families of Friends of this meeting with Susanna Horne.

Second month 1st. Mary Pryor and her daughter Savory dined with us, at Stoke Newington. Mary Pryor gave us a very affecting description of her voyage, and preservation on her passage to America; also permitted us to hear some recent letters from thence, one of them containing a pathetic account of the death, or perhaps we may allowably say the happy translation of Samuel Emson, whose labours in this country are remembered, by some of us, with heartfelt tenderness.

10th. Attended the morning meeting; these meetings are often very instructive times to young ministers, and I esteem it a privilege to sit them.

24th. Attended the select quarterly meeting,
and went home with Mary Stacey, to Lamb's Conduit street, where I lodged, and passed my time not unprofitably.

23d. Accompanied Mary Stacey to the quarterly meeting, which was very solemn and quiet. Awful and affecting were the exhortations and warnings given by our friend Thomas Scatteredgood.

Fourth month 13th. First-day. I attended the Peel meeting; which is much altered since I resided within its compass, many being deceased, &c. I dined with Robert Webb, who is now mostly confined to his house. I well remember his kind notice of me, when I first attended that meeting. I also called on a poor woman friend, who in days that are past, showed me great kindness, which I have not forgotten.

27th. First-day. At both meetings. Low seasons are sometimes most lasting profitable.

Walked to an interment at Whitechapel; was glad to meet with Thomas Shillitoe, who kindly helped me along. Returned to Stoke Newington in time to partake of the benefit of the family-reading of the Scriptures, which often proves a refreshment, after a trying, fatiguing day.

Fifth month 7th. At the monthly meeting, Sarah Lynes returned a minute. I dined with her at Joseph Savory's; she very modestly gave some little account of her arduous labours at Leeds, &c.

19th. The yearly meeting of ministers and elders began. It was pleasant to see the faces of so large a number of valuable friends, whom I expect to see every year, have, many of them, been diligent and laboriously engaged for the spreading of the Gospel; not only in this part of the vineyard, but extending their visits more widely, as strength and ability were given, to gather the people to the true Shepherd. It was also very precious to sit under our sense of the goodness of that Power which unites in harmonious desire for the well-being of immortal souls, and that the whole rational creation of God may be brought to know, and truly to serve Him.

21st. The women's yearly meeting opened. Solemnity was almost felt to spread over us, and a desire was felt by some, to be so watchful as to keep our proper stations, whether in silent exercise or more active service.

28th. A memorial respecting Martha Harwood was read. Sweet tenderness of spirit was felt, and a desire raised, that through renewed mercy, our minds may be stimulated to dedication.

27th. Felt secret breathings that solid edification might be the blessed fruit of these our large assemblies. Some discouraging circumstances did occur. By high authority we are taught that offences will come; but blessed are they who are not offended in Christ! A letter, addressed to the yearly meeting, by a friend in Wales, probably Job Thomas, now confined to his bed by indisposition, was sent in from the mon's meeting and read.

28th. At Southwark meeting, formerly called the Park; it was a time of refreshing, during the offering of supplication by dear James Graham.

29th. Our friend Phoebe Speakman, now about to return to America, addressed us very affectionately. We received an instructive visit from Samuel Dyer, David Sands, and Thomas Shillitoe.

30th. Much counsel was administered, encouraging individuals to circumspection in their daily walk; and to a careful discharge of manifested duty, in speaking the truth one to another, rather than one of another; and after a silent pause, we separated.

Sixth month 1st. At Peel meeting in the morning. Felt a secret sense of reproof for uttering words somewhat hastily, though I did apprehend that I felt a gentle impulse to stand up; but I believe from my own feelings, (afterwards confirmed by my friends) that I did not sufficiently weigh the necessity; and I did not reap the reward of sweet peace; this I wish to note as a warning for the future.

Birmingham, Sixth month 29th. First-day. At meeting this morning felt solitary, having no companion in the ministry; Ann Baker being married, and gone to reside at Worcester, and M. Lloyd being absent at this time. In the evening Mary Stacey and Sarah Lynes had a meeting with the inhabitants.

Eighth month 6th. At our monthly meeting at Hartshill, where I asked leave to visit the preparative meetings; and if the way should open, the families of Friends, in the South Division of our quarterly meeting, also some meetings in Oxfordshire, in which I expect to be joined by my dear friend Mary Beeley. In the evening I went to John Downman's, as he and his wife had gone from home.

17th. First-day. More than a week has been passed in my new occupations, which take up much of my attention; the dear children are very interesting.

24th. My dear friend Mary Beeley came to accompany me in my journey; both of us having the concurrence of our friends.

25th. We went to the house of our kind friend T. Harris, Long Compton. We were kindly entertained by a widow, who does not profess with us, but who seems sensible of the uniting influence of the one cementing Power. After dinner, something better than
ourselves seemed to clothe our spirits; and encouragement to the widow, and counsel to her son, were expressed. Came afterwards to Camden.

28th. Rode on horseback to meeting. Here they have some true mothers among them, and agreeable young people, so that the preparative meeting is held to some satisfaction. We lodged at our friend Jeffrey Bevington's, and were very kindly cared for by his wife, who is not only an affectionate, attentive nurse to her infirm, afflicted husband, but also ready and willing to entertain strangers.

After partaking of the refreshment of the table, and through favour, of spiritual refreshment together, we considered it safest for us, in order to find peace, to sit with the other families of Friends.

Nineteenth month 3rd. Were at the week-day meeting at Shipston; sat with several families, and with some in the station of servants, not professing with us; for we sometimes feel bound, in Christian love, to speak a word of counsel, warning or encouragement, as it may arise in our hearts, to those of other denominations; well knowing that mere outward distinctions are nothing.

5th. We went to the meeting at Eatington. Retired to rest under some feelings of discouragement, with many a fear lest, through us, the cause of Truth should suffer, or any honest mind be hurt.

6th. Visited a family and expressed what seemed to be given us, amid considerable interruptions. Sometimes the hope is raised, that although some visits of this nature may be painful, with little sense of good being present, yet, if of the Great Master's ordering, they may return into remembrance, at a future day. Before we left the house of our valuable friend J. Bevington, we felt a concern to ask his judgment on the propriety of our sitting with his servants and workpeople; after a little deliberation, it was encouraged, and the way made easy; no harm, we humbly hope, ensued, and our minds were at liberty to return to Tredington.

7th. First-day. Sarah Lamley accompanied us to Brails, where the neighbours were invited to meet us, and a considerable number came; we may thankfully acknowledge that something better than ourselves was felt to gather our minds into a sweet stillness; and the people were, in the ability afforded, recommended to seek the substance of religion. Went to an evening meeting, at Long Compton; on the way, took tea with a family, where to our humbling admiration, we received renewed capacity to offer counsel, in a feeling sense of secret help. The meeting was large, quiet and orderly; and may be remembered as a time of favour.

8th. A very stormy morning; when the rain abated we set out, with our steady friend Thomas Harris, and usual equipage; viz. a little cart and a blue blanket to keep off the wet; and we reached Chipping Norton in time for the monthly meeting. Dined at William Arkins', and called on some friends. A feeling of sadness covered our minds, under which it seemed best to keep quiet, and not to strain our eyes, as in the dark, to discover the cause.

9th. Sarah Lamley met us at Stow, where we attended a marriage; several came in, particularly some young people, and it was a serious time. The young couple had been recently received into our Society; we dined with them at the young man's father's; a humble habitation, but we were at first convinced that there is no respect of persons with the Almighty Dispenser of good unto the souls of men.

10th. Came to Burford, and sat the meeting on the 11th, which did not fully relieve our minds, so we ventured to consult our friends on the propriety of inviting some of the neighbours, particularly the labouring people and servants, to meet us. We were encouraged to do what we might find to be required, and to-morrow evening was fixed for the meeting.

12th. Had a meeting with Friends at Whitney, and returned to Burford. William Crotch and a Friend from Cirencester, on their way to Oxford, having heard of the meeting, and seeing us just as we reached the town, turned about and sat the meeting, which was helpful and encouraging to us. The gathering was very large, and many stood without; their behaviour was very quiet and orderly, and a sweet, solemn covering crowned the whole, under which we separated.

13th. William Crotch went with us to Chipping Norton; we dined together at W. A.'s, and parted with renewed desire for the good one of another.

14th. First-day. William Gillett kindly came from Brails, to help us forward, on horseback, to Stibford. We sat both the meetings there, and were enabled to exert watchfulness, and to a real engagement of heart to follow those things which make for peace. In many places, there seems too much resting in the mere profession of religion.

15th. Came to a meeting at Adderbury. Very kindly we were received at Thomas Wycherley's; both he and his wife are frequently afflicted with illness, and their minds seemed to be kept low and tender. We had a very comfortable night's rest, very sweet was the quiet we felt.

17th. We kept within doors at Banbury, on
account of a tumult having arisen about the high price of provisions.

23rd. Select quarterly meeting at Leicester; we had the acceptable company of Elizabeth Coggeshall, who exhorted us to renewed searching of heart. The quarterly meeting next day, a low season.

26th. This morning, had unexpectedly to utter the language of tender exhortation, to a young man just recovering from a dangerous illness; his behaviour was serious and respectful. We afterwards learned that he is a Roman Catholic.

29th. Sarah Burgess and some men Friends accompanied us to Oakham, where we had a meeting with Friends.

30th. Came to our quiet quarters at Leicester, where we were again received with encouraging cheerfulness. Sometimes it seems as if the mind would sink too low, if it were not for the continued kindness of our friends.

Twelfth month 1st. At the meeting here. Spent some hours with an old acquaintance in an enfeebled state of health; I hope the time was not unprofitably passed, though nothing more than social conversation and secret well-wishing transpired.

6th. Visited the prisoners in the county jail, in company with some of our friends. After dining with our kind friend Sarah Hesford, we went to Daniel Woodland's at Narboro', he having kindly undertaken to help us on our way to Sutton, where we propose to have a meeting.

7th. A large and serious gathering at Sutton; the people behaved well, and we humbly hope it was not a profitless time. We trust that some instruction has been gained by us, under the various exercises in this our journey; wherein some unexpected occurrences and detentions have called ares for deliberation, and the resignation of our will. We went to Sutton and back, on horseback, being each provided with a good horse and steady rider, a sight somewhat unusual in this day; five horses, each double-mounted!

9th. Returned to Leicester, and attended the monthly meeting. Afterwards had a religious opportunity with some friends, in which love and tenderness were felt, as well as much sympathy with many now under affliction, from sickness, &c.

13th. Reached Birmingham; it felt very pleasant to return, with peace and thankfulness in our hearts.

18th. This day's post conveyed the mournful tidings of the death of our valued friend Joseph Besley, at Bath. I purpose accompanying my dear Mary Besley to Worcester, as she is now stripped of all her near connexions.

Eleventh month 11th. Once more returned to my pleasant home. Public distress is great; flour and bread at a very high price.

24th. Flour is now six shillings per peck.

Twelfth month 9th. At our meeting of ministers and elders, we were a little encouraged by the company and communication of our dear friends Mary Ridgway and Susanna Appleby, though the spiritual life seems low.

10th. At our monthly meeting our dear friend M. Ridgway, was led to lament our poor, low state, as to spiritual vigour.

17th. Felt thankful for a quiet retreat, unencumbered with perplexing cares.

1801. Third month 8th. Ann Alexander and Martha Brewster were at our meetings, which were both silent.

9th. Spent part of the day with A. A. and M. B. at Samuel Lloyd's. They seem under considerable trial, in the prospect of visiting families here. Having heard that Thomas Shillitoe has a similar view, they wait his arrival.

12th. This morning our friends commenced the visit, and sat with us. We had a solemn pause of silence, which was truly refreshing. We then were exhorted to become as children; and in nothingness of self, daily to look unto the Lord, that our own wills might become fully subjected. And surely my heart is, at this time, truly desirous that it may be so, a hard strife is at seasons witnessed there.

28th. Sarah Lamley spent part of the day here, to my help and instruction. Of the good Shepherd continues to be merciful.

30th. Thomas Shillitoe and the other friends called here, and I spent some time with them. They have now finished their arduous engagement here. Parting with those who, with meekness and patience, have laboured among us, is not joyous.

Fourth month 12th. First-day, Thomas Shillitoe laboured, with earnestness, in both meetings, to direct the minds of the young people especially, to fear God, and to take heed to the thing which is right.

Fifth month. Mary Besley and I went to the yearly meeting. At that for ministers and elders, Sarah Stephenson, in a weighty manner, opened her concern to visit America; and Mary Jeffries in much humility, expressed her belief that it was her duty to accompany her. The women's yearly meeting concluded several days before the men's; they had much important business before them. We went to Hertford, and from thence, with Special West and his wife, in their little cart. Very pleasant it was to enjoy the sweet, fresh air of the country, in peaceful simplicity, with dear, valued friends, long known and loved; and whom I do still