

Memoirs

of

John

Adams

Esq.

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Memoirs

Of
John Beard of Hitchin, in
the County of Hertford:
With some Account of his
Ancestors and Descendants,
and other Relations, and
also those of his Wife:
Comprehending, among other
Particulars, some Anecdotes,
relative to his hopeful Conver-
-sion, call to the Ministry, Settle-
-ment at Hitchin, various
Exercises of his Mind, at
different Periods, and his
Trials and Mercies. Vol. 1.

Preface.

As I have now entered upon the 58th year of my age, and therefore must expect my further continuance in this world to be comparatively short, I think it not improper to draw up some account of myself and my connections, &c. which, possibly, may not only afford some information to those that may come after me, which they would otherwise be destitute of, but I would hope may be, by the blessing of God, of some real advantage to them.

I have, for a number of years, kept a kind of a partial diary; but there are not only many things in that too minute and unimportant, at least ~~to~~ except to myself; but it is written, in a considerable measure, in Short Hand, and therefore would be comparatively useless to others.

In this account, which I intend to write wholly in Long Hand, I neither mean to be so minute nor large.

April 21st, 1807.

I John Geard, was born at
Montacute, near Yeovil, in
the County of Somerset on the
5th of March [Old Style] 1750,
about ten o'clock in the morning.

I shall here give the best account
I can of my ancestry.

Thomas Geard, Son of Baron Geard,
of the Parish of Montacute, in the
County of Somerset, Taylor, and
of Joan his Wife, was born,
August the 8th 1703, and was mar-
ried, in the Parish Church of Luffton,
about a mile from Montacute, in or
about the year 1727, to Martha
Newton.

Sam

² Samuel Geard, son of Thomas and Martha Geard, was born, May the 31st, 1726.

The foregoing were my ancestry on the male side. On the female side, I can trace my pedigree one generation farther back. It is as follows:

Robert Newton, was born, January the 24th, 1674, and was married, September the 30th, 1695, to Mary Warren.

Martha Newton, Daughter of Robert Newton, of Montacute, ^{born} and of Mary his Wife, was born in or about the year 1697, and was married, in or about the year 1724, to Thomas Geard. The

The foregoing were my grandmother's
~~mother~~ and her father.
My ancestry by my ~~mother~~ mother's side, as
far as I can, minutely trace it, is as
follows:

John Taylor, Son of William Tay-
-lor, of East-Coker, in the County of
Somerset, Sailcloth maker, and of
Emma his Wife, was born,
January the 23rd, 1699, and was
married, in or about the year,
1724, to Mary Haggas.

Naomi Taylor, Daughter of John
Taylor, of East-Coker, Sailcloth
maker, and of Mary his Wife,
was born, April the 17th, 1732,
and was married, in or about
the

4 The beginning of the year, 1779, to
Samuel Gears, of Montacute.
The foregoing ~~and~~ were my mother,
and her father.

The following is some account of
the death of my ancestors.

~~Robert~~ Robert Newton, my father's
grandfather, by his mother's side,
died, at Lambrook, in the County
of Somerset, about five miles from
Montacute, May the 23rd 1743.
Martha Gears, his daughter, and
my grandmother, by my father's
side, died, November the 19th 1774,
aged about 77 years.

Thomas Gears, my grandfather,
by my father's side, died in the
night of March the 18th 1775,
aged

aged 71 years.

Samuel Beard, my father, died,
August the 4th 1786, aged
58 years.

William Taylor, my mother's
grandfather, died, December the
16th 1732, aged 60 years. This was
the same year in which my
mother was born.

Mary Taylor, my mother's mother,
died, April the 4th 1739, aged
42 years.

John Taylor, my mother's father,
died, December the 4th 1774, aged
75 years. This was in less than
a month from the death of my
father's mother.

Naomi Beard, my mother, died

6 died January the 13th, 1777, aged 44 years.

I shall here ~~see~~ place some anecdotes which I have learned relative to my ancestors, both on my father's and mother's side.

My great grandfather, Baron Giscard, was living at the time of the glorious Revolution, in 1688, and as the Prince of ~~Orange~~ Orange, afterwards, the immortal King William the 3rd of England, who had landed from Holland at Torbay, in Devonshire, ~~on~~ on November the 5th, 1688, with his army through Somersetshire, on his way to London, to take possession of the British throne, on the abdication of it, by his father in law, that contemptible tyrant, James the 2nd. Part, at least, of Wil

William's army marched over a part
of the ground that belongs to Mon.
taente. They ~~to~~ marched in the pub-
-lic road by the Park wall, which is
still standing, ~~and~~
~~at~~ in the night, and my
great grandfather went up from
his house, (the Park wall being
about half a mile from the village)
and heard the kettle drums beat,
~~as~~ as the soldiers marched on
the lane side, he ~~was~~ ^{being} on the park
side of the wall. Whether the Prince
of Orange marched at the same
time exactly with these soldiers,
or exactly the same way, I know
not, but he came to Brimpton

This

8 about two miles from Montacute,
towards London, and there he dined
at the seat of Sir Philip Sydenham,
and it being made known that he
was to dine there, my great grand-
father, as well as many others,
went over to Brimpton to have
a sight of the Prince, which they
were gratified with on his setting
out from Brimpton for London,
after dinner. Being comparative-
ly a little man, and having a
servant that could not be a ve-
ry weak one, they saw the ser-
vant lift the Prince upon his
horse, when he set off from Brimp-
ton. Sir Philip was well paid
by the Prince for his dinner
for

Jam

for after the Prince ~~got~~ got well seated upon the British throne, he settled two hundred pounds a year upon Sir Philip Sydenham, as long as he lived. This was a proof that the Prince was not like too many others, destitute of gratitude as he did not forget Sir Philip and the dinner he gave him, as soon as his own purposes were answered: nor ought it to be forgotten, that Sir Philip's ransom with in giving the Prince a dinner, as if the Prince had eventually failed and James had regained his power, Sir Philip would have stood the chance of losing all that he had, and his life into the bargain. This

¹⁰ This affair, however, turned out very well, in the long run, for Sir Philip, for as he was too fond of law, though he had several other estates besides Brimpton, and that is a pretty good one, he lawed them all away, before he died, and had nothing to live upon, but the two hundred pounds a year which King William settled upon him.

Brimpton is now, and for many years has been, in the possession of the Earl of Westmorland and his ancestors. I passed by Brimpton house, August the 19th 1806.

My grandfather's beard, when young worked at his

his father's business, that of a Taylor, and
I have heard him speak of their
working for Sir Philip Sydenham, at
Brimpton, so that it was many
years after the Prince dined at his
house, before Brimpton was lawed
away; but, however, it was gone
before Sir Philip's death. After my

grandfather got up to man's estate,
I believe he left off his father's busi-
-ness, and turned his attention towards
husbandry. He was an uncommon-
ly strong man in his youth, being
six foot high, or thereabout, and
though not fat, yet large in pro-
-portion. He was a very industrious
man, and chiefly by his own labor,
he acquired some little property.
My father was his only child,
and

and he put him when a boy to learn the
Girth web-business. Before my fa-
-ther got to man's estate, the Girth-
-web business, where he learned it,
was to be disposed of, and my grand-
-father agreed to take it. This treaty
had like to have broken off, by a
very trivial circumstance. Every
thing was concluded on except one.
My grandfather wanted a gun thrown
in for nothing, and the person he
was in treaty with would not part
with the gun without some consi-
-deration for it. My grandfather
seemed fixed, and the treaty was
broken off, nor did my grandfather
mean to renew it. Thomas Wornell,
who worked for the person with whom
my grandfather was in treaty
for the business, and who told me

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to me the circumstance, went to my grandfather and reasoned with him upon the matter, and endeavoured to impress him with the consideration that, if every thing else was right, but the circumstance of the gun, surely that was not of importance enough, to break off the treaty, and that as he had a son that had been learning the business, it was wiser to let the business slip from him for the sake of a gun. My grandfather reconsidered the matter, and agreed to take the business without the gun, or to pay what was demanded for the gun. My father was at that time about 15 years of age, so that that was about 63 years ago, and the busi-

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Business has been in the family ever
since, and, I hope, has been, and is
likely to be of considerable advan-
-tage to some branches of it. On
-small ~~occasional~~ trivial circum-
-stances, do comparatively great
-events and circumstances ^{sometimes} depend.
Thomas Norrell worked in the
-family from the time my grand-
-father took the business, to the time
of his death, which was more than
half a century. He was a worthy good
man, and ~~was~~ when he died
~~he~~ had been a member of the Bap-
-tist church at Yeovil, about
four miles from Montacute,
60 years or upwards. My grand-
-father during a part of his life was
con

concerned with a neighbour, Mr. Parsons,¹⁵
in the timber ~~business~~ business. He
carried on the Girthwebb business, till
some years after I was born, and eventual-
ly gave it over to my father. He occu-
-pied some meadow land, which he
rented of Edward Phelps Esq^r as
long as he lived.

My father some
time after he married, took a farm
at Woodhouse ~~in~~ in the Parish
of Adcomb, ~~at~~ a little distance
from Montacute, which he con-
-tinued for about 3 years. but this
did him no good. I remember
his leaving Woodhouse, but I do
not remember his going there.
~~By~~ During his continuance
there my sister Martha was
born, which was in the year
17

10 1755, when I was about 5 years old.
It was upon my father's leaving
Woodhouse that my grandfather
left off the Girthwell business
to him.

My father was a member
of the Baptist church at Yeovil for
many years, and for some years pre-
-vious to his death a deacon.

As to

my grandmother's connections,
her father Robert Newton, lived for
a number of years, in one part of
his life, at Watford, in Hertford-
-shire. Since I came to Hitchin
I have conversed with more than one
at Watford, who remembered his
living there. He resided there,
about the time of my grandmother's
mar

marrying. He removed into the
West of England again, and re-
sided there some years before
his death. He ~~had~~ lived some-
time, I believe, ~~at~~ his late
-ter end, at Pyne in Dorsetshire,
about 7 miles from Mountacute,
where he possessed a small estate.
This estate, after his death, came
into the possession of his son,
Samuel Newton, who lived many
years at Wandsworth, about 7
miles from London. He died worth
~~some~~ ^{something} considerable, and left
~~the whole~~ what he had, after the
death of his second wife, whom
I remember, though I did not
know him, to his only son,
Charles Newton. He was a
spend.

10 spend thrift, and though what he deri-
-ved from his father, eventually, take
it together, did not ^{I have under} amount ^{to} ~~to~~
in value than five thousand pound,
~~and his wife together~~ he made shift,
and his wife together, who was not
a much better economist than him-
-self, & to get through the whole
in a few years, after he came to
have the disposal of it. The last
that he had to dispose of which
he derived from his father, was
the estate at Ryme. This I pur-
-chased of him, in the year 1777,
and sold it again in ~~1797~~ 1799,
after having possessed it about
20 years, for more than double
what it originally cost. Indeed,
it cost me something considerable
after

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after the original purchase, to secure
my own life in it; but taking into
consideration the clear rent it ~~so~~
produced, in the mean while, and
the excess of this rent, over and
above what all the money it
had cost every way, would have
produced, at common interest,
it ~~so~~ produced more than double,
what it had cost, even taking
into consideration what it cost
to have my own life secured
in it. When it was sold, it should
be recollected also, there were
no more lives in it than there
were when it was bought,
namely two. ~~When~~ when it was bought
there were Charles Newton's
life in it and my father's. When

20 When it was sold, there were Charles
Newton's life in it and my own;
and there are the same in it still,
as far as I know, for Charles New-
-ton, for ought I have heard to the
contrary, is still living, as well
as myself. What my great grand-
-father's father's first name was I
know not, nor do I remember
that I have heard anything par-
-ticular about him, except that
he died, at the age of 97, I be-
-lieve, at Boycourt, Monta-
-cute.

My great grandfather's
brother, John Newton, I remem-
-ber well, ~~and I~~ and I
went from Bristol to Montacote
in March, 1774, to preach his
on

funeral sermon, which I did on the 24th
29th of that month. He was buried
in the church yard, on that day, and
I attended his funeral, and afterwards
preached his funeral sermon, at
a private house in the village. He
was 92 or 93 years of age, by which
it appears he was born, in the year
~~1681~~ 1681, or 1682, so that he
was born before the Revolution.

I do
not know when my great grandfa-
ther Newton became ~~a~~ Baptist,
but he was one, and was baptized
at my grandfather Taylor's, where
many years afterwards, I was
baptized myself, and where there
was a convenient place for
such a purpose, and there the
people used to be baptized that
joi

29 joined the church at Yeovil, before
they had a Baptistry in their mee-
-ting house, which has now been
the case for many years.

My
great grandfather died at Lambrook.
The reason of his removing thither
was his marrying Mary Pittan
for his second wife, who lived
there. I believe she had never
been married before, and was
considerably advanced in years,
when she married my great-
-grandfather. By what I have
heard of her, she was a very pious
woman. The following anecdote,
if it does not prove ~~to~~ her pru-
-dence, it proves her great dead-
-ness to this world, and that at
any

any rate she did not make that her
god. She had a brother, who was a
man of considerable property, and
who ~~was~~ being not likely to live long,
made his will. She was present
at the time of his making of
it, and he addressed her to the
following purport; "How much
~~will~~ shall I set you down, Mary,
£ 300-0-0?" "No, brother" said
she, "50-0-0, will do well enough
for me." Mary might as well have
taken it however, and done some
good with it, for it was given to
another relation, who squandered
it away. Her brother, I believe,
was a bachelor, and consequently
had neither wife nor child to
~~be~~ leave his property to. This
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This, I apprehend, was before she was
married to my great grandfather.
It appears that he died before her.
August 20th, 1806, I was at Geoville,
and called upon Betty Murly, who
lived with my great grandmother
in law, at the time when she ~~was~~
married my great grandfather,
and learned from her, that she
was in the room when my great
grandfather died. She was then
about 15 years of age, so that at
the time above mentioned when
I saw her, she must be about
70. She was quite infirm and
confined to her bed, but sensible.
~~It was religion that brought my great~~
~~grandfather to his end.~~ It was Religion
I understand, that brought my great

home without the money he wanted
to make of it. However, for many
years before his death, he was in
good circumstances, and when he
died, he left behind him proper-
ty to the amount of thousands of
pounds in value. He left
£25-0-0, by his will towards
the support of the ministry in
the church to which he belonged,
and also a ~~set~~ silver cup, which
he had bought in his life time
for the use of the Lords Table.
When any were baptized on
his premises, he ~~was~~
~~was~~ accommodated the candidates
as well as the minister, and for
a number of years his house
was a preaching place for minist-
-ters of different denominations.

It appears that the house he resided
in was his father's before him, and
it has now been in his family
upwards of a century, as it appears
to be possessed by his father in
the year 1695, and how long be-
-fore I know not. He left it by his
will and also an orchard, and field
&c. belonging to it, to his son, John
Taylor, and upon the supposition
of his dying without issue, my grand-
-father left these premises to his
own right heirs for ever. In conse-
-quence of this, as my uncle did
die without issue, in the year
1789, and as I was the eldest
-son of my mother, I became int-
-itled to her share, which was
a fourth part of the whole. It was
eventually agreed to sell three
shares

shares to my uncle Curtis, whose ~~my~~
wife one of my mother's sisters was
intitled to the other share, and now
~~the~~ my uncle and aunt being both
dead, it is ~~pos~~ inhabited and pos-
sessed by their son and my first
cousin, William Curtis. I am glad
it is owned and possessed by one of
my grandfathers' descendants,
and I wish he may do as well
in it ~~as~~ as his and my grand-
father did, and be as useful
as he was. He carries on the
same business as ~~my~~ my grand-
father did, that of a sailcloth
maker, and the place, take it
all together, is perhaps, as com-
-pletely adapted to the purposes
of that business, as any place
of the size in the County of
Somerset.

My

30
My grandfather had six children that I remember, all of whom lived to be married, namely, Kezia, Sarah, John, Naomi, Ann and Ruth. They are all dead except Kezia, the oldest of all, and the first child that ever my grandfather had. She was born Jan. 3, 1725, and must therefore be now, if living, 82 years of age. I saw her last summer. She was weak in body, but her faculties held, mercifully well. She is still living, as far as I know. She is the only aunt I have in the world; nor have I any uncle. I shall now give some account of

of the place of my father's sepulchre.
The spot where ~~my father's~~ the
dust of my ancestors for more than
one generation is deposited, is called
Five Ashes. It is thus called, because
there is a clump of trees, in the public
road near the gate that leads up to
this spot. This clump of trees are all
white ash trees, and formerly were
five in number, though now, strictly
by there are but four. ~~The spot~~
The Burying Ground is, perhaps, about
half a furlong from this clump of
trees, and is generally denominated
Five Ashes, from that circumstance.
Such an one, and such an one are
said to have been buried at Five
Ashes. This spot was taken out
of the corner of a field, and is perhaps,
~~at a distance~~ a mile from any house
whatever, and the field of which
it

32
It is apart, is in a high situation, and
lies in the Parish of Odecomb. It is about
an mile from Montacute. It was original-
ly the property of a Mr. Miller, who
was, I believe, the first pastor of the
church at Dzevil. He was pastor
of that church as far back as
1706, and how long before I know not.
~~He~~ He was pastor of the same
church, in 1720, and, it appears, that
he died in that or the following year.
This Mr. Miller or his father had been
~~or~~ a Captain in the Duke of Mon-
mouth's army, at the time when
he opposed King James the 2^d
and whose army was defeated by
the King's army, in King's Lodge-
more in the same County. Some
how or other Captain Miller esca-
ped with his life, notwithstanding
so many were put to death, ~~that~~
that

33
that horrible tyrant James, and his not
less horrible judge Jefferies, & for siding
with Monmouth.

I think, the first pastor of Yeovil church,
~~Abt 1660~~ but I have some idea, that
his son succeeded him as pastor there
- of, and whether it was he or his
son that was pastor at the dates
before mentioned, I know not for
certainty. However it was Cap-
tain Miller or his son, who gave
the spot of ground called Five Aches
for a bowling ground, to the congre-
-gation that ~~was at~~ met
at Yeovil, in the first instance,
though there has been some addi-
-tion made to it, by the gift of
Mr. William Hiddle, who then
owned the ground connected with
it, since my remembrance.
Concerning Captain Miller, I have
heard

heard an anecdote from my grandfa-
-ther heard, to the following purport:
After the Prince of Orange, William
-the third, ~~he~~ was seated upon
the British throne, he sent for Cap-
-tain Miller, who at that time was
a preacher, to London, and asked him
who made him a minister? Mr.
-Miller replied, "He that led capti-
-vity captive and received gifts for
men?" Upon this the King told
him, if he would conform to the
Church of England, he would
take care to provide a living for him.
Mr. Miller answered, that he could
not conscientiously do that, but
that, if his Majesty would give him
leave to go on in his own way, he
should be much obliged to him.
To which the King replied, that he

39
The son of John Foster had five bro^g
thers. Their names were John, Ed-
ward, Michael, Joseph and Richard.
John was the oldest and Richard
was the youngest. At the time
of their father's death, they all lived
at Preston, at the house lately
occupied by Captain Hindle's
family, and now by Mr. Earl. Their

individual property, at the time
of their father's death, was but
small. They all the six of them
had but about enough to carry
on the business of that farm,
and they did all carry on the
business ~~at~~ there, by uniting
their stock together. They were
all however, industrious men,
and

40 and they all gave solid evidence of their
being pious, conscientious, Godly men.
Living in the reigns of those Royal
rascals, Charles the 2nd, and James
the 2nd, they were exposed to the iron
rod of persecution. They however, nobly
and cheerfully risked the spoiling
of their goods, and the loss of their
liberty, for the sake of their
consciences. They were several of
them members ~~of the church~~
of the church, and all of them
members of the congregation of
Protestant Dissenters, which for
many years have met near Tyle
house Street, in Hitchin. During
some part of their time, they ~~at~~
met where and as they could.

W. T.

Mr. Wilson, the first pastor of this ⁴²
church, suffered imprisonment for
the sake of a good conscience, in
Hertford jail, and these worthy
brothers nourished him there,
~~and they were~~ according to
their capacity and opportunity.
But had not James been obliged
to ~~be~~ abdicate that throne, which
he had too long disgraced, though
he had been on it but a few years,
to all human appearance, they
would have had nothing left
to nourish Mr. Wilson, nor them-
selves neither. They had all
been fined twenty pounds a
month each, for not going to
church, till all they had in
the world was confiscated. How

However, their fines ~~are~~ had not been
literally exacted till the ~~Revolution~~
Glorious Revolution was ef-
fected, by the ~~Revolution~~ Immortal
William the third, who gave them
as it were a receipt in full of all
demands, and they never actually
lost any thing, except a few half
crowns, which they used to make
a present of to the Comptroller, when
he came to give them notice of any
- their twenty pound penalty being
incurred. ~~As to their abomi-~~
- nable persecutor James, he was a
kind of Royal Nagabond, after his abdi-
- cation, to the day of his death. In this
case God remarkably punished the
~~persecutor~~ worker of iniquity,
and let the righteous go free. 12

In process of time, three of these brothers,
John, Matthew and Joseph, married.
Edward, Michael and Richard, never
married. After the respective marri-
ages of the three brothers, before men-
-tioned, they all, it appears, left Pres-
-ton, and divided themselves into
three branches, one single brother
living with a married brother.
John and Edward lived at
Skeleford, Matthew, and Michael
lived at Little Wymondley, and
Joseph and Richard lived at Fet-
-cham. ~~It~~ It does not appear
that Joseph ever had any chil-
-dren, so that all the descendants
of the original stock now living
proceeded, through the medium
of John and Matthew. It appears
also

also that each of the married brothers
died before the single brother who li-
-ved with him, and that, after the
death of the married brother, the sin-
-gle brother took the particular charge
of ^{the family} that married brother with
whom he had resided, ~~and~~
~~appeared~~ as to those married
brothers, who had families; and,
it appears, that these ~~particular~~
~~children~~ respective fami-
-lies were particularly noticed
by them, ⁱⁿ their wills, and so
were eventually benefitted by their
deaths as well as by their lives.
This was the case as to Edward,
in respect to the family of John,
and Michael, as to the family
of Matthew. As Joseph had no
children, Richard divided his
proper.

property between both the families of
John and Matthew. Richard was
the ~~old~~ youngest of the brothers,
and he died the last. He died in
1742, or 1743.

It appears, ~~also~~ not on-
-ly that all these six brothers were
industrious men, but that God
wonderfully prospered them, even
as to this world. They all died worth
something considerable, though they
had such small beginnings. It
ought also not to be forgotten how
~~God has appeared~~ God has ap-
-peared, both in Providence and
grace, for some particularly of
the descendants of those two
worthy brothers, who alone had
children. And may we not
con

46
consistently consider the almighty
as graciously stamping the seal
of his approbation upon the charac-
-ters and prayers of all these six
venerable men, in his remarkable
goodness, both in Providence and
grace, towards so many of that
posterity for which they all, as well
as the immediate ~~the~~ Progenitors,
had so peculiar a concern?

The memory of the just
is blessed. May all the living
-descendants, of either of the charac-
-ters that have been noticed, be
concerned to emulate the virtues,
and share in the blessings of
them all. Having thus traced
P my

Mary and Martha Geard, were ⁴⁹
see below *

born, June the 15th, 1790.

Martha Geard died & was buried at St. Mary's (Church) aged 52 1/4 yrs
(Mrs. Babbly) Sept. 12, 1842

Naomi Geard, was born, August
the 30th, 1792.

Charles Geard, was born, Au-
-gust the 8th, 1795.

Died Dec. 1, 1850 aged 55. at Port Elizabeth
South Africa

Elizabeth Geard, died, April the
19th, 1784, aged, 3 years.

* Mary Geard, died, July the 25th,
1791, aged one year.

Mary Bowyer, daughter of
Edmund Bowyer, of the Parish
of Sutton, in the County of Bed-
-ford, Farmer, and of Elizabeth
his wife, was born, November
the 17th, 1780, and was married
Nov

November the 10th 1804, to Samuel
Bradley Geard.

Samuel Bowyer Geard, son of Sam-
uel Bradley Geard, and of Mary
his wife, was born, October the
27th 1805.

Edmund Geard, son of Samuel
Bradley Geard, and of Mary
his wife, was born, ~~October the 27th~~
~~May~~ May the 6th 1807.

John Bradley Geard, son of Samuel
Bradley Geard, and of Mary his
wife, was born, April the 19th
1809.

N.B. As this grandson was named
after me, and as I had a silver spoon,
that was marked with my name, which
was made me a present of by my
honored Mother's uncle Haggard, soon
after I was born, after having the
Tri

Initials of his Name and the year of 51
his Birth engraved on it, on the 2nd of
May, 1809. I made a Present of the said
Spoon, to my Grandson John Bradley
Gard.

Mary Gard, Daughter of Samuel
Bradley Gard, and of Mary his
Wife, was born, July the 9th, 1811.
Elizabeth Gard, Daughter of
Samuel Bradley Gard, and of
Mary his Wife, was born,
August the 21st, 1813, at the dis-
tance of two hundred Years, from
her Ancestor, mentioned in page
the 36th, namely, John, son of John Foster,
Salome Hamner Cole, Daughter of
Jabez Cole, of the Parish of Graffham, in the
County of Huntingdon, Hamner, and of
Elizabeth his Wife, was born, July the
16th, 1793, and was married, in the Pa-
rish Church of Graffham, in the Coun-
ty of Huntingdon, August the 12th, 1815,
to Ebenezer Gard, of
County of Sussex, Martha Gard, Daughter of
Samuel Bradley Gard, and of Mary his Wife, was
born, April the 10th, 1815

52. Ann Geard, ~~Daughter~~ Daughter of
Samuel Bradley Geard, and of Mary
his wife, was born November the 5th
1816. & died July 11th 1836 in her twentieth year

Thomas Geard, Son of Ebenezer Geard,
and of Salome Stammers Geard his
wife, was born, March the 3rd, 1818.

Elizabeth Geard, Daughter of Ebenezer
Geard, and of Salome Stammers Geard,
his wife, was born, September the
27th, 1819.

John Geard, Son of Ebenezer Geard,
and of Salome Stammers Geard his
wife, was born April the 22nd, 1821.

Emma Geard, Daughter of Ebenezer
Geard, and of Salome Stammers
Geard his wife, was born, Febru-
-ary the 22nd, 1823. Other children of Eben-
and Salome Stammers Geard.

Mary Geard, born May the 6th, 1825.

Fredrick Geard, born Jan. the 22nd, 1827.

Mary Anne Geard, born June the 9th, 1829.

Fanny Geard — Foot — 22nd 1832

Children of Samuel and Martha Bedells.
 John Beard Bedells, born Jan. the 16th 1826.
 Ebenezer Bedells, born Dec^r. 21st, 1827.
 Charles King Bedells, born March 3rd, 1832.

Children of John and Margaret Crawley.
 Elizabeth Crawley, born March 28th, 1825.
 Mary Crawley, born April 3rd, 1827.
 John Beard Crawley, born April 4th, 1831.
 Ann Crawley, born April 7th, 1833.

Children of Charles and Frances Beard.
 John Beard, born Aug^t 7th, 1823.
 Frank Beard, born April 2nd, 1825.
 Sarah Beard, born Aug^t. 24th, 1827.
 Jesse Beard, born June 10th, 1829.
 Ann Beard, born March 9. 10th, 1832.
 Naomi Beard, born May 7th, 1833.
 Charles Ebenezer Beard,
 was born April 12th, 1835.
 William Beard born Feb^r 14th, 1837.

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Before I proceed to notice particular cir-
-cumstances that respect myself more
immediately, I will here subjoin one
more ~~old~~ anecdote relative to my
wife's ancestry, and another relative
to my own. While my wife's great-
-grandfather, Matthew Foster, lived
with his five brothers at Preston,
and which was during the perse-
-cuting times, their house used to be
an asylum for persecuted minis-
-ters. There ^{was} used sometimes to be
several of them there together: and
they ~~used to~~ had their appointed
seasons for meeting. ~~and~~ ^{and}
way in which they spent their
time when they met, was by con-
-ference together about the mea-
-ning of particular passages of
scrip.

Scripture, and a text was fixed on at
one meeting to be conferred about
at the next. Among the persecuted
ministers who met there, no one was
more frequent, perhaps, than good
John Bunyan, and he used to take
opportunities to preach in a dale
in Wain Wood, which is a little above
the house in the wood, which was
not only convenient for privacy,
but because it was capable of
containing a great number
of people: and, as the word of the
Lord was precious in those days,
many people used to embrace op-
portunities to hear the celebrated
dreamer in that dale. There
is a chimney corner in the house
in the wood which I have had
pointed out to me, as the place
where

56 where this distinguished preacher used to
sit.

Upon a particular occasion, Mr. Bunyan, when he was at the house of the six brothers at Preston, was asked what was the meaning of those difficult passages in the 8th chapter of Romans, verses 19th &c. "For the earnest expectation of the creature, waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God, &c." ~~all that I can say~~ To which question he made this cautious and shrewd reply: "all that I can say in answer ~~to~~ to that question is, that the Scripture is wiser than I, which was as good as saying that he did not know the meaning and this was much wiser in him than it would have been to have attempted to explain, what he did not

not

not understand, and thus darken coun-
-sel, by words without knowledge.

The
other ~~an~~ anecdote is this: My grand-
father Taylor, sometime after the
death of my grandmother, paid
his address to a person who
lived at Stoke under Hamden,
about five miles from East Coker,
where he lived, and about an mile
or a mile and half from Monta-
-cute. The ~~road~~ nearest way
from Stoke to Coker, is not through
Montacute, but over Hamden
Hill. On Hamden Hill there
were then and are still deep
stone quarries. One of those
stone quarries was very near
the public road, and very inpro-
-perly left without any wall
to protect travellers that might
wander

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wander too near it. My grandfather, in
going home one night from Stoke,
when it was excessively dark,
was particularly struck, by his
horse's stopping all at once, as
he was on Hamden Hill. It im-
-mediately ~~deputed~~ occurred to
him that - he might possibly be
near the stone quarry. He there-
-fore wisely avoided trying to push
his horse forward. It being excee-
-dingly dark, and recollecting that
he had heard of its being so dark
as for a person not to be able to
see his hand, he thought he would
try that experiment, and lifting
up his hand, he found it was so
dark that he could not see it.
He immediately concluded that
his wisest way would be to leave
his horse entirely to his own likes-
-ty

liberty, and let him take his own ⁵⁹
course. He accordingly did so, and the
horse drew back, and, under the
superintendence of an overruling
kind Providence, safely carried him
to his own home. The next mor-
ning, he thought he would take
~~a~~ ^{an} ~~able~~ ^{excursion} overland investigate the
circumstance which had so puzzled
and alarmed him, the preceding
night. He could ~~not~~ ^{find} the position
he had been in, by the footsteps
of the horse; and he found that
the last footstep was just
upon the edge of the quarry, and
that if the animal ~~had~~ had mo-
ved one step further, both the
horse and his rider would have
been precipitated into the quar-
ry as deep perhaps, as Hitchin-
~~church~~ church and tower is high,
if

60 if it may not be added, spare weather
cock and all. "Whoso is wise and
will observe these things, even they
shall understand the loving kind-
ness of the Lord," Psalm 107. 173.
I shall only ~~add~~ add here, that
my grandfather did not marry
this person, but he did about 7
years after the death of my ~~first~~
grandmother ~~Assy~~ marry
his second wife, ~~Assy~~ whom I re-
member, and who survived him
several years. She ~~Assy~~ died in
1784.

contentedly go with me In
the year 1762, I was placed under
the

she had a pair of
sweet cider, and could not be satis-
fied without some. After I was
born, I totally refused the breast,
and

contentedly go with me In
the year 1762, I was placed under
the

the care of Mr. William Newton, of 63
Mildborne Port, about twelve miles
from Montacute, on the road from
thence towards London, and in the
same County of Somerset. He was
a pious good man, and a good school
master, and I retained a veneration
for him whilst living, and
I revere his memory, now he is
dead. He died, I believe, in the year
1807, ~~aged~~ aged
about 77 years. He used to
pray with his scholars, and was
concerned for their spiritual as
well as temporal welfare. One
circumstance took place, while
I was at school with him, which
I have never forgotten, and never
ought to forget. His brother, Mr.
Samuel Newton, who was then
~~at~~ a Dissenting minist-
-ter at Norwich, having lately

04
married Dr Wood's daughter, to whom
he was at that time, an assistant
at Norwich, and by whom he ~~had~~
had Mr Samuel Newton, at this
time an Independent minister
at Witham, in Essex, his father
being of the same denomination,
came with his wife to Milborne
~~Port~~ Port, with a horse and chaise.
This horse the school boys used to
take to water and I among the
rest. One day I had got him
out of the stable, and had got
upon his back, with a view to ride
him to the water, which was
at a little distance from the
stable. The horse not being thirsty
or some way or other, not liking
to go, turned about and would go
back again ~~and~~ into the stable.
Offering nothing but a halter
to guide him, I was ~~not~~ strong
e

enough to stop ^{at} him with that, and ^{the}
was so near the stable that I had
not time to get off. Providentially,
however, I was instantaneously
induced to lean back upon his
hinder part, and my chin mis-
sed the top of the doorway, and
I was not in the smallest degree
injured. What might have been
the consequence, if there had not
been room for me as well as
the horse to have passed under,
in that position, or if I had not
been immediately induced to
place myself in that position,
I know not. I have however, always
it as one of the most remarka-
ble preservations, that I have
~~ever~~ ever experienced, and ~~the~~
I hope at times have felt grate-
ful to the kind Providence which
then so remarkably preserved
me, and ever wish to do so. 9

60
I do not pretend to be able with
any positive certainty to ascertain
the exact time of my conversion
to God. I have had serious im-
-pressions, at times, to a great
or less degree, ever since I can
remember: and, through Divine
goodness, I was never suffered
to run into the same gross ex-
-ternal enormities as some others
have been permitted to do. I have
reason enough, however, to lament
over a heart originally alien-
-ated from God, and manifest-
-ing that alienation in too
many instances, for a number
of years; and I do not consider
my apparently serious im-
-pressions as ~~causing~~ having
any abiding salutary effects
upon me, till ~~after~~
~~that~~ I was about sixteen or
se

seventeen years of age. About that⁶⁴
time, without pretending to as-
-ertain exactly when or how,
I hope there was implanted in
me some good thing toward
the Lord God of Israel. I have
indeed, sometimes been ready
to think, that if ever I had
a spiritual father, it was Mr.
Henry Walker, who, at that
time, was minister at Her-
-sington, in Somersetshire,
and who afterwards removed
to Bradford, in Wiltshire,
where he was settled as pas-
-tor, and where he died. He
was father of Mr. Thomas
Walker of London, the celebra-
-ted singer, and he was an ex-
-cellent singer himself. He
used frequently to exchange
with

68 with Mr. Evans of Yeovil, on account
of Mr. Evans's going to Horshington,
to administer the Lord's supper
to the church there, Mr. Walker
never being ordained as pas-
-tor over them. ~~On~~ At one of
those times in which he ex-
-changed with Mr. Evans, he
preached ~~the~~ from Rev. 21. 8.
"But the fearful, and unbelie-
ving, and the abominable, and
murderers, and whoremongers,
and sorcerers, and idolaters,
and all liars, shall have their
part in the lake which bur-
neth with fire and brimstone:
which is the second death." His
preaching from this text was
exceedingly awful, and I was
particularly struck with it;
and as I have been sometimes
ready to consider him as
the

the instrument, so I have been ready
to consider that as the time, and
the means of my conversion: but
as I do not consider the know-
-ledge of these circumstances
as at all essential in the in-
-sistence of conversion, so I do not
lay any great stress upon the
before mentioned circumstan-
-ces, in respect to my own hope-
-ful conversion. It is the fact
itself, and not the knowledge
of the time, means, or parti-
-cular circumstances, that, in
my present views, is of by far
the greatest importance. I had,
however, a particular respect
for ~~Deo~~ Mr. Walker while li-
ving, and have a respectful
recollection of his memory
now he is dead, and has been

7000 for many years. Various causes and circumstances, were, I hope, made to operate to produce and promote serious impressions on my mind. The death of a prodigiate young man, at Montacute, made a considerable impression upon me. He was a few years older than myself, and was exceedingly addicted to wickedness. At ~~the time~~ that time, I was much impressed with the thoughts of dying, and of my own liability to death, though I was well, and though I was young. These thoughts used to follow me and persecute me considerably. But it was frequently suggested to me, that I need not concern myself about dying more than other young people; that I was as

like

likely to live as any of those 71
that concerned themselves the
least about it, and this young
man used, as it were, to be pre-
sented to my view as ~~an~~ a stri-
king example of one that did
not trouble himself about dy-
-ing, and I was as well as he,
and as likely to live as he, and
why should I concern myself
about dying any more than he?
However, it pleased God, after a
short illness of about four
days, to remove this very young
man by death. ~~As~~ I preferred
not to determine his event-
-al state. What God might do
for him, in his last illness,
I leave. However, till that illness,
he led an exceedingly abando-
-ned life, particularly as to the
article of intemperance. His
death

7² death much affected me. I was
constrained, as it were to see, in
that instance, that if I did not
concern myself about dying, which
it was too evident he did not, yet
that I may die, and may be
young as he did. It was now
no longer in the power of the
Devil himself to hold him
up to my view, as a living
example of carelessness about
death, for he was ~~really~~ dead.
I trust, this awful Providence,
amongst other things, was caused
to work together for my good, in
my younger days. About this
time, I was exceedingly harass-
ed by Satanic temptations,
and some of these particularly,
were of a most distressing na-
-ture. I was not only tempted
with

with respect to my own Religion,⁷³
but with respect to the very foun-
dation of Religion itself. Another
temptation appeared ~~to me~~ to be
of such a nature, as I did not
suppose others that had any good
in them were acquainted with,
and this consideration particular-
ly prevented me from relating
to others. On what exercises of mind
I felt. These things exceedingly
puzzled me, and that for con-
siderable time. I have however,
since found, that they were so
far from being exercises pecu-
liar to me, and evidential
of want of grace, that ~~they~~
there are very few if any gra-
cious persons that wholly es-
cape them, and instead of des-
pairing, on account of such
ex

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exercises; I have been ready, at
times, to try to extract honey out
of the carcase of the lion, and
to conclude that the fierce assaults
I then met with were a kind of
proof, that I was in reality con-
-cerned to desert the cause and
service of Satan, and that he
was then using every mean in
his power, by trying to make me
believe there was nothing in the
-ligion, ~~and~~ ~~nothing~~ or pain-
-ting it out to me in the most
discouraging colours, to prevent
me from embracing it, and to
detain me on his low side.
When I look back to about the pe-
-riod I now refer to, there are dif-
-ferent circumstances that occur-
-red from whence I have since
at various times derived encou-
-ragement. ~~As~~ One thing, in
I pas

particular has often afforded me⁷⁵
encouragement, in the recollection
of it, namely, the places I used to
retire to to pray in secret unto
God. I can now look back with pe-
culiar satisfaction, to my father's
barn, to a place fitted up, ~~in~~
~~place~~ at a distance from any
house, in a field that my father
occupied, for bullocks to feed in,
&c. where I have heretofore retired
to endeavour to pour out my soul
before God. My reason for so doing
certainly could not be, to be
seen of men for my only reason
for selecting such places, was
to get out of their sight, and
to be out of their hearing: and
if not, I had been led to see before
I thus acted, that my own prayers
and my own righteousness in
every respect, would not only

But

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not do to trust in for justification,
but needed the intercession of Christ
to recommend ~~me~~ the same
to the Divine acceptance, and
approbation.

I trust, therefore, with-
out pretending absolutely to fix
upon any true circumstance or
instrument of my conversion,
that considerably more than forty
years ago, I was really conver-
ted to God. I trust, that through
rich, free, and distinguishing
grace, I was led to see my lost,
miserable, and helpless state
and condition as a sinner, my
own utter inability to save my
self, and the vanity of all other
refuges except Christ; that
I was led to see not only the ab-
solute need I stood in of him,
but

But his exact suitability
for one in my circumstances;
and that I was brought to look to
him and to depend upon him,
alone, for a whole and for a holy
salvation; and that I was made
the subject of a sincere desire
to devote myself to his service
and glory, and to renounce every
other service that was contrary
thereto and inconsistent there-
with.

Sometime in the year, 1760,
I went to Mr. Peter Evans, the pas-
tor of the Baptist church, at Yeo-
vil, to have some conversation
with him, about making a public
profession of Religion. He gave me
all due encouragement, and, after
awhile, namely, ~~so~~ on the 8th Day
of December, in the said year,
1760.

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1760, after having given in aver-
-bal experience to the church at
Yeovil, I was baptized by him, on
my grandfather Taylor's pre-
-mises, at East Coker, where that
-ordinance used to be adminis-
-tered at that time, there being
then no baptistry in the meet-
-ing house at Yeovil, though there
has been since, and ~~also~~ where
my great grand father, Robert
Newton, my grandmother Geard's
father had been baptized, ~~many~~
a number of years, before I was
-born. At the time I went to con-
-verse with Mr Evans, relative to
making a profession of Religion,
he lived at Stafford, about five
or six miles from Montacute. Yeov-
-vil is not in the direct road
from

from Montacute to ~~Stafford~~ Stafford, but it
is not very much out of the way.
I went, however, through Yeovil.
I said nothing to any person what-
ever, what particular end I had in
view, in going that day to Stafford,
but to Mr. Evans himself, when
I got there. I do not recollect that
I had any particular hesitations,
about going quite through to Staf-
ford, at that time, till after I had
passed through Yeovil, which is
about two miles from Stafford.
Between Yeovil and Stafford, how-
ever, I not only began to hesitate,
as to whether I should go through,
or turn back again, but stopped
more than once, deliberating what
^{course} ~~steps~~ to take, fearing I should do
wrong, if I proceeded, and yet
fearing

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fearing I should not do right, if I
did not. The first time I stopped,
I sat down at the entrance of a
kind of wood or grove, and staid
some considerable time, before I
concluded which to do. At length,
however, ~~it was im-~~ it was im-
-pressed upon my mind that, ~~&~~
if I turned back, I should obey
the dictates of the enemy of
my soul, and that, if I persevered,
I should obey the dictates of the
Spirit of God. This considera-
-tion determined me to persevere.
but however when I got within
sight of Stafford, my heart be-
gan to fail me again, and I
sat some time upon a stile, ~~&~~
deliberating, whether I had not
better stile return, without go-
-ing through to Mr. Lewis's. Hon

However, I was after awhile induced
to go forward again, and I went
quite to Mr. Evans' house; but even
then, I had not courage enough to
go in; but went beyond the house
and stood sometime against a gate
on the ~~the~~ opposite side from the
house, at a little distance from
it. How ~~so~~ much longer I should
have stood there than I did, I know
not ~~if~~ if the following occurrence
had not taken place, but Jane
Parvord, ~~a~~ worthy woman, a mem-
ber of the church at Yeovil, and
who at that time kept Mr. Evans's
house, having occasion to come
to the door to throw some dust
out, saw me, which laid me
under a kind of necessity of
going in. @ I found Mr. Evans
at

82 at home, and, after awhile, I must-
-tered up resolution enough to in-
-form him of the particular bu-
-siness that I came upon, and
-which was eventually followed,
-by my being baptized, as has
-been already stated. The next
-Lord's day, after I had been bap-
-tized, I was received, by their unan-
-imous consent, ~~at~~
-into full communion with the
-Baptist church at Yeovil, of
-which my father was at that
-time a member, and my grand-
-father Taylor a deacon. I was
-18 years of age the 16th day of
-the preceding March.

It having
-been thought that I had some promising
-talents for the work of the ministry,

I was called upon, on the 30th day of Novem-
ber, 1769, to exercise before ~~the~~ the church
at Yeovil. With fear and trembling,
I did thus exercise, at that time, by
speaking from the 84th Psalm, in the
method of expounding, before the
pastor and some of the members
of that church, for their judgment to
be exercised, whether I had such talents
or not. ~~At that time~~ This
was done, in the Baptist meeting house,
at Yeovil. I exercised there, before the
church, once more afterwards, in the
way of expounding, and likewise
engaged three times, in the method
of preaching, from select passages
of Scripture. The results of all was,
that the ~~pastor~~ pastor and church
considered me as having promising
talents, for public work, and I was,
with the unanimous consent, I believe,
of the whole church, recommended
by them, to the Baptist Academy at
Bristol

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Bristol, under the care, at that time,
of ~~those~~ ~~those~~ ~~those~~ those venerable and
respectable characters, Messrs Hugh
Evans, his son Caleb Evans, and James
Newton. Mr. Caleb Evans was co-pastor
with his father, at Broadmead and
Mr. Newton was assistant to 'the ve-
nerable Mr. John Thomas, at that
time, pastor of the Baptist church,
meeting, near the Pillay. I accordingly
went to that Academy, in the
month of September, 1790. It was
soon after the first formation of the
Bristol Education Society, and I was
the second student taken upon the
foundation of that Society, Mr Tho-
mas Dunscombe being the ~~first~~

first. I hope, it was my sincere desire
to be directed in this important business,
by that wisdom which is from above,
and, I trust, I was so: but, upon the sup-
position of my being called to the
work of the ministry at all, it
was

was my particular desire that I might be
called to it, while I was young, that I
might have the advantage of some
Academical instruction. I did not con-
sider any Academical instruction as
capable of making me or any one
else a real minister of Jesus Christ.
I considered not only grace, but promis-
ing gifts, as necessary prerequisites,
in this matter. But, I considered human
learning as useful, in its place, where
there were hopeful evidences of these
necessary prerequisites. And I am
just of the same opinion now, as
to these matters, as I was then. At
that time, there were several destitute
congregations, ~~at~~ a greater or less dis-
tance from Bristol, that were ~~supplied~~
supplied, in general, by the students
of the Bristol Academy. ~~As~~ In pro-
cess of time, I was sent out as a supply,
as well as others. The first place I was
sent to was Chalford Bottom, in
Glossos.

86 Gloucestershire, about 30 miles from
Bristol. Here I preached, February
the 24th, 1771; and this was the first
time I ever preached in a pulpit. I
preached, without making use of any
notes, in the pulpit, and was carried
through, upon the whole, pretty com-
fortably. Of a Monday evening, once
a fortnight, the students used to de-
liver a discourse, in the vestry of
Broadmead meeting house. On Mon-
day, the 4th of March, 1771, I delive-
red a discourse there. This was, upon
the whole, considerably more trying
~~to~~ than preaching to a country
congregation, as ~~at~~ we had not
only to hear us, some of the most
judicious of the Broadmead congre-
gation, but ~~at~~ Messrs. Whig
and Caleb Evans. On the 24th of March,
I preached at Grittleton, in Gloucestershire,
about

about 20 miles from Bristol.

On the 21st of April, 1771, I preached, in the morning, at the Pitkey meeting: and that day week, the 28th, I preached at Broadmead meeting. May the 5th, I preached the first time, at Bratton, in Wiltshire, about 26 miles from Bristol.

As there was usually a vacation in the Bristol Academy, of several weeks, in the course of the summer, I was appointed to spend at least, a considerable part of the vacation, this summer, at Bratton. It commenced in the beginning of July, and, on Lord's day, the 7th of that month, I preached twice at Bratton, and once at Frowbridge, in the neighbourhood.

I had for a considerable time, had a particular desire to see the celebrated Dr. John Gill, author of the exposition, on the Old and New Testament, in nine volumes, in folio: and, as I thought I could compass my object in that week between two

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Sabbaths, I went from Bratton to Salisbury,
Monday, July the 8th and went with a
coach from thence all night, and got to
London, next day, and returned back
to Bratton again the following Saturday.

~~See the following~~
During my absence, I
went to
Camberwell, near London, where Dr
Gill resided with his son, and there
had the singular gratification to
see, converse, ~~and~~ and dine with the
Doctor, at his sons house. I have rea-
-son to think that the good Doctor was
gratified as well as myself, particu-
-larly with the idea of a young mans
coming so far to see him. From Brat-
-ton to Camberwell and back again,
was an extent of two hundred miles,
- or more, the way I travelled. He treat-
-ed me respectfully, and though he
was not very abundant in talk, yet
he conversed with me considerably
more, than I ~~could~~ understood,
he was in the habit of doing,
in

in general, at least, with strangers. He was
decaying fast, and was got into a weak
state, at the time I saw him. He ap-
-peared, however, to be quite collected in
his mind. I rather think, he never
preached publicly afterwards, and he
died on the 14th day of the following
October, aged seventy-three years, ten
months and ten days, and when he died,
there was a great man fell in Israel!
During this vacation, my mind was
exceedingly exercised and distressed, on ac-
-count of certain deep and abstruse sub-
-jects, upon ~~which~~ if I persevered in the ministry,
to treat upon such subjects, as now
so exceedingly puzzled me, I had
strong temptations to relinquish the
ministry entirely: and, I think, if I
had had such views and feelings exact-
-ly respecting the difficulties of a mi-
-nistry, before I ever at all engaged in,
or with a view to, the work of the mi-
-nistry, speaking after the manner
of

98 of men, I never should have entered upon it. These difficulties, however, though they were exceedingly distressing to me for a time, were overruled eventually, I hope, for my good, as I was never so consistently and firmly established, as to certain important truths before, as I was after I had been thus distressingly exercised.

~~My dear brother~~
~~My dear brother~~
~~My dear brother~~

At a few days before the commencement of the vacation, namely, June the 28th, I received an account of the death of Mr. Peter Evans, pastor of the Baptist church, at Yeovil. He had been in a declining state for some considerable time before his death. He was ~~about~~ between 40 and 50 years of age, and had been pastor of the church at Yeovil, twenty years, I think, or upwards. He was a Welshman, and related to Mr. Hugh Evans of Bristol.

The

He was not a man of very shining abilities,
but he was sound in the grand fundamen-
~~tal~~ of Religion.

On the 2^d of September,
I returned to Bristol, ~~there~~ the vacation
being over, having been absent, almost
nine weeks. Though I had preached
at a number of other places, it was
not till after a considerable time that
I could muster up resolution enough
to preach at Yeovil and Montacute Pub-
licly. However, on April the 12, 1772,
I ventured to attempt it, and was car-
ried through better than I was afraid
I should be. Many people attended
out of curiosity, and especially at
Montacute, in the evening. Several
hundreds came to hear me, of one
description and another. May it
appear, at the day of judgment, that
some of them were really advanta-
ged by what they heard, whatever
were their motives in coming to
hear. After this, I did not feel so
much

much difficulty in preaching at Azevil
or Montacute, or any where in the neigh-
-bourhood.

I spent a considerable ~~part~~
part of the vacation, this summer at
Bratton again. On Lords day, July the
25th, in this year, 1772, and which
was during the vacation, I was pe-
-culiarly situated, in point of difficul-
-ty. On this day, both the congregations
at Azevil and Bratton, wanted me to
supply them, in person or by proxy,
if possible. To supply them both in
person was impossible, but by pre-
-vious arrangements, I managed
to supply them both, in person, and
by proxy. I got Mr. Job David of Frome,
who ~~was~~ was one of ~~my~~ my fellow students,
to supply ~~at~~ the people at Azevil,
which was about 40 miles from
Bratton. I got good Mr. Clark, ~~of~~
~~Frome~~ who was pastor of the church
at Crockerston, near Warminster,
but who resided at Frome, to supply
the

people at Thorne one part of the day, and
I engaged to supply his place at Croker-
ton. I got the people at Bratton to have
their morning service to begin earlier
and their afternoon service later, than
usual. ~~By~~ By these arrangements,
and by preaching four times in the
day myself, and riding about ~~20~~
20 miles, the matter was accomplished.
Mr. Clark was not in the habit of
preaching at Crockerston, more than
once a day. Mr. Sedgefield, the pastor of
the church at Thorne, where Mr.
David was assistant, though infirm,
agreed to preach once. By ~~his~~ his
therefore and Mr. Clark the people
there were supplied in the morning
and afternoon, and I was to manage
to get to Thorne to preach the eve-
ning in the evening. We began the
service at Bratton about 9 o'clock in
the morning, and finished about half
after ten. I then rode about 8 miles
to Crockerston, and began the service
there about 12 o'clock, which was
their

their usual time of beginning, and finished, about half after one. I then rode back again to Bratton, and began the service there about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and finished, about half after four. I then rode about 10 miles to Frome, and preached the lecture there in the evening. I have preached more than once four times in a day, in the course of my life, but never did such a day's work as this besides before nor since, including the distance of travelling, as well as the times of preaching. Such however, was the merciful state of health and spirits with which I was at that time blessed, that I was not at all distressingly fatigued and got up next morning, and went to my grandfather's at Lamb Coker, without feeling any inconvenience from the preceding days exertions, about 30 miles from Frome, and ~~the following day~~ there heard Mr. David preach, and the next day accompanied him to Exeter,

40 miles or more from East Coker.

August the 12th 1792, I attended the ordination of Mr. Jameson at Warminster, in Wiltshire, who now resides, and formerly has resided, at Royton. I went thither from Bratton, about 6 miles from Warminster. I went to Warminster from Bratton, in company with Mr. Samuel James of Hitchin, who had supplied the people at Bratton, the preceding sabbath. His eldest son Samuel James, who was with his father at Bratton, accompanied us. I never heard Mr. James preach, as I preached at Apsold and Montacute, the sabbath he preached at Bratton. I had an opportunity, however, of seeing and conversing with him at Bratton, before we went to Warminster: and here I formed a slight acquaintance with his son Samuel, which appeared eventually, under the influence of an overruling Providence, to have the way to my coming to Hitchin, and becoming Mr. James's successor. ~~At~~ ~~the~~ ~~time~~ ~~that~~ ~~Mr.~~ ~~James's~~ ~~health~~ ~~was,~~ ~~at~~ ~~this~~

at this time, in a declining state, and he took
a journey to Bristol &c. with a view
to the benefit of it: and, while he was out
on this journey, he spent the sabbath be-
fore mentioned at Bratton.

On the
7th of September, after having preached
at Yeovil and Montacute, the preceding
day, which was the sabbath, I returned
to Bristol, the vacation having termi-
-nated.

On the 16th of January, 1773, I
had the peculiar gratification, to be intro-
-duced, together with my fellow student,
Mr. Sutcliffe, ~~to a~~ by an el-
-derly lady, with whom I had contracted
-an acquaintance, through my
having preached at the Tabernacle
at Bristol, erected by the celebrated Mr.
George Whitefield, to the famous
Miss Countess Dowager of Huntingdon,
at Bath. The good Countess received and
treated us very respectfully, and was
very free and friendly in her conver-
-sation with us, particularly as to what

she had attempted and meant to attempt, ~~for~~
~~for~~ for the furtherance of the Gospel.
It was the wish of the people at Bratton, that
I should settle with them as their pastor,
and I had many struggles in my mind,
whether I ought not to comply with their
wishes, in that particular. They were
a friendly, hospitable people, and though
but few in number, much better able
to maintain a minister than some
other congregations that were much
more numerous; and what made
my difficulty the greater was, that
my father and mother rather wished
me to do it, as I should then have
been within a days journey of them,
Bratton being but about 40 miles
from Montacute. However, eventually con-
-cluded to give this matter up, though
I could form no positive idea where my
lot would be cast. One thing that had
considerable weight with me was, that
the number of people was not only
small, but there seemed from the small-
ness of the population of the parish, and
the

4th the state of the neighbourhood, but little prospect of much increase. We are, however, but poor judges of futurity. There has been since ~~and~~ considerable interest there, and is so at the present time, ~~where~~ in which I rejoice. Nevertheless, it did not appear, in the event, that that was the place which Providence had allotted to me.

Having given up the idea of settling at Bratton, it was concluded by Mr. Evans, that I should spend the next vacation in Cornwall. Accordingly, on the 21st of

June, 1773, having previously gone from Bristol to my native country, I left that place, on a little horse of my father's, which I had for the journey, and went to Wellington, in Somersetshire, that day, where I preached, in the evening. The 22nd I went to Exeter, in Devonshire, and preached there in the evening. The 23rd, I went to Dartmouth, in De
von

Devonshire, ~~and~~ where the famous Mr. John
Havel formerly resided, and preached
there in the evening.

The 24th I went to Kingsbridge, in Devon-
shire, and preached there in the evening.

The 25th I went to Plymouth, in Devon-
shire, and preached there in the evening,
in Mr. Hinoman's Tabernacle.

The 26th I crossed an arm of the sea,
with my horse in a boat, about four
miles from Plymouth, and got into

the County of Cornwall, and reached
Truro, that night. I did not know one
person in all the County of Cornwall, that
I recollect, at that time. However, no
intelligence had been sent before to give
notice of my coming. I was kindly recei-
ved at Truro, by Mr. and Mrs. Turner,

and Sunday morning the 27th Mr.
Turner accompanied me to Falmouth,
about ten or a dozen miles from Truro.

I had now travelled from the preceding
Monday morning, that I left my
father's house, about 180 miles,
and

100
and the whole of my journeying expences
amounted but to about half a guinea, and
~~was~~ that was expended princi-
-pally about my horse. At Tralmonth
I was kindly received by Mr. and Mrs
Motton, and their house was my princi-
-pal home, while I remained in
Cornwall. At Tralmonth, I preached
three times, on the day of my arrival
there.

I tarried in Cornwall, from the
time of my entrance into it, on the 26th
of June, 1773, to the 16th of September,
1773, being a period of almost three
months. On the said 16th of Septem-
-ber, I left Cornwall, and arrived at
Plymouth in Devonshire. Here I
tarried some days, and was kindly
and hospitably entertained, by the re-
-verable Mr. Philip Gibbs, at that time
-pastor of the Baptist church, at Ply-
-mouth. I spent Lord's day September
the 19th at Plymouth, and was present
at the baptism of several persons
by Mr. Gibbs, and heard him preach
a

The county of Cornwall is remarkable for its tin and copper mines. It is comparatively an exceedingly barren county above ground. Its riches lie under ground. The value of its tin and copper mines defies exact calculation. I understood, while I was there, that ~~no~~^{no} single silver or gold mine, Tin Pabu, had produced so much real wealth, as a single tin or copper mine had produced in Cornwall. Some of the mines are of an amazing depth. I had the curiosity to descend one of the copper mines. I dressed like a miner, with a jacket and trousers, and shoes, but no stockings, with a candle in my hand, along with a person belonging to the mine who conducted me, I went down forty ladders, one after another. The whole depth was one hundred fathoms, or six hundred feet, or about a furlong from the

the surface. Thousands and tens of
thousands of people in Cornwall get
their bread in working in these tin
and copper mines underground,
and in separating the ore from the
dross, and getting it into a proper
state for sale and use above
ground.

Notwithstanding I had
preached so many times in Cornwall
and other places, between the times
of my leaving Bristol, and retur-
ning thither again; notwithstanding
I had, at times considerable
pleasure in preaching; notwith-
standing my preaching had
been in general acceptable, and
in many instances hopefully use-
ful, at least for encouragement,
quickenings, and consolation;
yet soon after my return to Bristol,
it pleased God to shew me my own
weakness, by permitting me to
sink ~~into~~ into such a state of men-
tal perplexity and distress, that

110 I again not only began seriously to
think about absolutely declining
the ministry, but I was ready to
conclude that it was absolutely
impossible that I should be able,
with any degree of ~~comfort~~ com-
fort, to persevere in it. In this un-
comfortable condition, I continued
for some time, and though I occasio-
nally preached as usual, yet it
was with particular difficulty,
as to my own feelings, and at
some seasons, I should have cheer-
fully given my coat from my
back, if I could satisfactorily have
relinquished the ministry alto-
gether, and never have ascended
a pulpit any more. After awhile,
I was however, restored, through
Divine goodness, to some degree
of satisfaction and comfort in my
work. Various means and instru-
ments were hopefully blessed to
me, to answer this end. Some
thing

Something said in a sermon preached
at the Tabernacle at Bristol, by
Mr. Hinoman of Plymouth, connect-
ed with what he said in conversation
afterwards, in which conversation
he spoke something about his own
mental trials and exercises, had
some encouraging effect upon
my mind.

A sermon preached, at
the Tabernacle by Mr. Bradock Glas-
cott, at that time, Chaplain to
the Countess of Huntingdon, and
now, and for many years past, vicar
of ~~St. Andrew's~~ ^{St. Andrew's} ~~Church~~ in the
county of Devon, had a very consider-
able effect upon me. His text was
Nehemiah 6: 11. Should such a man
as I flee? This ~~was~~ was indeed awed
in season to me, for I had been
thinking of scarcely anything
else but fleeing for some time, as
far as it concerned the christian
ministry. Indeed that was not the
par

particular view in which he considered the passage: he considered it, as it may be applied to the common profession of Christianity, and not particularly as to the christian ministry, but I thought if it would be cowardly in a common soldier to flee, it would be worse still, in one to do so who professed to be a sort of an officer. The impressions made by this discourse, which was a peculiarly energetic one upon my mind were considerably deep and lasting. This circumstance took place soon after my return from Cornwall, for this sermon was preached October the 16th 1773. But what had the most encouraging effect upon me, during the continuation of these perplexities, was some conversation I had with Mr John Clark, a kind of Methodist Independent minister, at Trowbridge. He was a man in good worldly circumstances

last illness was but short, as he 135
kept his bed but four days.

1775.

January the 3rd I received a unani-
-mous call from the church, among
whom I had now preached, as a
probationer, ever since the 12th of
the preceding June, to take upon me
the pastoral charge over them.

March the 12th, after having delibera-
-ted much myself, consulted my
-friends, and, I hope, earnestly im-
-plored Divine direction upon the
-point, this day, with fear and
-trembling, I returned an af-

-firmative answer to the call of
-the church, as to taking the pas-
-toral care of them upon me, and
-agreed so to do.

March the 23rd, This day I received
an

136 an account of the death of my
honored grandfather Thomas Beard,
who died suddenly in the night
of the 10th. This unexpected afflicting
intelligence much affected me. As
he was born August the 8th 1703,
he must at the time of his death
be in the 71st year of his age. It
was rather remarkable, that in
the month of November, 1774,
I had two grandfathers and one
grandmother living, and before
the end of March, 1775, in a less
compass of time than half a year,
I should have no real grandfather
nor grandmother. I had a grand-
mother in law still living, my
grandfather Taylor's second wife,
but my own grandfathers and
grandmothers were now all
gone. My grandmother Taylor
was dead a number of years be-
fore

This letter was signed by the famous 141
Dr. John Owen ~~and~~ Mr. George Griffith
~~and~~ in their own names and the
names of several other elders
of churches, in and about Lon-
don.

The first pastor of this church
was Mr. John Wilson, grandfather
of the celebrated Mr. Samuel
Wilson, one of the most popular
ministers of his time, who for
some years was pastor of the Bap-
tist church, in London, of which
Mr. Samuel Burford, and Mr.
Abraham Booth were afterwards
pastors, and who died, much la-
mented, in 1750, and whose funeral
sermon was preached, October the
14th, 1750, by Dr. John Gill. Mr.
Taylor, Hooper, in Newgate Street,
London, was the last person Mr.
Wilson baptized. He is still
living

142 living, and is the only member
of the church, ~~that~~ who became
one, in Mr. Wilson's time. He
is the benevolent gentleman
who has made a present to the
new Baptist Academical Institu-
-tion, at Stepney, of the Aca-
-demical House and Premises,
which cost Mr. Taylor, six and
thirty hundred pounds.

Mr. John
Wilson, was a member of the
church at Bedford, under the
pastoral care of the celebrated
Mr. John Bunyan, and there ~~is~~
- ~~the~~ the copy of a letter of dis-
- mission, from the church at Bed-
- ford, on behalf of Mr. Wilson,
in order to Mr. Wilson's becoming
the pastor of the church at
Hitchin, dated the 1st month,
1677, and signed by John Bunyan.

same house, ~~and~~ namely that ^{it is}
at Bull corner, ~~also~~ which belon-
-ged to Mr. James and his family.
It makes it still more remar-
-kable, that though I know not
when nor where I shall die,
yet that ~~while~~ die whenever, or
wherever I may, I shall not
die, before I have been pastor
of this church, considerably
more than thirty years. So
that of all the ~~pastors~~ ^{pastors} of
this church, there has not
been one of them for as long
period than thirty years. Nor
does it appear, that there has
ever been a period of two years
at any time, since Mr. Wil-
-son's settlement, which is now
upwards of one hundred

and

12 11 48 and thirty years ago, in which
the church ~~has~~ been without a
pastor.

of all the four pastors on-
-ly one of them suffered actual
public persecution: but good
Mr. Wilson, like his pastor Mr.
Bunyan, was called to suffer
imprisonment, for the sake
of a good conscience. He was
~~also~~ for some time a prisoner
for his Religion, in Hertford
jail, as Mr. Bunyan was
in Bedford jail. He however,
had the happiness to live to
better times, and was not
only delivered from im-
-prisonment, but was called to
rejoice in the glorious revolu-
-tion effected by the immortal

King William the third, and to 1701
seen an end put to the infamous
reign of that contemptible tyrant
James the second. It was in
Mr. Wilson's time, that the
meeting house was first built,
in 1692, after the passing
of the act of toleration, in the
first year of the reign of King
William and Queen Mary.

10
must be
the cause
to it in what you
she may of 1711, a complete
seventy years. I know of ~~me~~
other

150 Cambridge, ~~the~~ Hugh Evans of
Bristol, ~~the~~ Cole of Maulden, ~~the~~
Jones of Hempstead, and ~~the~~ Gill
of St Albans, are now numbered
among the dead. And, of all the
ministers that were present,
upon that occasion, I do not re-
-collect that there are above
~~the~~ living, besides myself,
Mr Rippon of London,
~~the~~ ~~ministers~~
1800

160
+ even
Ralph Radcliffe, Esq^r who
lived at the Priory, in
Mr Needham's time, though a
a

most profane ~~man~~ ~~one~~ ~~15~~
who, was to an uncommon de-
gree addicted to the abominable
practice of swearing, yet had
a high esteem for father Needham,
as he used to call him, and, in
more ways than one, he ^{he} manifes-
ted that esteem. But the pecu-
liar conduct of Mr. Needham, to-
wards ~~the~~ Mr. Wilson, consi-
dering the time of life in which
it was exercised, strikes me, as
far as it concerned fellow crea-
tures, as the most ~~un-
available~~ ^{available}
trait in Mr. Needham's ~~character~~
character. It has been already
remarked, that Mr. Needham
was but about 20 years of
age, when he came to Hitchin,
to be assistant to Mr. Wilson.
Mr. Wilson was then getting
aged and infirm, and as
Mr.

154 Mr ~~Wilson~~ Needham was
afraid it might hurt good old
Mr. Wilson's feelings if he should
be led to suppose, by any means,
that the people took more notice
of Mr. Needham, than they did
of him, he made it a rule
when he went to see the peo-
ple, to go with Mr. Wilson, and
not without him, so far as
he could contrive it to guard,
as much as possible, against
~~the~~ good old man's being
hurt by such an idea as is
above mentioned. Such a
nice sense of ministerial de-
corum, such a delicate feeling
of christian honor, such an
admirable display of res-
pectful veneration towards
a father in Israel, by a young
mi

Hitchin, I went to Aylesbury, in
Buckinghamshire, where I put up
at an inn. It was on that day,
and at that inn, that I first heard
of blood being drawn, between the
English troops and the Americans.
This information I had from a
traveller, that I lighted of at that
inn. He mentioned it as a report
he had recently heard, or seen
upon some public papers. The
report proved to be too true. It
referred to the affair of Lexing-
ton, which took place on the 19th
of the preceding month, April.
In this unhappy business, the
loss of the British troops amounted
to 65 killed, 170 wounded, and about
20 prisoners. The Americans were
computed not to have lost more
than 60, including killed and wounded.

I was much concerned, when I first heard of this melancholy affair: but I little thought, at that time, that I should live to see this country, after having persevered in this contest, about 7 years, and after having wasted, perhaps, one hundred thousand lives, and expended one hundred millions of money,

obliged to eat humble pie, and to submit to accede to the independence of America, and to renounce all kind of authority over that people. But I have lived to see still greater things than these. No Lewis the 16th King of the French, more out of hatred to this country, than out of love to America, impolitically interfered in this contest, in which, whatever may be said about the merits of it, he had certainly

certainly no business, his troops, 175
as any man possessed of five grains
of common sense might
easily have foreseen, while professed
by fighting for the liberties of
~~the~~ America, picked up some notions
of the rights that Frenchmen had
to liberty too, and after having in con-
-cert with the Americans, ~~secured~~
secured the liberties of America,
~~secured the liberties of America~~
~~secured the liberties of America~~
and peace had been
brought about between England
and France, as well as America,
and they had returned back to
France, they began to talk of the
liberties which Frenchmen
were entitled to, as well as Amer-
-icans. The dissemination of these
principles, in connection with the
pecuniary ~~and~~ embarrass-
ments which Lewis ~~definitely~~
had foolishly brought ~~on~~

178 of millions of pounds, besides of
I know not how many thousands,
~~of~~ of lives, of brave British
soldiers and sailors. Nor is the
contest yet ended, nor is there, at
this time, any present prospect
of its ending. All these astonish-
ing events and circumstances
may be traced up, I think, as
their secondary cause, to the
first blood that was shed, in the
affair of Lexington, in America,
on the 19th of April, 1775. What-
ever however, may have ~~been~~ ^{been} or
may be the views and designs
of men, of whatever names,
characters or countries, in ~~the~~
these matters, no doubt, the Great
Ruler of the Universe, has had
important ends of his own to
answer, by means of these instru-
ments, and whatever may
be

preach among the Gentiles the ²⁰¹
unspeakable riches of Christ. Mr
Robinson of Lambridge preached
in the evening, from Isa. 2. 5, 6.
"O house of Israel, come ye and
let us walk in the light of the
Lord. Therefore thou hast forsaken
thy people the house of Jacob, be-
cause they be replenished from the
east, and are soothsayers like
the Philistines, and they please
themselves in the children of
strangers. Mr Robinson's was a
very ingenious sermon. His
grand design was to show, by
what Christianity had been
caused to degenerate from its
primitive purity and simplicity,
and mentioned the following cau-
ses, as having operated to pro-
duce and pervert that degenera-
-ed, namely, philosophy; setting
up

202 setting up reason instead of
above revelation; allowing of
human authority in matters of
religion; and using craft and
cruelty in propagating it, and
enthusiasm. He then shewed
the bad effects of such degener-
acy, and exhorted to reform
back again. Messrs. Clark, of
London, Walker, of Colnbrook,
Brown, of Potters Street, and
Heap, of Chesham, prayed this
day.

As this was the first time
I ever preached upon so public
an occasion, I entered upon that
exercise with fear and trem-
bling, and felt much during
the whole of the exercise. What-
ever, however, I felt myself, my
preaching, upon that occasion,
was generally acceptable to
iii

ministers and people, and, by some 200
of them, was much approved of.

~~Here~~ In returning from this Association,
between Hertford and Beverage, I
met with an accident. My mare
fell down with me, and fell upon
my right knee, and bruised it
considerably. Through Divine good-
~~ness~~, however, no bone was broke.

I got home to Hitchin, and, after
being lame, some little time, got
quite well. Blessed be God, for your
-veying mercies, escapes, preser-
-vations, and recoveries.

July the 13th. This was a very impor-
-tant day of my life. I had com-
-menced a peculiar acquaintance

more than a twelve month be-
fore this time, with Miss Eliza-
-beth Bradley, eldest daughter

of Mr Samuel Bradley, of
Maidencroft, near Hitchin, and

204 and, every necessary previous cir-
cumstance having been arranged,
we were married, on this day,
in the Parish church of Oppolts,
in which ~~the~~ Parish, Maider-
croft is situated, by the Rev. Mr
Smith, of Paulswalden, who, at
that time, was the officiating
minister, at Oppolts. In Miss
Bradly, I found a prudent, affec-
tionate, and pious wife, whom
it was the pleasure of God to spare
with me somewhat more than
thirty years, in which time, she
had become the mother of nine
children, seven of whom sur-
vived her. But to my very great
sorrow, it pleased God to remove
her by death, on the 20th of Sep-
tember, 1800, which is now more
than three years ago, in the 55th
year

year of her age. I desire to be out-
-missive to the Divine will, though
this has been the greatest trial, ~~per-~~
met with, and to be thankful that
it was the pleasure of the Almight-
-ty to spare her so long with the
as he did, even till our youngest
child had passed the 13th year
of his age. But, as I shall have
the melancholy task of adverting
to this touching circumstance
again, if I should be spared till
I come to treat of the period in
which it took place, I shall for
the present wave saying any
thing further about it.

July the 15th. Set out with my wife
on a journey, into my native coun-
-try.

July the 18th. We arrived at Bath.
Here we had an opportunity of
seeing the celebrated General
Bur

206 Burgoyne, who, in the preceding
year, had been obliged to capitulate
at Saratoga, in America, to
the American General Gates,
in the disastrous war between
this country and America, and
which, in its consequences, par-
-ved the way to the humiliation
of this country, and to the inde-
pendence of America. Gener-
-al Burgoyne was a very fine
~~looking~~ looking man, about six
foot high. In the afternoon, we
went to Bristol.

July the 22nd we went from
Bristol to Montacute, my na-
-tive place, and arrived there,
about 3 o'clock, in the afternoon.
My father, and my brothers Tho-
-mas and Samuel, and Mr
Edmund Lane, came as far
as Cannard's Grave, about
half

half way between Montacute ²⁰
and Bristol, to meet us, and ac-
-companied us from thence to
Montacute. We had the pleasure
to find our relations in general
well.

In July the 2^y I treated about fifty
of my fathers work people, men,
women and children, with a
supper. There were 6 pound
of beef bought, and 12 or 14 bun-
dles of carrots, besides ~~2~~ 4 or
5 puddings. The whole cost me
one guinea. They all had a suf-
ficiency, were well pleased, and
separated in good time and
order. My father provided them
with what was drunk, and care
was taken for them to have a
sufficiency, without having too
much. This was somewhat
like the feast that Christ re-
-son

208 recommends. It was made for
such as could not invite the founder
of it to a similar one.

Lord's day, August the 2nd. after hav-
-ing preached twice at Harsing-
-ton, in ~~the~~ that neighbour-
hood, I went to Milborne Port,
where I was at school, in 1762,
and preached a lecture there,
in the evening. My good old
-ter, ~~Mr. William~~ ~~Newton~~, my
particular sorrow, was so ill at
the time, as not to be able to
go to hear me. He recovered,
however, afterwards.

While I
was in the West, I did not forget
to visit Five Ashes, where my
dear and honored mother's re-
mains had been deposited.
Her tomb was peculiarly
open

affecting object to me. This melan-
-choly visit ~~was~~ again raised
up old sores and made them bleed
afresh. My eyes that had profusely
wept on her account more than
a year before, were, by this visit,
set weeping again.

August the 6th. We left Montacute,
and, after having visited, Brat-
-ton, Salisbury, Broughston, Portsmouth,
London, &c. arrived safe at Mr
Bradley's at Maidenhead, August
the 15th, having been in ten counties,
and travelled four hundred and
fifty miles, or upwards.

Lords day, September the 24th.
After having preached twice my-
-self at my own place,
old Mr. Hyde, at Backstreet meet-
-ing, a deacon of Backstreet church.
He was born in August 1688,
the

210 the glorious Revolution year. He
was called ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~rank~~, under
the ministry of Mr. Gilling-
worth, of Southwell. He recei-
-ved, a particular advantage un-
-der the ministry of Mr. Wright,
who preached, at Backstreet
meeting, many years before.
He was much benefitted, in
point of comfort, by the preach-
-ing of brood Mr. Needham pas-
-tor of Wykehouse street church.

He had very few, if any doubts,
as to the safety of his state, for
the last 50 years of his life.
He was a member of Backstreet
church, about 60 years. He
was a peaceable member in the
church, and would give up his
own opinion, for the sake of peace.
He had not been able to hear
at meeting, for some years; yet

211
yet he so loved the habitation of
God's house, and the place where his
honor dwelt, and was so desirous
of being an example to others, as
to attending on public worship,
that he made a point of atten-
ding himself, as long as he
could. His character was, upon the
whole, an honorable one. He
died of old age and weakness af-
ter having finished his 90th year.

He was sensible and comfort-
table to the last. Mr. Griffiths
preached, by his desire, from
Psalm 17. 15. "As for me, I will
behold thy face in righteousness:
I shall be satisfied, when I awake
with thy likeness." These words
were frequently mentioned by
him with pleasure. There was
a great concourse of people to
hear the sermon. Lord's

212 Lord's day, October the 17th I had
this day, after afternoon sermon,
an opportunity of spending some
time with Mr William Stapp,
Mr John Stapp's brother. He
was then a young man, and
going to Dr. Scott's Academy in
Merkshire, with a view to the mi-
nistry, and is now a settled mi-
nister at South Gave, in that coun-
ty, and has been for many years.

October the 17th I travelled from Roy-
-ton to Hitchin, with Mr James
Bicheno. He was at that time,
one of the students belonging
to the Bristol Academy. When
he was abroad, he was decoyed, by
a wicked captain of a ship, at
London, into his ship. He flat-
tered him, with what great
things he would do for him,
if he would go with him to
America

America. ~~Also~~ Being but a boy he ²¹³
was deceived by lips artful ~~and~~ insu-
rations, but when he got to Vir-
ginia, instead of realizing the
golden dreams, with which this
infamous captain had amused
him, he found he was sold by
this very captain, for a slave,
for 20, to a planter in Virginia.
Here he remained, as a slave,
two years and four months. He
was employed by his master as
a school master, having had some
education, and heely was exemp-
-ted from those hardships, which
slaves in general, underwent.
He had no great cause to complain
of the treatment, he met with
while he was a slave. He joyful-
ly, however, embraced his free-
-dom, when that was obtained
for him. This was done, by a
sum of money being given for his
ran

214 ransom. He not only was resto-
-red to his native country, but, in
-proce^s of time, became serious and
-was received a member of Mr. Ro-
-binson's church at Cambridge,
-and, appearing to have promising
-gifts for the ministry, he was ~~be~~
-recommended by that church
-to the Bristol Academy, and had
-been now connected with that
-Institution, about two years. He
-had spent the preceding vacation,
-in Cornwall. When he left Exmouth,
-where he had been stationed, he
-came towards London, by sea,
-and when they came off the
-coast of Sussex, they ran foul
-of a rock. They were now in the
-most imminent danger, and
-expected nothing but death, for
-a considerable time. The captain
-and the sailors were like mad-
-men, frightened out of their wits.

They

They flew to Bichenno, as if he had
been a god, knowing the character
that he sustained! O my dear parson
pray for us was their cry. They could
not attend to the proper business
of the ship ~~through~~ fear of death.
Bichenno was frightened enough
himself, but having religion to
support him, he has more coura-
geous than the rest. He encoura-
ged them to pray and work, in
the name of the Lord. One fellow
swore at the beginning of their
distress, but on Bichenno's repro-
ving him for his ~~sin~~ swearing
the fellow's reply was, "O my dear
parson! I did not think any harm,
O! pray for me, I will not do so
again!" The sailors were so frighte-
ned that they seemed capable
of doing nothing, but as they were
redirected by Bichenno, which he
was the more capable of doing,
not only from his being more
com

216 composed than they, but from his
having been at sea before when
he went to and returned from
America. He himself was obli-
ged to fire the guns as signals
of distress, ~~but~~ the sailors
being too much frightened to do it.
However, God was merciful to
them. Assistance came to them,
the next morning, though they
were in imminent danger a
considerable part, if not the whole
of the night. After the danger was
over, the captain of the ship, than-
ked Mr Bicheno, as one that he
signified, had saved the ~~crew~~
crew, meaning, that if he had
not been more composed than the
rest, they must all have perished.
Wicked men are disarmed by the
immediate view of apparent death,
while the righteous, if grace is in
suitable exercise, are carried in
an merciful measure, above the
shavish fear of death. The
sci

June the 6th. A little before 4 ~~22~~ 22
o'clock in the morning of this day, my
dear wife was safely delivered of a
son, and had a merciful time. As
both his grandfathers were of that name,
it was soon determined that his
name should be Samuel.

July the 12th. An Act of Parliament
having been passed in the present
year, altering the requisitions, rela-
tive to legally qualifying, Protec-
tant Dissenting ministers, so as
to put them under the protection
of the law, I this day went to the
Quarter Sessions at Hertford, and
did what was required of me,
and thus put myself under legal
protection, as a Protestant Dissen-
ting minister.

July the 25th. This being Lords' day,
I preached three times at Bedford,
having exchanged with Mr. Symonds.
During my stay at Bedford, this
time

222 time, I had some considerable conversation with Mr. Daniel Negus, who was 85 years of age, and had been an honorable member of Mr. Symonds' church, upwards of 65 years. In the course of our conversation, something came up about Joseph Perry, with whose conversion and experience I had been particularly struck, when I was a boy. He informed me that he had heard Joseph Perry formerly preach twice at Goldington, near Bedford, and that he preached there for some time, and that, at that time, there was a meeting house and a little interest there. By what he said, he was at that time a good looking man, under forty years of age. October the 1st. I spent some time this day, at Mr. Crowsley's, at Man-grove, with Mr. Pilley of Luton. One thing which was particularly con-
ver

concerned about by us, this day was, 223
whether it is the duty of ministers
to visit their people, when they may
be ill of contagious disorders. Mr.
Pilley, upon this subject, mentioned
the following striking anecdote. That
at a time when there was a very
bad fever at Luton, there was a
deacon of Luton church, who be-
ing exceedingly fearful, never would
go to see the people who were ill
of it, and blamed Mr. Pilley, for
what he deemed improper ven-
turesome, in visiting them;
but, though he refused to go no
where, where his company
was desired, by those who were
ill of that disorder, and the
deacon never went any where,
yet that the deacon caught
the disorder and died of it,
while Mr. Pilley never had a
symptom of it.

Nov.

224 November the 14th I this day
attended the funeral of Mrs. Mary
James, relict of my worthy pre-
decessor, the Rev. Samuel James.
She died in London, on the 12th,
and was brought this day to
Hitchin, to be buried. She had
not long been removed from Hit-
chin, to London. Before she left
Hitchin, she had been ~~affected~~
affected by a paralytic stroke.
It did not appear, however, that
this was the immediate cause
of her death, but some other com-
plaint. She was the daughter
of Mr. James's predecessor, the
Rev. John Needham. She was
a woman of good sense and ge-
nuine piety, and she made
a good finish. Some little time
before she died she expressed
herself with strong confidence
as

On the 25th of July, I dined with 237
James Cotton, Esq^r. who lived about
a mile from Arnsby and who had
married one of Mr. Hall of Arnsby's
daughters. Old Mr. Cotton, who
went from Boston in Lincolnshire,
to Boston in America, during the
times of persecution in England,
and who was grandfather to the
celebrated Dr. Cotton Mather, of
Boston, in America, was this gen-
-tle man's great grandfather.
His grandfather was an Indepen-
-dent minister at Hampstead,
near London, and his father
was an Independent minister,
at Newbury, in New England,
where the famous Mr. Whitefield
died. This Mr. James Cotton, at
the time of the breaking out of
the American War, was a ju-
-stice of the Peace & and a
Mem

238 a Member of the General Assembly,
in the Province of North Carolina.
He sided with the King of England,
in the contest betwixt this country
and America, and raised a
regiment, in 1775, chiefly at
his own expence, in aid of the
Royal cause, and headed this
regiment, as colonel or lieute-
nant colonel thereof. His regi-
ment, in some desperate engage-
ment, were either cut to pieces,
or obliged to shift for themselves
as they could, and he was obliged
to fly for his life. Being a noted
man for having acted against
the American cause, he was
diligently sought after, and
~~for a reward of five hundred pounds~~
~~was offered~~ a reward of five
hundred pounds was offered
to any one that would produce
him, dead or alive. He hid
him

himself in a kind of cave or hole 230
in the amount for three weeks and
was there nourished by a poor, but
trusty Scotoman, who concealed
him and fed him as well as
he could, though he might have
had five hundred pounds at
any time for discovering him.
At the end of three weeks, he left
this cave, and made off for Fort
St. Augustine, in East Florida, which
was about seven hundred miles
from the cave, and, after undergo-
ing many and uncommon priv-
ations and hardships, and
being once taken prisoner, and
some way or other obtaining
his liberty, he arrived safe,
at Fort St. Augustine. He tra-
velled ~~for~~ in general, through
the woods, all this distance, and
lay in the open air, and some-
times had nothing to eat for
three

240 three days together. His principal food, ~~protection~~ sometimes was a sort of nuts, that grew under ground and that were discoverable ^{by something} that grew about the ground, under which they were. He chose to travel through the woods, and to avoid frequented roads for fear of being discovered. He obtained some relief, I think, sometimes from the Indians. What rendered his support the more difficult to be obtained, as well as his lying in the open air the more difficult and dangerous, was, that it was in the time of winter, he was thus circumstanced and exposed, it being not far distant from Christmas. When he arrived at Fort St. Augustine, he was considerably emaciated, and his head

beard was grown so long, that he 24
could lay hold of it with his hand, having
not been shaved, from the time of
his taking refuge in the cave. His
clothes were almost all torn to pie-
ces, and his shoes were fastened
together by some bark that he had
got off from trees. He was supplied
with necessaries, when he got to
Fort St. Augustine, and the day
after his arrival there, he dined
with Governor Tomyn, who at that
time governed the colony of
East Florida, under the King
of Great Britain, that colony
being a part of the British domi-
nions, at that time. He staid
with Governor Tomyn for a consi-
derable time. ~~He was~~
~~that~~
~~He~~

He

242 He left a wife and several children behind him, in North Carolina. Sometime in 1777, he came to England, and his case being represented to the British Government 200-0-0 ^{per year} was allowed him by that Government to live upon. After he had been in England some time, he had a mind to travel into Yorkshire, and his road lay through Armoby. At Armoby his horse fell lame and was had shoeing, which was the cause of his staying there a day or two. His wife died, supposed to be through a broken ~~heart~~ heart, in Carolina, ~~soon after~~ soon after his defeat and flight. When he ~~was there~~ was there detained at Armoby, he was, ~~therefore~~ therefore a witness

widowers, and had been so some 243
years. Staying at Arncliffe, the next
sabbath after his horse fell lame,
he went to Mr. Hall's meeting and
heard him preach, and hearing
another meeting given notice of
to be held on a following day,
in the week, he concluded to stay
and attend that meeting likewise.
During his continuance at Arncliffe
- by, he contracted an acquaintance
with one of Mr. Hall's daugh-
- ters, and, in April, 1778, mar-
- ried her. He had had two chil-
- dren, by Mr. Hall's daughter,
at the time I was at his house,
one of ~~Abel~~ which only, was
living at that time. The sacrifici-
ces which he made in the Royal
cause were immense. He
had

244 had forty one farms, consisting of
nearly twelve thousand acres of
land in North and South Carolina.
Besides this he was Receiver of
the Kings Quit Rents, and Survey-
-or of ~~the~~ Lands, which brought
him in considerably. I understood
from his wife, he used to have
if I mis took not, a thousand
pounds a year from Government.
~~was~~ The 200-0-0 of a year which
he was now allowed from Govern-
-ment, ^{therefore} was but little compared
with what he had lost. He had
to recollect however, that whatever
he had lost, in a wonderful, and
almost miraculous manner,
his life had been preserved, by
the care of a superintending
Providence. He was about 37
or 38 years of age, when I dined
with

with him at his house. Mr. Robert ²⁷⁵
Hall, son of Mr. Hall of Armsby, and
afterwards minister at Cambridge,
and ~~now~~ now at Leicester was with me
when I was at Mr. Cotton's. He was
then about 16 years of age, and
was one of the Bristol students.
His attainments, even at that
time, were uncommon for his year.
After ~~the~~ peace was made between
Great Britain and America, ~~the~~
~~the~~ and Britain had acceded to
American Independence, Mr.
Cotton went to the West Indies,
and there he, soon after, his arrival,
died, ~~and~~ and his wife, who ac-
-companied him, returned back
to England a widow. From the
-consideration of what her hus-
-band had sacrificed, however,
in the ~~cause~~ ~~of~~ Royal cause,
a handsome allowance was
set

246 settled on her by the English Government. She is, as far as I know, still living, and supported by this allowance.*

August the 14th. This day dined with that ornament of human nature that credit to the cause of Protestant dissent, that glory of the British empire, John Howard, Esq^r. F. R. S. the celebrated Philanthropist, at his seat at Cardington, near Bedford. He was a man of good sense, gentle accomplishments, uncommon humanity, and real piety. He spent a considerable part of his life, in attempting to alleviate the distresses of poor prisoners, and for this purpose, not only visited all the prisons in England, but a great if not the greatest, part of all the prisons in Europe.

* Since ~~written~~ the foregoing account was written, Mrs Cotton has been removed. She died, at Loughborough, in Leicestershire, June 3, 1812, aged 60 years.

1781.

January the 13th. I this day attended the funeral and spoke at the grave of old sister Maime, David Valentine's grandmother, ~~it~~ had been a member of the church, about 60 years, and died at about the age of 93.

February the 20th. This day, about a quarter after one o'clock, in the afternoon, my wife, through Divine goodness, was safely delivered of a daughter. As ~~the~~ that was the name of her mother, her mother's mother, and her mother's grandmother, it was soon concluded that her name should be Elizabeth.

April the 22nd. I this day preached a kind of funeral sermon for my venerable tutor, who gave me the charge at my ordination. Mr. Hugh

248. Hugh Evans of Bristol, having
previously received certain intelli-
-gence of his death, from Zeel. 1.5.
to your father, where are they? and
the prophets, do ~~do~~ they live ~~forever~~
forever? By a letter I received from
his son, Mr. Caleb Evans, who also was
my tutor, I learned that his father
died, on the 28th of March, at half
past one in the morning, and that
his latter end was in bleed peace;
and that as Mr. Thomas expressed
it, who spoke over his grave, at
his interment, the frame of his
mind towards and in his last
moments, was, "like a calm sum-
-mer evening without a cloud"; that
he was never in raptures, but al-
-ways comfortable, and used to say,
very often, "Blessed be God, I am
not at all afraid to die"; and that
he was ~~buried~~ ^{buried} April the 3rd ~~and~~
that a train of mourners
and

and spectators that followed him and 49
attended his funeral was prodigious;
and that Mr Francis preached an
excellent sermon upon the occasion,
from Mat. 25. 21. "Well done, thou
good and faithful servant, &c. He
died, in the 69th year of his age. It
rejoiced my heart to find that my
good old master made so good and
comfortable a finish. May Godie the
death ~~that~~ he died, and may my
latter end be like his. What intelli-
gence I received relative to his death
in one way and another at dif-
ferent times, peculiarly affected
me. He had behaved like a son
to me, and I felt somewhat
at his death,

250. Thomas, who died the 22nd, aged
71 years. He had been a member
of the church many years. His
last illness was exceedingly pain-
ful, but he was mercifully suppor-
ted under it, and carried above
the slavish fear of death. He left
considerable property behind him,
and bequeathed one hundred
pounds towards the support of
~~the minister of the church~~
the minister, for the time being,
at Tyburne Street Meetinghouse.
I preached his funeral sermon,
from Job 19. 25, 26. "For I know
that my redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at

mentioned several times in his last 251
illness.

June the 5th. On this day, the Eastern
Association was begun, which was
this year held, at New Mill, near
Tring.

June the 6th. This day, I preach-
ed on the Rise and Progress of
Apopsey, from 1 John 4. 3. "And
every spirit that confesseth not
that Jesus Christ is come in
the flesh, is not of God: and
this is that spirit of anti-
christ, whereof you have heard
that it should come, and
even now already is it in
the world." Mr. Robinson
preached on the decline
~~the~~ ~~darkness~~ and destruction
of

252 of Popery, from 2 Thes. 2nd §.
"whom the Lord shall consume
with the spirit of his mouth,
and shall destroy with the
brightness of his coming". These
subjects, it had been previously
agreed betwixt Mr. Robinson
and myself, should be preached
upon by us upon this occasion,
and both our texts had been
concluded upon some time be-
fore, at his house, at Chester-
ton, near Cambridge. It was
intended, that there should be
a connection between the subjects,
and that one of them should
illustrate the other. My parti-
cular object was to endeavour
to give an account of the origin
of Popery, and trace its progress.
This could be done from historic
do

documents, as well as Scripture predic-
tions. It appears that the man of
sin ~~was~~ conceived ~~in~~ in the
Apostolic age. The ~~man~~ mystery of
iniquity ~~then~~ began to work.
In the course of a few centuries, he
was evidently born; and in the
course of about a thousand years,
from the period of the apostles,
not only grew up to a man,
but to a promoter. By that
time, the whole world, comparative-
ly, wondered after the least. Ha-
ving endeavoured to trace the
rise and progress and full growth
of this abominable, and destruc-
tive monster, I concluded my
discourse with an intimation
to the audience, that these words
come a time when this monster
would

254 would be destroyed: but that they
would receive an account of
this destruction from one who
was much more capable of
giving them this account than
it was. Mr. Robinson's discourse
on the destruction of Popery was
an exceedingly ingenious one.
As to the time of this destruc-
tion, he was exceedingly cautious.
He signified that he was not
going to ~~say~~ ^{say} that in that year
or the next, in that century
or the next, but that at some
period or other, Popery would
be destroyed. His general
idea was, that its destruction,
like its rise, would be gradual;
that it had already commen-

commenced, and would gradually
proceed till it was fully accomplish-
ed. His idea respecting the spi-
rit of God's mouth, and the bright-
ness of his coming, was that
these expressions intended the
Word of God, attended
by the influence of the
Spirit of God, and that by
this Word and Spirit of God, Popery
would be gradually ~~and~~ con-
sumed and destroyed; and that
whenever the Word
of God went, accompanied by his
Spirit, whether into a village,
a town, a city, or a na-
tion, so far as this Word proceeded,
and was understood, ~~and~~ under
the illuminating influence of
this Spirit, it would consume
Popery. This general idea,

256. he illustrated by several particu-
-lars. Some, at least, of which were
the following.

First, The History of the Word of
God is calculated to consume Po-
-pery. There are such historic
-facts in that Word, as are cal-
-culated, if rightly understood,
-to consume Popery, by prejudi-
-cing mankind against it.

Secondly, The prophecies of the
Word of God, are calculated to con-
-sume Popery. There is a false
-Religion, painted out, in its true
-colours, in that Word, which when
-compared with Popery, evident-
-ly appears to have had their
-exact accomplishment in
-it, and therefore as far as they
-are properly understood, by
-mankind, will consume Popery

Popery, in their estimation. 257
Thirdly, The spirit and temper
~~recommended~~ in the Word of God,
is calculated to ~~conserve~~ Popery
that spirit and temper is humane,
benivole^{nt}, charitable, and, in
every respect, amiable, but the
spirit ^{and temper} of Popery ~~is~~ is an uncha-
ritable, intolerant, persecuting, and
in every respect abominable spirit
and temper.

Fourthly, The conduct recommended
and enforced in the Word of God,
is calculated to consume Popery.
The conduct recommended and enforced
in the Word of God is a that of piety
towards God, sobriety as it concerns
ourselves, and justice and be-
nivolence, as it respects others; but
the conduct allowed of, and ~~required~~
in certain cases, required by Popery,
is

258 is just the reverse of all this. So far
as the Word of God should be properly
understood, ~~and its influence~~
~~and its influence properly felt, under~~
the guidance and operations of God's
Spirit, therefore, it must necessarily
consume and destroy Popery.

How
far the general idea that Mr. Robi-
son inculcated in his sermon, has
been justified by subsequent events,
is worthy of consideration. It is
now (Dec. 3, 1811) more than thirty
years ago, that that sermon ~~was~~
was preached. Popery has
been, in every considerable
degree, as to its power, at least,
~~consumed~~ consumed and destroyed,
since that time, and the Pope
himself, has been driven from
Rome

Rome, which was the seat of the 250
Beast for ages, and is now no better
in fact, than a prisoner, under the
power of Bonaparte. This astonish-
ing alteration, has been however, not
altogether produced by the gradual
progress of God's word, but in a
great degree, by the progress and
terror of Bonaparte's arms. Never-
theless, this progress and terror, may
have paved the way, for the progress
hereafter of the word of God, not
to say what effects, in that view,
they may have already produ-
ced in a degree, and with that ex-
tent and rapidity which may
not have been otherwise likely
to have taken place. And the won-
derful exertions which have been
made, of late years, for the dif-
fusion of Divine truth, by Missio-
nary

26. Missionary Societies, and other In-
stitutions, and which particularly
have been made and are likely to
be made, in an increasing ratio,
by The British and Foreign Bible
Societies, and the various auxilia-
ry Bible Societies that have been formed,
and are likely to be formed, in
this Kingdom, appear peculiarly
calculated, by the Divine blessing,
to realize Mr. Robinson's idea, of
abolishing gradually, concerning
Popery, by means of the Volun-
tary fusion of the Holy Scriptures,
as well as the ignorance, supersti-
tion, and prejudice of Heathen-
ism, ~~the~~ Judaism, and
Mahometanism.

In the evening
Mr. Baskerville preached, from
Psalm 68. 20. "He that is our God"

within about two hours of each other. 295
I preached, on this peculiarly solemn
and affecting occasion, from Psalm
90. 5. "Thou carriest them away
as with a flood."

December the 31st, I received an exceeding
-ly affecting account from my father of
the death of my sister Pittard's two
children, which were all she then had.
The youngest was taken ill the 16th, and
died the 18th, and the other was taken
ill the 18th, and died the 20th, and they
were both buried at Five Ashes, the

23rd in the same grave.

In the same letter, my father gave me
an affecting relation about himself.
He had been lately in London, and on
the night preceding the 22nd, which
was Lord's day, he was exceedingly
distressed in his mind, but in the mor-
-ning of that day, was 'proportionably'
rejoiced, and never enjoyed such a Sabbath
before in his life. My sister's children
were both alive, and, for aught I know,
will, when he left home, and both dead and
buried before his return.

296

1783.

January the 1st I wrote a letter of condolence and serious advice, to my sister Pittard and her husband, on the occasion of the very afflict-
-ing Providence that ^{they} had recently been excersided with, in the remon-
-val of their two children by death.

Jan. 9th I went to Backstreet meeting and heard Mr. Griff: the preach-
-neral sermon, for Daniel Lawrence, from Isa. 35. 8. "and a highway shall
-be there, and away, and it shall be
-called the way of holiness: the un-
-clean shall not pass over it, but it
-shall be for those: the way-faring
-men, though fools, shall not err there-
-in". Daniel was 40 years old when
-he died. He never could speak nor
-hear in his life. Yet he was a
-regular and constant attendant
-on

of Divine worship, when he could. He 29
was an excellent servant, ~~and~~ diligent
and honest in that capacity, and strictly
conscientious. I hope, in the best sense
he was a truly good man. He worked
for Mr. Bradley many years, and con-
tinued to do so as long as he was

able. In taking a ~~survey~~ a general
survey of the preceding year, it
is remarkable that twenty two
persons, old and young died out
of my congregation. Thus, though
no one died, during the month
was absent, on my Westcountry
journey, many died, in the course
of the year.

Jan. 25th I was particularly rejoy-
ced this day, with the intelligence
that Preliminaries of Peace were
signed between Great Britain,
and

290 and France and Spain and ~~America~~
America, and a cessation of Hosti-
-lities agreed upon ~~between~~ between
Great Britain and Holland.

March the 4th. This morning between
eight and nine o'clock, through Divine
goodness, my wife was safely de-
-livered of a son. It was soon agreed
upon that his name should be John.

April the 3rd. It had not been in gene-
-ral a practice among Dissenters, to
read the Scriptures publicly as a
part of Divine worship. I had been
-struck with the impropriety of
this omission, in consequence of what
had been said in conversation,
at my house, by Mr. Robinson
of Cambridge, ~~upon~~ upon that
subject, when the Eastern Associa-
-tion was held at Hitchin, in
1780. Mr. Robinson at that time
three

294
threw out an idea of this kind, that
the dissenters had erred on one side, as
well as the Church of England, on the
other. That the Church of England, not
withstanding the Reformation from
Popery, had retained in her services,
too much of the superstitions of Popery.
But that the dissenters, in order to get
far enough off from Popery, and
far enough off from the Church
of England, had gone a step too far,
and had not only left off surplices,
and bowings at the altar, and the
cross in baptism, and objectionable
passages in the Liturgy, but had
~~also~~ left off reading of the Scriptures
in public likewise, ~~as though the~~
~~Church were to be~~ ~~the same~~
~~as those by~~ ~~the~~ ~~Church~~
~~therefore~~ ~~because~~
this was a part of the public ser-
vice of the Church, as though
that service polluted the very
scrip

300 Scriptures, by its including them
in it. I was so forcibly struck with
this absurdity, that, after due deli-
beration, ~~and~~ ^{and} having mentioned it
for consideration, ~~by~~ at a previous
church meeting, and it having been
considered by the church as well
as myself, it was concluded
upon, at a church meeting held
this day, that, for the future, I should
read a part of Sacred Scripture,
as a part of public service, on
the sabbath, and, in general, I
have done this, on some part of
the sabbath or other, ever since.
It is remarkable, that much about
the same time, the same idea
struck other Dissenters, and now,
I apprehend, it is considered as
a part of public worship, of a
Lord's day, in most Dissenting
con-

321

congregations in the Kingdom.
In the month of April, my brother Tho-
mas and my uncle Curtis came to
Hitchin. I learned from my brother,
while he was at Hitchin, that
~~Thomas and my uncle Curtis were~~
~~both mentioned, page 292, were~~
Thomas Grey,
and Ambrose Murly's mother, who
are both mentioned, page 292, were
dead.

On the 14th of this month, I went, in
company with my brother and un-
cle to London, and on the
15th I heard Dr. Fisher preach an ex-
cellent sermon, at the Broadstreet
lecture, from 1 John 4. 13. "Hereby
know we that we dwell in him,
and he in us, because he has given
us of his Spirit." I was particularly
struck with one observation which
he made, and have been many times
encouraged by it since, and my
repeating of it has been the means
of

302 of encouraging ~~others~~ some
others. It was by the following pur-
port: That wherever the Spirit of
God in reality was given and pos-
essed, there was for certain some-
thing in such characters, which
nothing short of Jesus Christ
and his whole salvation, would
either suit or satisfy.

On the 16th of April, I was introduced
into the gallery of the House of
Commons, by Mr Alderman Bull,
one of the representatives of
the city of London, in Parliament,
with whom I had been acquaint-
ed for some years, and with whom
I once drank tea at the Mansion
house, ~~at~~ in 1774, when he was
Lord Mayor of London. I had a
particular desire to be in the
gallery of that house, that day,
as a debate was expected to take
place

place, relative to a loan of twelve million³⁰³
- lions, which Lord John Cavendish,
- then Chancellor of his Majesty's Ex-
- chequer had recently contracted for.
It was in the time of the celebrated
Coalition betwixt Lord North, and
Mr Fox, which made so much
noise, and excited so much dis-
- gust in the Nation. Lord North and
Mr Fox, who had been in peculiar
opposition to one another, during
the American war, were now uni-
- ted, and one of them was secreta-
- ry of State for the foreign, and
the other for the home department.
Mr William Pitt, who was prime
minister afterwards, for a number
of years, was then in opposition.
I heard Lord John Cavendish, Lord
North, Mr Fox, and Mr Pitt, all
speak upon the subject of the loan
at that time. Mr Pitt, in my opi-
- nion was by far the best speaker among
them all.

June

384 June the 2nd Being this day at Cheries,
in Buckinghamshire, where the family
vault of the Bedford family is owing
to the Head Steward being at that time
at Cheries, or at least having lately
been there, ~~and~~ who usually kept
the key of the vault, and the key
being ^{at} this time in the possession
of Mr. Davis, at whose house was
one of the Duke's under Stewards,
a worthy man and a deacon of the
Baptist church at Cheries. I had
an opportunity of going into the
said vault. There I saw nobility
in a most gloomy habitation. There
were, perhaps, forty coffins in the
vault, old and young, male and
female, of the Bedford family, or
such as were some way or other
connected with that family. There
I saw the coffin of the old Duke, the
grandfather of the present Duke.
There were along strings of titles
upon his coffin, but ^{not} withstanding
all

all his titles and honors, he was scared. 305
I was as much struck as with anything
that I saw in that gloomy habitation
with the coffins of the Marquis and
Marchioness of Navistock, the old
Dukes son and his sons wife, and
the father and mother of the pre-
sent Duke. They both died before
the old Duke. On one coffin was
the name of the Marquis,
who died such a year, aged 24 years.
On the other coffin was the name
of the Marchioness, who died the
very next year, aged 28 years.
Thus it appears they were much
of the same age, and died, at far-
thest, within two years of one ano-
ther, in the very prime of their
lives, from all the worldly honors and
enjoyments they then possessed, as
well as the still much greater ones
which apparently lay before them.
Alas! "Eic transit gloria mundi"
thus passes away the glory of this world.
June

306 June the 4th I attended the Eastern Association, at Colnbrook. Public service began, about half ~~eight~~ after ten o'clock. Mr. Giles of Chertsey prayed, Mr. Liddon of Hempstead preached, from Col. 3. 16. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom," Mr. Davis of Reading prayed, and Mr. Parker of Hertford preached from Jer. 2. 2. "The love of thine espousals," and concluded with prayer and the benediction. In the evening, Mr. Gill of St. Albans prayed, and I preached from Eph. 1. 22. "And gave him to be the head over all things to the church," and concluded with prayer and the benediction.

June the 11th I attended the Northamptonshire Association, which was held this year, at St. Albans. Public service began about 10 o'clock. Mr. Fuller ~~prayed~~ prayed, Mr. Ryland Senr. gave some account of the nature and design of the

Associations, Mr. ~~W~~ Ryland Jun^r. preached ³⁰⁷
from Isa. 43. 10. "Ye are my witnesses,"
Mr. Evans, late of Foxton, prayed, and
Mr. Hall preached from 1 Cor. 16. 22. "If
any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ,
let him be anathema maramatha."
In the evening, Mr. Sutteliff prayed,
and Dr. Stenmett preached from 1
John 3. 14. ~~and~~ "We know that we are
passed from death unto life, because
we love the brethren," and concluded
with prayer and the benediction.

The Association began on the preced-
ding evening, when the letters from
the different churches were read.
There was something particularly
pleasing in the letter from the church
at Armsby. Mr. Hall had labored
there for about 29 years, and though
he had been considerably useful
to people who had attended at
Armsby, who had come from
greater

308 greater or lesser distances, yet it seems, during all that time, he had had but few, if any, hopeful evidences of usefulness, as to Armoly itself. But it appeared, by this year's letter, that a remarkable alteration had taken place at Armoly in that respect, and that lately there had been a ~~considerable~~ ^{considerable} revival of religion, by Mr. Hall's instrumentality, in Armoly itself. This circumstance afforded abundant encouragement to patience and perseverance.

Saturday, August the 17th, Mr. Couper of Sutton called at my house in the evening, and informed me of the melancholy event of the death of my dear and much esteemed friend, Mr. Luke Haywood of Caddington Cotten End. This intelligence exceedingly distressed me, as he was a man, with whom I had been particularly intimate, with

with whom I had had much serious
conversation, and whose conversation
had been peculiarly encouraging
to me, as his experience, as to the
painful part of it, had been, in a
great measure, similar to my own.
I first became acquainted with him, at
Albany, when he was a soldier,
and heard him preach the first time
in his red clothes, in Mr. Gill's meet-
ing. I learned from him, at different
times, that he was a wild youth,
and like many others, under the
influence of a thoughtless dispo-
sition, enlisted for a soldier. During
his being in the army, he was sent
to Minorca, in the Mediterranean
sea. There he was stationed for some
years. While in Minorca, a com-
paratively exceedingly dark place,
it pleased God by some means
to enlighten him. He went in
the

370 the dark, out of a land of light, and
obtained light, in a land of darkness.
Being a man of some talents, he,
after awhile, used to speak to such
of his fellow soldiers as chose to
hear him, and ^{in process of time} ~~there~~ there
was a pretty knot of religious sol-
diers, and religious soldiers wives,
that used frequently to meet
together, and he used to preach to
them, which, it seems, their officers
connived at. After the commence-
ment of the American war, the
king sent some of his Hanoverian
troops to garrison Minorca, and
the British soldiers were removed
to England. Mr. Haywood, and a
part, at least, of the Regiment to
which he belonged, were stationed
for awhile at St. Albans, and
there he repeatedly preached, with
considerable acceptance. There
was

were several other serious men in 311
the Regiment, that I knew, through
their being at Ft. Allan, and with
whom I had some conversation.
I was particularly struck with the
high estimation, in which Mr.
Haywood was held, by his fellow
soldiers that were serious men,
though he was no more than a
common man himself, and some
of them were inferior officers. They
appeared to esteem him very highly
in love for his works sake. While
he was stationed at Ft. Allan,
he frequently preached at the Pap-
-tist meeting at Watford, and
they being at that time & without
a pastor, were desirous of having
him in that capacity. They made
some efforts to get him dischar-
-ged, but, for a time, these efforts
were in vain. I should have remar-
-ked that while he was stationed
at

312 at Minorca, he and the other serious
soldiers were particularly patroni-
zed ~~at~~ by that ~~as~~ phenomenon,
for benevolence John Thornton,
Esq. He used to furnish them with
religious books, and in one way and
another testified his peculiar res-
pect for them, because of their
religious character. Religious ob-
jects were particular ~~the~~ objects of
this good man's attention.

From
St Albans, Mr Haywood was remo-
ved into Scotland, or somewhere
near Scotland, and there he met
with his wife, in whom he had a
suitable, pious companion. Provi-
dence saw fit that they should be
united before his discharge should
be obtained. However, soon af-
ter that event had taken place,
the efforts of the people at
Wat

Watford to obtain his discharge was
effectual, and he, and his wife removed
to Watford, and after our will, he
was settled over the Baptist church
there as their pastor. He became
a Baptist, ~~before~~ practically, af-
ter his return to England, from Mi-
norca, nor do I know ~~that~~ that he
was ~~at~~ a Baptist in sentiment,
while he was in Minorca. After
our will, his situation at Watford
was become uncomfortable, and
the event was that he removed to
Cotton End, where he was settled, on
the 27th of June, ~~at~~ 1782, as had
already been remarked, so that he
was pastor there only one year,
and somewhat less than two
months. This was one of the mys-
teries of Providence, as he was a man
apparently likely to live a number
of years, and to be useful among
the people at Cotton End, for whom
he

314 he appeared to be peculiarly suitable. But God's ways are not our ways neither are his thoughts our thoughts. While he was at Cotton End, he was particularly patronized by the celebrated Philanthropist John Howard, 1792 who had a seat at Cardington, about a mile from Cotton End. He established a little school, and employed Mr. Haywood to teach his scholars ~~at~~ in the vestry of ~~the~~ ^{Cotton End} meeting house. He had two objects in view in this matter, namely, to assist Mr. Haywood, and to provide education for the poor children that he sent him. Though Mr. Howard was seldom at Cardington himself, he so arranged matters with his steward, that the children were sent to school and Mr. Haywood paid, whether Mr. Howard was at Cardington,

or in Germany, or any where else. 315
He was kind also to Mr Haywood in
other respects, as there was offered
or two belonging to the meeting at
Cotton End, and Mr Howard concei-
ved, this would be of use to Mr Haywood's
family, he made him a present
of one cow if not more. However,
it was not the pleasure of God that
he should continue here long. He
died of a bad fever on the 16th of August,
and was buried in the evening of
the 17th aged, I think 43 years. Mr
Symonds of Bedford preached his
funeral sermon. What made this
Providence the more afflictive was,
Mr Haywood, his wife, lay dan-
gerously ill of ~~the~~ the same fever,
at the time he died, and there
were four small children.
On the 19th, I went to Cotton End
to inquire about poor Mr Haywood
and

316 and her family. I found that she was
still alive, but exceedingly ill and ser-
viceable but a little while at a time. I did
not see her, this time: on Lords day,
the 24th I preached a funeral ser-
-mon, in the afternoon, on occasion
of the death of Daniel Brown, son
of William Brown of Langley,
who died the 15th in the 89th year
of his age. In this sermon I had
a view also to the affecting death
of Mr. Haywood. I preached from 2.
Tim. 4. 6. "The time of my depar-
-ture is at hand." As Mr. Haywood
was left in poor circumstances, we
made a public collection this day
to assist her, to which people ~~came~~
cheerfully contributed, as he was
a man held in considerable
esteem among us, and the circum-
-stances of his removal, and of
his wife's dangerous illness at
the same time, were particu-
-lar

particularly moving. I was much
affected myself, and I was instrumen- 317
tal in ~~the~~ exciting a great degree
of affection in others. My sorrow
this day was however, intermingled
with joy, as I heard this day, ~~that~~
only that Mrs Haywood was living,
but now ~~she was a~~
~~she was~~ considered as hopefully out
of danger. On the
27th of August, I went to Cotton End,
and saw Mrs Haywood. She was
now mercifully recovered, considering
the low state into which she
had been brought. I was particu-
larly rejoiced to learn how remar-
- bably Divine Providence had ap-
- peared for the distressed widow and
- children of my dear departed
friend. Samuel Whitbread Esq^r
who, as well as Mr Howard had a
- seat at Carlington, I learned
from Mrs Haywood, had sent her
a

310 a present of ten guineas. In proof
 of time, public collections were made
 at other places besides Hitchin.
 It seemed as if the whole country
 comparatively was turned by a kind
 Providence into a river of gene-
 -rosity, and the stream thereof
 made to flow to Cotton End.
 As some people I presumed, might
 not be provided, on the 27th when
 I began a public collection for
 this purpose, I made another, on
 the 31st. I collected and received on
 these two days £10-11-11. After this
 I received among my own people £2-2-0
 from Master William Thomas, £1-1-0
 from Mr. Brawley, and ~~£1-1-0~~
 besides some smaller sums. Mr.
 Matthew Foster of Little Wymond-
 -ley gave £1-1-0 towards
 the collection made on the 27th.

I received also some contributions. 219
from Watford. The whole of what I had
received on or before September the
3rd amounted to £10-10-5. On the
18th of September, I visited Mrs. Hay-
wood again. I found her husband
good friend Mr. Howard had not
been unkindful of her, as he
had called on her and made her
a present of ten pound bank
note. She was now mercifully re-
covered as to her health. I had
something handsome communi-
cated to me from Watford, for
Mrs. Haywood's use, sometime af-
-ter her husband's death, besides
that which I have already no-
-ticed. Indeed the whole of what
she received from every quar-
-ter and in every way, I should
suppose could not be less than
one

220 one hundred pounds, if it was not considerably more. Among other places at which collections were made for her there was one made at Luton.

On the 29th of October, I went to Cotton England Bedford to get a petition ready for Mrs. Holywood to send to the Widow's Fund in London, for ~~the~~ assistance. This was accomplished, and she has now received annually from that Fund ever since. And with the assistance she has derived from the profits of the Evangelical Magazine, in addition to ~~the~~ that from the ~~the~~ London Widow's Fund, and by one means and another, she has been mercifully provided for, upon the whole. Thus God

in his dealings with this good wa 921
man, has remarkably mingled
mercy along with affliction. She
was mercifully supported and com-
forted in his mind, under the loss
of her husband and her own afflic-
-tion. Thus strength from above was
granted her according to her day.

In the same week in which Mr Hay-
wood died, the town of Potton, in
Bedfordshire, was, in ~~accordance with~~
a great measure, burned to the
ground. It was occasioned by a
man not taking proper care
about a hayrick, which heating too
much, at length took fire, and set
the town on fire. Sixty dwelling
houses, besides other buildings
were destroyed, exclusive of house-
hold furniture, and other property.
On the 8th of September, some gen-
the

322 gentlemen came from Dotton to
Hitchin, to collect for the poor sufferers.
It was thought proper that persons of
different denominations should go
about ~~to~~ with them, upon this me-
lancholy occasion. Mr Morgan the
vicar, Mr Griffiths, the Independent
minister, myself, and some of
the people called Quakers engaged
in this benevolent business.
~~Members~~ of persons in this town
and neighbourhood subscribed li-
berally. Lady Salisbury of Offley
sent thirty guineas, John Rat-
cliffe Esq^r of Hitchin subscri-
bed twenty, Mr Sharpless sub-
scribed ten, and Messrs Everett,
Tristram, Gray, William Lucas,
Joshua Wheeler, and Mr Pierson
seven guineas each. Some sub-
scribed ^{five} guineas, others three,
others two, and others one, and
other

others smaller sums. The whole of 32³
what was collected at Hitchin, and
its neighbourhood, amounted, eventually,
I understood to two hundred and
fifty eight pounds.

A very striking
contrast may be exhibited between
Hitchin generosity, in 1783, and in
1670, one hundred and thirteen
years before. It appears from the
Parish Register of Hitchin, that
a general collection was made, in
the said parish for and towards
the redemption of captives, that were
in Turkish slavery. There were
one hundred and seventy nine

persons, who subscribed towards
this collection, all whose names
are in the Register, affixed to
the sums they subscribed; ~~and~~
and yet the whole of what they
all subscribed did not amount
to

324 to the sixth part of what one per-
son subscribed towards the Potton
fire, ~~£1000~~ as it came short of
five pounds. The whole amounted
to exactly £ four pounds four
shillings and seven pence. The
largest subscriber was Sir Ralph
Radcliffe, and his subscription
amounted to eight shillings.
His descendant John Radcliffe
Esq^r. subscribed, more than forty
times as much towards the
Potton fire. Several of the subscri-
bers whose names are in the Re-
gister subscribed no more than
one penny apiece. I do not know
exactly how many there were,
within the ~~par~~ parish of Hitchin,
exclusive of the neighbours,
who subscribed to the Potton fire,
but I should not suppose they a-
mounted to a greater number than
the

the subscribers, in 1670. I do not know 325
exactly neither what ~~was~~ the whole
amount of the subscriptions, of the
inhabitants of Hitchin exclusively
amounted to. I should not suppose,
however, that it fell much short
of two hundred pounds, if it did
not exceed that sum. Supposing
for the sake of argument, their
number was equal, namely 179,
there must either be a wonder-
ful difference in the circumstan-
-ces, or in the generosity of the in-
habitants of Hitchin, in 1670, and
1703, ^{as in the opposite value of money} ~~as~~ in the former ~~or~~ period
they subscribed only 4-4-7, and
in the latter, upon the above suppo-
-sition, ~~as~~ 200-0-0. A number
of single individuals in 1703, gave
more than all the 179 did, in 1670.
Mr Shipleys ~~or~~ himself gave
more than twice as much as
they all did. There was one life
lost if no more at the Pottan fire. On

326 On the 30th of December, in this year,
1783, John Radcliffe, Esq^r of the
Priory in this town, who died in
London, the 21st, was brought to
Hitchin to be buried, in the vault
in the church. I attended him to
the ~~cell~~ vault. He was 45
years of age.

In the course of this year, and
particularly towards the close
of it, the inhabitants of Hitchin,
and its vicinity, were frequently
alarmed by the dreadful cry
of fire. There were, I think, nine
fires that took place: in compar-
-tively a short time. One was at
Mr. Dyle's kiln, New England, ano-
-ther was at the Black horse,
another was at Mr. Bradley's kiln,
another at a hay rick of Mr. Barone's
of Gormanston, another, and which
was

was the most dangerous, ~~at~~ as 327
to the Town of Hitchin, was at the

Things Arms. The taking place of
these fires was, in a great measure
a mystery then, and has been ever
since. By circumstances, it appears,
that they must, most if not all
of them, have been the effect of
design, and yet it was a diffi-
-culty to account for what design
any could have in such horrid pro-
-ceedings. In one or two instances,
the design seemed to be pretty
well ascertained, namely, to
set something on fire, not for
the purpose of destruction, but
in order to have the merit of
first discovering it, or putting
of it out, in order to obtain some
reward. This appeared particu-
lar

328 particularly to have been the
case, as to the fire at the King's Arms,
and another, relative to alarm ~~at~~
~~places~~ which there was at that
time, situated near Burto's close.
The state of the town and neighbour-
hood, at length became truly alarming.
It was expected to hear the alarm
of fire about 7, 8, or 9 o'clock, ~~or~~
~~through~~ at night, as though it
was an ordinary event. And these
awful expectations in more instan-
ced than one, to the great terror
of the inhabitants, were actually
realized. There was however, a
wonderful mixture of mercy
along with these alarms. No very
great damage, comparatively,
was done, by either ~~of~~ them
~~of~~ separately, or all of them
put together. Some individuals
sub-

April the 10th. I and my dear wife 333
were much distressed this day, on
account of the alarming indispo-
-sition of our dear daughter, Elizabeth,
who had not been well for some days,
but was now got to be dangerous-
-ly ill.

Lord's day, April the 11th, was an ex-
-ceedingly trying day to me, I with
-particular difficulty however, preach-
-ed twice, in the morning and
-afternoon. I was so much affected
in my first prayer, in the morning,
that it was with particular
-difficulty, I could proceed, when
I came to take notice of the cir-
-cumstances of my poor afflic-
-ted child. I did not go out at
-all in the evening.
Lord's day, April the 12th, my dear
child

334 child, contrary to ~~many~~ many
ominous fears; which I and my dear
wife had had in the preceding week,
that this would not be the case,
being still alive, I again went
to meeting, and, with a heavy
heart, preached twice. I was again
so much affected in my first
prayer in the morning, when ad-
-verting to the circumstances of
my afflicted child, as to be scarce-
-ly able to proceed. I again staid
at home in the evening.

April the 19th was a trying day,
indeed to me and my beloved
spouse. After hopes and fears
had alternately agitated our
minds, from time to time, our
hopes were all cut up by the
roofs, between ten and eleven

o

o'clock in the evening of this day. 335
My hopes had been ~~lower~~ raised ~~higher~~
higher than they had been at some
times, even this afternoon, so far that
I even ventured to go out in the town.
They were, however, damped, even be-
fore I got home, by what Dr. Goin-
dale told me, who attended her,
and whom I happened to meet,
before my return. I found her much
worse on my return home, and
she kept getting worse and worse,
so till she expired. This was a
heavy trial both to me and my
dear partner. We had two sons,
but this was our only daughter,
at that time, and a lovely child
she was. I hope, however, we were
both mercifully kept from
murmuring under this bereave-
ment, though we could not
help

336 help mourning. If she had li-
-ned till about one o'clock of the
following day, she ~~was~~ would have
been three years and two months
old, she being born, about that time
of the day, on the 20th of Febru-
-ary, 1781. I saw her when she was
dying, but did not see her actually
die. I tried by ejaculatory prayer,
to commend her spirit into
the hands of God, when she was
in dying circumstances, and I
trust, she received that spirit
into the mansions of glory. As
I presumed her to be unfit in the
confines of infancy, this consi-
-deration was a great relief
to my mind, as I had and still
have, a cheerful hope, as to the
final states of all infants,
without exception, who die
in

in their infancy. I trust, that as in 337
the first Adam, they all die, so in
the second Adam, they are all made
alive. My dear wife was supported
as well as could be expected. She was
not so much distressed, when the
child was gone, as she was to see
her in so much misery as she
was in, some time before her remo-
val. ~~She~~ She suffered
much for some days, ~~as~~ before
she died, and my wife was there-
fore much more reconciled to
the idea of parting with her, when
the trying time came, than she
was some days before the awful
event took place. Thus, under the
influence of a wise Providence,
one affliction is sometimes
the occasion of reconciling to
another. I found this also to

operate

338 operate, ~~and~~ in one particular view
relative to myself. I scarcely know
what ~~the~~ particular disorder it was
that occasioned my dear child's
death. But whatever it was, it
had a particular effect on her
head. And, I was given to under-
stand that her head had been so
affected by her disorder, that it
would have been extremely doubt-
ful, whether ever she would have
had her senses, even if she had li-
ved. This had a wonderfully recon-
-ciling effect upon my mind, as,
-dearly as I loved her, I should ra-
-ther have her a dead child,
-than an alive senseless one.
April the 27th, my dear departed Pet-
-ty was carried to the house ab-
-sented for all living. This I re-
-cord with weeping eyes, though it

it is now more than eight and 334
twenty years ago. Neither I nor my
mourning father attended the funeral.
She was buried, in a private man-
ner. My much respected brother,
Mr. Griffiths, attended her to the
grave and spoke in the meeting,
on the solemn occasion.

Lord's day, April the 25th, I did not
go out in the morning. The meeting
was carried on by prayer and sing-
ing by my friends. In the afternoon
I went out and tried to preach to my-
self ~~as~~ as well as my hearers, from
Heb. 12:5. "My son despise not thou
the chastening of the Lord, nor faint
when thou art rebuked of him." Among
other means which I had used and
calculated to ~~as~~ reconcile me to
this afflicting Providence, I had
read Grovenor's Mourner. This
has been

340 passage is particularly noticed and
beautifully illustrated, in the preface
to that excellent piece. I never was
so struck with this passage, nor so
well understood it, as I did, after
reading this illustration, under this
providence. The general idea is to
guard against the extremes of
being too much or too little af-
-fected under the afflicting hand
of God. I was in most danger, in
this case, of the former. Against
that, therefore, I hope, I was enabled
to be particularly on my guard.
and I trust, through Divine help,
though I mourned I did not mut-
-ter, though I groaned, I did not
grumble, under this ~~affliction~~.
trying dispensation. I was carried
through the difficult task of preach-
ing this afternoon, better than I
was afraid I should. I did not
go out in the evening.