

Memorie

of

John Gaudin

of

Col.

Herby

Col. II.

E. J. Leonard
180 Park Ave
Post Office
S. Africa

Dr. Father

I have only time to say
I am obliged by the Graces - . . .

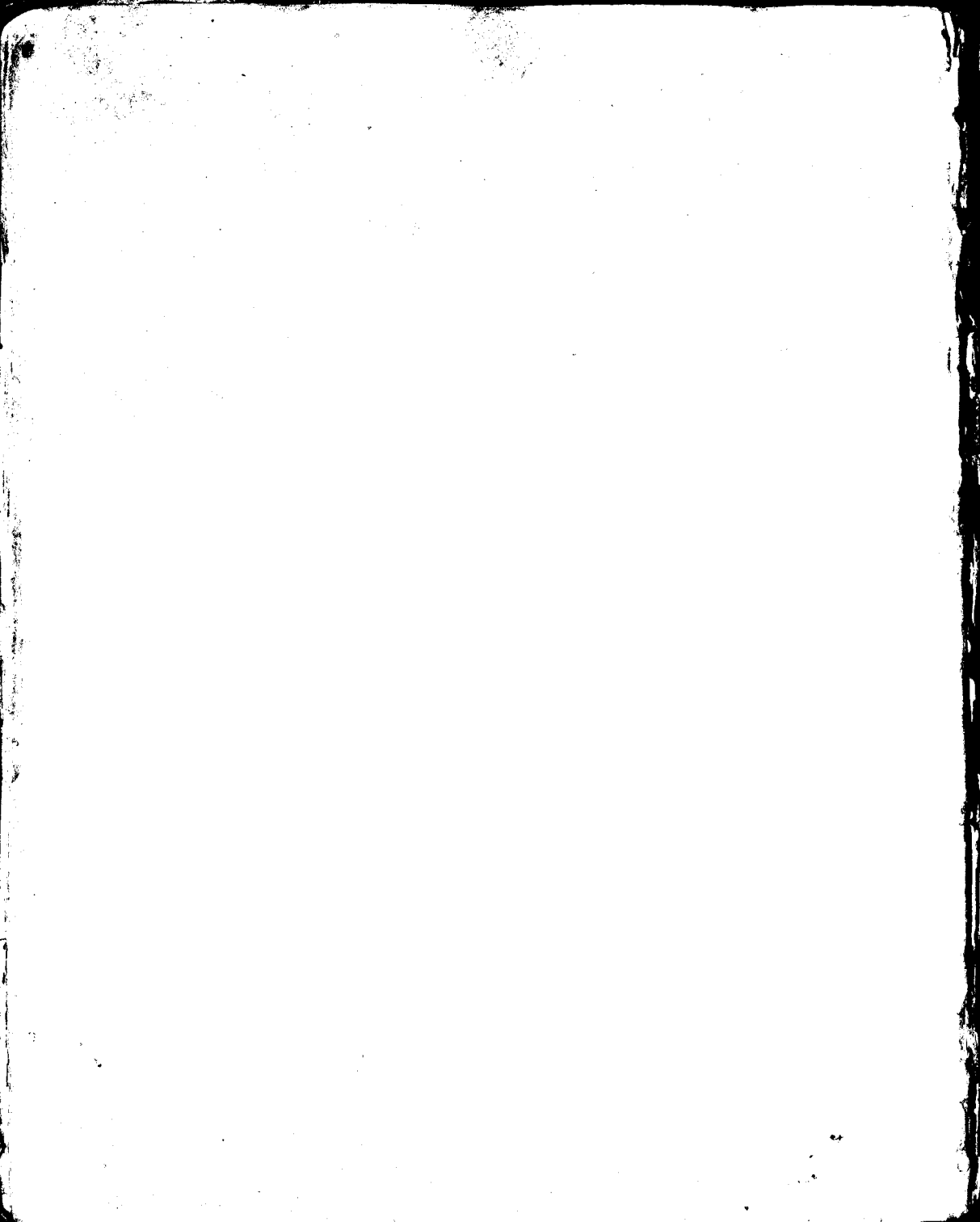
Can you send me by Return of
Mrs. Crawley Conveyance a copy of the
Oaths required to be taken by Departing
Ministers in order to obtain a Certificate
for Parochial. If you can possibly send
either a Book or any Papers to that ef-
fect - do so, as our Mayor is just
going out of office - & the next may
not be so favourable

Yours Obedt Servt

Memoirs
of

John Beard, of Hitchin,
in the County of Hertford.

Vol. 2.



Lord's day, May the 29th ¹⁷⁸⁵ about or 25
quarter after 4 o'clock in the morning
my wife was safely delivered of
another son, and, through the Divine
goodness, had a merciful time.
He was named Thomas after
my grandfather Geard.

June the 16th I was this day alarm-
med with the report of a terrible
fire at Biggleswade. I went upon
the Windmill hill near Hitchin,
and from thence could see columns
of smoke ascend up like clouds,
though the fire was eleven miles
off.

On the 20th I went to Biggleswade, and
saw somewhat of the dreadful
effects of this fire. It was an aw-
ful sight indeed. There were more
than one hundred dwelling
houses quite destroyed, and about
twenty more that were destroyed,
to a greater or less degree. There

26 There were seventy nine poor families
who were quite burned out. Several
maltings were destroyed, and the differ-
-ting meeting house, in which I had
repeatedly preached, and in which
good old Mr. David Evans had preached
for many years, was quite destroyed.
There was not any thing belonging to
- the meeting house that was charna-
- ble, but what was burned. There were
few, if any persons of property, in
the town but what were affected
by this calamity, more or less, though
some were affected much more than
others. Mr. Herbert, merchant, was
deeply affected, as to loss of property
of different kinds. Mr. Foster suf-
- fered considerably, but he suffered but
little compared with Mr. Herbert,
and compared with what he was
in imminent danger of suffering.
Yet there was mercy mingled ~~to~~
along with affliction, in this case.
I do not recollect that there
was any life lost, whereas there was
one, if no more lost at the Pothon
fire

fire, in 1783.

June the 29th I went to London, and
the same day I had an opportunity
of seeing Lunardi's Balloon go off!
Lunardi did not go up with it him-
self, this time, but a lady and gen-
-tleman did. They were inclosed in
something, in which they could either
stand or sit down, which was fas-
-tened to the bottom of the Balloon,
and out of which they were secured
from falling by a kind of wooden bal-
-cony, which surrounded it. They went
off, after they had cleared the hou-
-ses, which they had ~~also~~ been in
-danger of not completely doing, at
the first outset, in a kind of
majestic manner. They ascended
considerably higher than the top
of St. Pauls, and gradually passed
quite over London. They by de-
-grees lessened as to the view of them,
and by and by became quite
in

20 invisible, the Balloon itself, as well as
the gentleman and lady. They how-
ever descended safe the same day, at
some miles distance from London.
They set off on the Southwark side
of the river Thames, and went over
that river, at a great height above
it. I thought it then, and so I do still
to be too nearly bordering upon pre-
-sumption, nor do I know of any good
end ~~as~~ that has ever been ans-
-wered by that invention, nor do
I see that any good end is ever like-
-ly to be answered by it.

In July the 1st I met the Committee for
examining and recommending
begging cases from the Country, rela-
-tive to meeting houses, in order to
have the Cotton End case recommen-
-ded by them, at the Jamaica Coffee
house, Cornhill, London. The poor
people at Cotton End, having had some
years before a new meeting house

uilt

built, and there being a debt left upon 29
it, the famous John Howard Esq^r, who
had a seat at Carlington, in the neigh-
bourhood of Cotton End, and who had
always been a good friend to the
Cotton End interest, after having
subscribed twenty pounds at first,
and given another additional twenty
by pounds to reduce the debt, offered
to advance all the remainder, if
he could have authority from Lon-
don to conclude that he ~~was~~
should be reimbursed, what he
advanced, in addition to what he
absolutely gave, in two or three
years. He called upon me and made
this proposal. I wrote to London
to Mr Benjamin Wallin upon
this subject: and after consulting
his brethren, Mr Wallin gave
me to understand that he thought
Mr Howard would, in process of
time, be reimbursed. This I
communicated to Mr Howard,
and

30 and, upon the strength of Mr. Wallin's
intimation, Mr. Howard advanced the
money. Several years had elapsed
and no efficient steps had been
taken for the reimbursement of
Mr. Howard, and in the mean while
Mr. Wallin was removed by death.
I found, after awhile that Mr.
Howard felt hurt, ~~and~~
and thought himself neglected,
~~and~~ and he signified
as much to me, more than once.
~~and~~ I felt hurt as well as Mr. Ho-
ward, and the more so as I had
had a concern in what induced
him to advance the money. At
length, I so strongly remonstra-
ted upon this subject, that the
matter was taken up by some
gentle men in London and its
neighbourhood, in real earnest.
The Committee before mentioned
took up this case, before its regu-
lar turn, awaiting themselves

of an extra rule which they had, which 31
enabled them in extraordinary cases,
to do it. But it was suggested that
in order to accomplish this purpose,
I myself must go to London to beg
this money. Though this was an office
which abstractedly I was not desirous
of, yet as they had no settled harbor
at Cotton End, and as I had had
some concern in Mr. Howard's ad-
vancing the money, I considered it
as a kind of duty to undertake
this business. Accordingly, having
arranged matters with my own
people, and contrived about having
them supplied by the minister,
who then supplied at Cotton End,
on those sabbaths on which I
should be absent on their business,
I went to London and
met the Committee at the time
before mentioned. I found no
difficulty as to the Committee
recommending the case. 76

32 Having got the case recommended,
I the next day began acting upon the re-
-commendation, and did not quite
finish my begging business till the
5th of August. In attending to this
business I had many tire some
walks in London and its vicinity,
and met with a great many dis-
-appointments. I was more succes-
ful I understood, than many others
were, in the same compass of time,
and finished sooner than most
did. I met with civil treatment from
nearly all that I called upon, whe-
-ther they gave me any thing or
not, and from some I met with
exceedingly kind and respectful
treatment. I obtained in all up-
wards of ninety pounds, which
was not only enough to pay the
debt, but reimburse me for
the ~~co~~ positive expences that
I had been at in the business.

I got no more than one guinea as the 33
subscription of any one person. I was
not all the time between the 29th of
June, and the 5th of August in Lon-
don, but I came home once in the
interval and staid some days be-
fore I returned.

On the 17th of August I went to Mr. Ho-
wards seat at Cardington, with his
money, which I had collected for
him. As I did not meet with him
at home, I went to Bedford and left
the money with Mrs. Smith, Mr.
Smith the ministers wife, he like-
wise being from home, as ~~under~~
~~the~~ stood, however, from Mr. Howards
servant that it was possible I might
find him at home, if I returned that
way, I concluded to do so, and was
glad to find him at home, on
my return to his house. He was
well pleased with what I had done,
and, though I was heartily glad
when

34 when I had finished this business,
yet I not only never repented enga-
ging in it, but have felt a peculiar
satisfaction ever since, whenever
I have reflected on it, as it always
would have been a painful reflec-
-tion to me, if Mr Howard had not
been again reimbursed that mo-
-ney which he had generously
laid down, under the idea of being
some time, or other repaid it, ~~and~~
~~and I had some concern in procu-
ring that authority on which he~~
~~relied for being reimbursed. He~~
as I had some concern in procu-
ring that authority on which he
relied for being reimbursed. He
was after all, considerably out
of pocket by this matter, as he lay
out of the money for several years,
for which he was not paid any
interest. This all was what

how

~~Mr. Griffiths~~ ^{Mr. Strickland} with the 47
Captain and Mr Griffiths. It was
remarkable that there should be so
little time elapse between the deaths
of these gentlemen. Mr Strickland
was not laid by long before he died.
I rather think he was once at Backstreet
meeting, after Captain Sabine's death;
~~Mr. Strickland~~ ^{Mr. Strickland} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~meeting~~ ^{meeting} and yet,
his own funeral was within a
fortnight and two ~~or~~ ^{or} days of
the Captains. Thus, not only must
human ~~friendships~~ ^{friendships} sooner or
later come to an end, as to this world, but
human friends may be conducted to
the house appointed for all living
soon after one another. These ~~are~~
intimate friends were conveyed to
their respective houses, of this kind,
in the same month. Thus pas-
seth away the friendship, as well
as the glory of this world, as far
as it relates to this world.

~~February the 7th~~

1786

February the 7th. On this day I went to Biggleswade, and attended the funeral of good old Mr David Evans. He was arrested, January the 27th with a paralytic stroke, and died February the 2nd aged 76 years. He was this day buried in the meeting house, and great respect was shewn him at his funeral. By his own desire, Mr Mayle of Blunham preached his funeral sermon, from 2 Cor. 1. 12. "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-wards". There was a great number of people attended his funeral. It was calculated the number amounted to 800. Mr Bowers, who then preached at Biggleswade,

W. Gray

Prayed before the sermon. He was 49
not put into the grave till after the ser-
-mon, and I then spoke over the grave.
Mr. Evans had not been capable of
preaching for some time before his death.
He had lived at Biggleswade more
than 30 years. He had labored under
great discouragements there, as to
apparent non success. He once told
Mr. Foster Sen^r of Cambridge, when
he went to supply Mr. Robinson's con-
-gregation there, that he did not know
that he had been instrumental
for the conversion of one soul by all
his preaching at Biggleswade. If
he did not know of any such circum-
-stance either at that time, or after-
-wards, I came to the knowledge of
such a circumstance, after he was dead,
in conversing with a man, who I hope
was a truly serious ^{character} and who at-
-tributed his first serious impressions
to a sermon that he heard at Biggles-
-wade, and I understood, preached by
Mr. Evans, to whom he never made
himself known. His

50 His general character and conduct, how-
-ever, were highly exemplary. ~~At~~ These
-celebrated Mr. George Whitefield, with all
his popularity and success, did not
leave behind him a more ~~and~~
respectable character than good old Mr.
Evans did, with all his apparent
comparative want of ministerial
success. Though he was but little atten-
-ded on, in the exercise of his minis-
-try, he was highly esteemed by the town
and neighbourhood in general. When
he walked in the street, the very chil-
-dren were emulous to show, in their
way, their respect for his character.
Mr. Kirkby, one of his congregation, once
-related to me ~~and~~ a peculiar anec-
-dote, which bespoke the high estima-
-tion in which the general character
of Mr. Evans was held. ~~At~~ Mr. Kirk-
-by, soon after he was settled in the
neighbourhood of Biggleswade, as a
farmer, to which ~~he~~ had removed
out

out of Leicestershire, was at a public dinner, at Baldock, I presume, at one of the fairs held there. Somehow or other, the conversation at table took a turn, that led one of the company to speak about Biggleswade, ~~where of the name~~ who knew nothing of Mr. Kirkby, nor that he had any thing to do with Biggleswade, much less that he had any connection with Mr. Evans, and whom perhaps, some body or other of Biggleswade, had somewhere or other lately displeas'd. ^{He} shake about Biggleswade, somewhat to the following purport. "Biggleswade is a comical sort of place. I do not know that there is above one honest man there. I do believe there is one. The old Presbyterian parson is, I believe, an honest man. I do not know that there is any other there!! Now, though, I trust, the man was far enough from being right in his

52 his opinion, relative to other people,
yet what he said bore an exceedingly
honorable testimony to the character
of Mr. Evans, whom, it appeared, he
meant, by the old Presbyterian
parson, and this coming from one
who was far enough, I presume,
from being a Presbyterian him-
self, and who, perhaps, knew nothing
except what he had derived from ge-
neral report concerning him, spoke
so much the more forcibly in honor
of Mr. Evans.

April the 24th. I this day went to the
Quarter Sessions, at Hertford, and there
took the oath and signed the declara-
tions, which were required by the
Act of Parliament, passed in 1779,
relative to Protestant Dissenting
ministers. By doing this, I not only
was exempted from all legal pains
and penalties, but exempted from
all parish offices, and also from
serving in the Militia.

June

Baptist church at Geovil, and for a 59
considerable part of that time a deacon
thereof. He was exceedingly comfortable
upon his dying bed. He was nearly
or quite delivered from the anxious
desire of life, and the slavish fear of
death. God's covenant, Jesus Christ and
his salvation, and a good hope through
grace, were the grand supports of his
mind, and topics of his conversation
in those trying circumstances. He spoke
exceedingly de basingly of himself,
and well of God. Sin appeared to be the
object of his peculiar abhorrence, and
Christ of his support and delight.
As he died of a dropy, we were afraid
to keep him long, and therefore, on
Lord's day August the 6th he was
buried, at Five Ashes, by the side
of my dear mother. A vast number
of people attended his funeral. I do
not know that I ever saw so many
people at any funeral before in my

60 my life. My dear father being a man that was exceedingly respected, and being buried on the Lord's day, were two reasons that operated to produce such a concourse of people at his funeral. It gave me a melancholy kind of pleasure to hear and see so many testimonies of respect as I did, during his last illness, and at, and after his death. My father was carried to his grave by six of his servants, the youngest of whom had worked for him, not much less than twenty years, and another of them had worked for him and his father for more than forty years. One of them was in the seventy seventh year of his age.

Lord's day, August the 13th, Mr. Gillard preached a funeral sermon for my honored father, at Yeovil meeting, from 2 Thes. 2. 16. "A good hope through

through grace". This was a phrase ^{that} he frequently mentioned, in his last illness, and, on this account, I particularly wished it might be improved, as his funeral text. A great number of people went to hear the funeral sermon, and some who were never in that place of worship before.

My father had had a tomb erected for my mother, ~~at the same place~~ on one side of which there was an inscription to her memory. I directed the following inscription to be put on the other side in memory of him.

In Memory of
Samuel Gearh,
who departed this life
August 7th, 1786,
aged 50.

62 The graves of all Christs Saints be blest,
And soften'd every Bed;

Where should the dying Members rest,

But with the dying Head?

It is remarkable that, during the little time I was in my native country, there was a marriage, a death, and a birth, in my family. I had a sister ~~and~~ who married, a father who died, and a niece who was born, as my sister Pittard was safely delivered of a daughter, August the 18th.

My father's second wife to whom he had been married some years, did not long survive him, as she died the 26th of the following month, September.

After having made some arrangements, relative to my poor fathers affairs, I set out from my native country, with my youngest brother Jesse, who was not then quite eleven years of age, ~~and~~ on the 22nd of August, and got safe

safe home, on the 26th. I rode a nag of 6
my brother Thomas', and Jesse rode
a little nag, which my poor father had
had to nibble on some time before his death
and which I took, together with a bridle
and saddle, at a fair valuation. I had

been absent from home, for upwards
of eight weeks, and during that period
had had a great deal of trouble, care
and perplexity, ~~which~~ which
interrupted my rest by night, as well
as my ease by day. I do not know
that I had eight good nights rest, in
all the eight weeks, that I was absent.
This considerably reduced my flesh, though
through Divine goodness, it did not
materially affect my health.

During my absence, several deaths
took place, in my congregation: and
among others, ~~see~~ Mr. Matthew Foster
of Little ~~Wyandley~~ Wyandley
died, on the 13th of July, aged 58
years. He left my wife fifty hours
and

64 and my son Samuel fifty more.
On September the 1st, which was after
my return, Mrs. Hollick, wife of Gen.
Hollick, Esq^r. of Whittlesford, died,
aged 85 years. She was my wife's great aunt.

On this day, my brother Thomas, whose
mag. I had rode to Hitchin, came
hither, and he rode the mag. back. He
went to London on the 4th and, du-
ring that week, I went to London, and
we went together to Doctors Commons,
and there proved my poor father's
will, he having appointed us execu-
tors thereof.

On the 4th of September, I went to Mus-
-well Hill to Dr. Stennett's. There
I had the peculiar pleasure to drink
tea with Dr. Stennett, and Dr. Addin-
-ton, and my friend Rippon. It was
a peculiar gratification to me to
drink tea with the two doctors, in the
house of one of them, and to see
the christian friendship they each
of them manifested ~~for~~ towards
the

the other, though some years before ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~they~~ ^{they} had had a controversy with each other on the subject of Infant and Adult baptism.

September the 5th I went from Iluswell Hill, near Highgate, to London, and on this day, I attended a general meeting of the Dissenting ministers, of the three denominations, at Dr. Williams's Library, Redcross Street. The particular design of this meeting, was to address the King, on his Providential escape, when his life was attempted by Margaret Nicolson, who it appeared, was insane. The address was drawn up by Dr. Stennett, and after some amendments, was agreed to. It was afterwards presented to his Majesty, by Dr. Stennett, attended by an number of other Dissenting ministers.

November the 30th. On this day, I attended the ordination of Mr. James Bowe at

66 at Biggleswade. Mr. Robinson of Cam-
-bridge, addressed Mr. Bower, from 2
-Tim. 4. 5. "Do the work of an evangelist!"
Mr. Mayle of Blunham, addressed the peo-
-ple, from 1. Thes. 5. 12, 13. "And we beseech
you, brethren, to know them which labour
among you, and admonish you: and to
esteem them very highly in love for their
works sake. And be at peace among your-
-selves!" I introduced the service.

not long after met the chaise, and 119
stopped the horse. Mr. Smith was
taken to ~~the~~ Hodson house, that
being the nearest place, and his
leg was set, and, through Divine
goodness, he finally did well. I found
him, at this time as well, as he
could well be expected to be. Thus, there
was mercy mixed with affliction.
I was not only affected with sympa-
-thy, with Mr. Smith, under his acci-
-dent, but, I trust, with gratitude,
on my own account, who, though
I had met with two dangerous
accidents so lately, and had been
considerably hurt by one of them,
yet had not had any broken bone,
by either of them, and that I was
now mercifully recovered from
the injury that I had sustained.
September the 1st, of this day hear-
-ned that good Mr. Joseph Saunders,
the Independent minister of
Cambridge ~~was~~ died,
an

120 August the 25th. I was exceedingly
-ly sorry for his death. I had heard
before that he was dead, but I did
not know the day on which he died
till now. He was a friendly, pious,
excellent character. I had had ex-
ceedingly agreeable interviews
with him, at different times.
I remember once, particularly, when
I called on him at Cambridge,
he had Fox's acts and Mon-
-ty in bloody Queen Mary's days,
of the martyr Saunders, at Cob-
-try in bloody Queen Mary's days,
who, I understood, was an ancestor
of his: and he seemed ~~to be~~
delighted with the idea of his be-
-ing a direct descendant, of
such a man, and of the family
and names, of such an excellent
character, of whom the world
was not worth?"

Sept.

September the 16th, I attended a meet-^{ing} 121
ing of ministers at Biggleswade.
Mr. West of Carleton preached from
Psalm 126. 3. "The Lord hath done
great things for us: whereof we are
glad". And Mr. Dickens of Heseoe
preached from Psalm 116. 12. "What
shall I render unto the Lord, for all
his benefits towards me?" They were
two good discourses, and well connec-
ted together, by previous agreement.
In the evening, we supped at Mr.
John Foster's: and by Mr. Foster's
particular desire, this question
was discussed after supper. "Which
of the two does most injury to Reli-
gion, indifference, or intemperate
zeal? The question was narrowed
on both sides, by being confined
to such characters only, as might
be considered as the subjects of
Real Religion, at bottom. This
ques.

122 This question, in almost friendly
and agreeable manner, was dis-
cussed on both sides, and the compa-
ny ~~was~~ were nearly balanced, as
to their different opinions. There was
no difficulty in settling one point,
namely, that both indifference, and
intemperate zeal, did great injury
to Religion, but the question was
which of the two did the most inju-
ry to it. ~~The~~ Good friend Dickens,
who was a very pleasant as well as
pious man, much entertained us
with his shrewd remarks upon
the subject: and his decided opinion
was that intemperate zeal, did
the most injury to Religion. Take
every thing together, I never spent
a more agreeable day at any
^{meeting} ~~meeting~~ of ministers than this
was in my life, nor a more
agreeable evening particularly
in conversation.

Nov.

November the 5th. This day, being 123
considered as the centenary of
the glorious Revolution, in 1688, it was
observed, at Hitchin, in an extraor-
-dinary kind of way. Mr Griffiths
attended upon this occasion as well
as myself, at a public meeting that
was held at our place. ~~at the~~
~~place~~. He said something, by way of
introduction, relative to the Revolution,
and then prayed. I then preached
a sermon from Psalm 126. 3. "For the
Lord hath done great things for us:
whereof we are glad."

Lord's day, the 16th of November, that
being the 5th Oct. Hill, and, ~~I believe,~~
bradford, the exact centenary
of the ~~Rev.~~ Revolution, and King
William, then Prince of ~~Orange~~,
literally, ^{having} landed, at Torbay, in De-
vonshire, November the 5th, 1688,
I again took occasion to refer to that
an

124 important event; and preached in the afternoon, from Heb. 10. 32. a bit call to remembrance the former days. On this occasion, I particularly noticed several important events, of a national kind, that had, at different periods, taken place, in favor of this nation, but I principally dwelt and enlarged upon the last and best of them, that I particularly noticed, namely, The Glorious Revolution, of 1688.

On November the 14th An extraordinary meeting of prayer, was held at Backstreet meeting house, between our congregation and that at Backstreet, on the melancholy circumstances our King was in at that time. I made a proposal to this effect to Mr Griffiths, and he readily fell in with it. Mr Griffiths made a short introduction. I then prayed. Mr ~~Wilshere~~ Wilshere,

1789

March the 3^d. I this day learned that
 Mr. Samuel James, eldest son of my wor-
 -thy predecessor, the Rev. Samuel James,
 died of an apoplexy, on the last day
~~of the preceding month.~~ ^{of the preceding month, he was the}
 first person belonging to his father's
 congregation that I ever saw, at least,
 to know. I saw him first at an assem-
 -bly at Sodbury, in Gloucestershire,
 and afterwards at Bratton in Wilt-
 -shire, in 1772, and the little acquaint-
 -ance which took place in that year
 between him and me, proved the
 way for my coming to Hitchin, af-
 -ter the death of his father, under the
 superintending influence of an
 overruling Providence. He lived
 at Hitchin for some years after
 I came, in 1774, and afterwards
 removed to London. He was, I think,
 a year or two older than ~~me~~ myself.
 In the course of this month also, I recei-
 -ved an account, from my cousin

142 Ann Curtis, of Berwick, in Somersetshire
of the death of my uncle John Taylor,
of East Coker, in the same county. He
was, I suppose, about 60 years of age.
He was my grandfather John Tay-
lor's only son; though he had several
daughters. In consequence of his dy-
ing without children, I became en-
titled, as my mother's heir, to the
fourth part of my grandfather's free-
hold estate at East Coker. I and my
aunts Brown and Highmore, afterwards
sold our parts to my uncle Curtis,
who was husband to my other
aunt.

April the 23rd. This day was appointed
by the King, as a day of Public Thanks-
giving, for his recovery out of that
trying affliction, with which he had
been lately exercised, &c. and on ac-
count of which the extraordinary
meeting of prayer had been held,
which is noticed, Page the 124th.
The service began at our place, about
ten o'clock, by singing. Upon this
or

occasion four of our aged brethren, 143
namely Michael Updole, William Law,
William Lane, and John Merritt, en-
gaged in prayer and thanksgiving.
Their ages together amounted to more
than three hundred years. I preached
on that occasion, from Rom. 11. 36.
"For of him, and through him, and
to him, are all things: to whom be
glory for ever. Amen". We made a
public collection this day towards the
expences attending the measures that
were using to procure the abolition of
the abominable African Slave Trade
and which, though it was not effected
for several years afterwards, yet
by the persevering efforts that
were made, was accomplished, in
the year 1807. The whole services of
this day were not concluded till be-
tween one and two o'clock.

April the 28th. In the evening, I attended
the funeral of Mr. Crawley, a good old
disciple, who was a member of South
street

144 Backstreet church. He was about 47
years old when he died. He was left
a fatherless child, when he was quite
young, and his mother used to go a
washing for her living. He used
when he was able, to go from Hitchin
to Maidencroft to drive plough for Mr.
Bradley's father. Providence, by degrees,
so favored him, that he took a little
farm at or near Langley, where he
continued about 13 years. From
thence he removed to Kimpton
Park, where he continued 24 years.
He was exceedingly diligent, and
by the blessing of Providence upon
his diligence, he left behind him
at his death about three thousand
pounds. His wife died some years
before him. In his will he remem-
bered his wife's relations as well
as his own, and left several considera-
ble legacies amongst them. Among
others, he left £200-10-0 to John
Merritt's wife, who was niece to his
wife. He also left £200-0-0

it makes the before mentioned cir-147
-cumstance still more pleasing.
This valuable ~~man~~ ^{man} died suddenly
on the

October the 26th I attended a meeting
at Bishop's Stortford, in the County
of Hertford. This meeting was consti-
-tuted of a number of ministers
and gentlemen, to endeavour to
form a Society for the relief of the
widows and children of Protestant
Dissenting ministers of either of
these Counties, who should be mem-
-bers of ~~the~~ this Society at the time
of their death, and also of such mini-
-sters, as should, through age and in-
firmities, be rendered incapable
of public service. At this meeting,
the foundation of this important
Society was formed, and the first
guinea paid towards constituting
it

140 its fund. According to its rules,
no objects were to be relieved, till
it had realized ~~capital~~ capital of five
hundred pounds, and then one
fourth part of its annual income
was to be liable to be appropria-
ted for the relief of such objects
as might need its assistance, till
its capital should amount to
one thousand pounds. After this,
one half of its ~~an~~ annual income
was to be liable to be appropriated
to the relief of such objects, till its
capital should amount to three
thousand pounds, and after that
the whole income, if necessary was
liable to be appropriated for the re-
-lief of such objects. I have lived to
see not only the realization of the
capital of one thousand but of
three thousand pounds, years ago,
and the hearts of a number of
widows and some superannuated
iii

ministers to sing for joy that ever ¹⁴⁹
such a Society should be instituted. ¹⁴⁹
Mr. Field, an Independent minister
in Essex, subscribed one guinea,
or some one did for him, by which
he became a member of this Society.
Before the expiration of a year, when
another guinea would have been
to be paid, he died. His widow
was the first object that was relie-
ved by this Society. And by the time
she died, I believe, she had recei-
ved from this Society three hun-
-dred guineas for her husband's
~~and~~ My good old friend
Baskerville of Hertford, being redu-
-ced to such a state of weakness, as
to render him incapable of his
work, I went to the meeting of the
Society on the 26th of May 1807,
and there and then got him upon
the Society, and obtained 30-0-0.
for him and paid him that
sum, on my return from that
meet

150 meeting. And 30-0-0 Prannum
was voted to him by that Society
to the very day on which he died,
June the 14th 1814. On that day,
a meeting of the Society was held
at Dunmow, in Essex, and the
above named sum was voted
him that very day, and it so hap-
pened that he died within a few
hours of the time that the money
was voted him, as he died about
10 o'clock ~~the~~ in the evening of
that day. All the money, inclu-
ding this last, that was voted to
Mr. Washerville by this Society,
amounted to 270-0-0. It adds

much to my satisfaction, ~~and~~ as
it concerns my good friend Bas-
sherville, to reflect that it was
through me, as an instrument,
that he became a member
of this Society, and it still in
erec.

1791

1019

Lord's day, February the 13th, I preached a funeral sermon, for Mr. William Thomas.

He died on the 5th, aged 22 years.

His father, Mr. William Thomas, died in 1781, and left him a handsome fortune, which proved as to this world, a curse to him, as it enabled him to ruin his constitution by intemperance, to which he was strangely prone from his childhood. It would have been much better for him if his father had died in his clerical work, house, and he had been obliged to drive a plow for a groat a day, or whatever he could have got, in order to procure a bit of bread. I never saw, in any instance, a more striking display of the vanity and danger of worldly riches than were exemplified in him. His father's leaving him, perhaps, ~~the~~ the value of ten thousand pounds, was eventually like putting a sword into his hands to stab himself with. His father

190 was a good man himself, but, alas!
he turned out the reverse of what he
wished him to be. Though he was
brought up to attend ~~at~~ at Tylehouse
-street meeting, yet when he got up
to man's estate, he forsook his old con-
-ventions, and linked himself in with
such companions as were both a disgrace
and ~~see~~ a great injury to him. At
length, his constitution gave way and
he became, at an early period, a vic-
-tim to his intemperance. I had faith-
-fully and affectionately remonstrated
with him both by letter and in conver-
-sation, ^{about his conduct.} The last time I had an opportuni-
-ty of seeing him was on the 5th of Jan-
-uary. ~~It~~ It was my contrivance,
not his, that I did then see him. ~~It~~
One thing at that time, ~~that~~ some-
-what encouraged, as well as pleased
me. After I had faithfully and affectio-
-nately talked with him, and signified
that I must then leave him, of his
own

own accord, he desired me to pray with ⁹¹
him before I went, which I accordingly did.
It was his desire to be buried in the same
vault with his father and mother, who
died some years before his father, and
while he was quite a little one. She
was dead before I came to Hitchen.
She was a pious woman. He had also
a pious grandmother, whose funeral
I attended with him in Kingwalden
church yard, some years before his
own death, and to whom he was kind
in her lifetime, and she was buried
at his expense. This was a commen-
dable part of his conduct, as was
also his leaving about three thousand
pounds of his property among the poor
relations of his mother. May it ap-
pear at the great day, that the pray-
ers of his father and mother and other
pious relatives were answered concern-
ing him in his being called at
the eleventh hour.

Anastimus
Cox

192 number of people attended his funeral. His corpse was in the meeting house, during the service. ~~There were~~

It was crowded with people. Perhaps, there were a thousand people within the walls, besides hundreds that were with-
out, and could not get in at all. I presume there were some who were quite disappointed in their expectations, as to one article particularly, and I took care to inform them, if that was their object, that they would be disappointed at the very outset. I therefore prefaced my sermon somewhat thus: I have heard it remarked that funeral sermons were designed not for the dead, but for the living; that this was quite my own opinion, and therefore I should say nothing at all about the dead, except that he has died, and that he died young and that therefore ^{we} ~~we~~ were a lesson for us all that we must die, and for the young as well as others, and a proof that they may die, even while they were young.

My

My text, on this very affecting occasion, 1933
was Deut. 32. 29. & that they were wise,
that they understood this, that they would
consider their latter ~~and~~ end".
A 21. 2. 11 2. 1. 2

194 worse and worse, till ^{April} on the following
Friday evening, ~~April~~ ^{it} the 1, he sweet-
ly and calmly slept in Jesus,
man. He said but

Burying ground, belonging to his residence - 195
tury House. The Rev. William Clarke, M.A.
formerly of Unicorn Yard, London, but at
this time, pastor of the Baptist church, at
Exeter, addressed an amazing concourse
of people at the grave, and the next day,
preached the funeral sermon, on Gen. 5.24.
"And Enoch walked with God, and he
was not for God took him." The very pas-
-sage though at that time unknown
to the preacher, on which Mr. Day deli-
vered his first discourse to the people at
Wellington, after he became a student
at Bristol. Mr. Day was 70 years
of age, when he died. I have heard Mr.
Day preach repeatedly in my younger
time, at Yeovil and elsewhere, with
peculiar pleasure. He was not only
an excellent man but an excellent
preacher.

July the 22nd, Mr. Joseph Button, Sen^r died,
aged 74 years; and

July the 27th, my dear daughter Mary
died

196 died, aged 13 months and a few days.
I was exceedingly sorry for the death of them
both. I boarded with Mr. Button, from ~~the~~
my coming to Hitchin, the second time,
June 11th 1774, to the time of my marry-
ing on the 13th of July, 1778. Mr. Button
had always been one of my tried stea-
dy friends. He was buried July the 25th,
which was the very day the chreamonth,
from the time of the burial of Mr.
Richard Foster of Cambridge. At
the time I boarded with Mr. Button, there
were four of us that constituted the
family, namely, Mr. Button, and his
wife, who was great aunt to my
dear wife, and Sarah Crawley, and
myself. The other three were all
now numbered among the dead,
and I was the only one that was
left among the living.
July the 26th. My dear child was buried
in the same grave with my dear Bet-
sey, and put upon her coffin. My good
brother Mr. Griffiths, was so kind
as to attend her to the grave. Neither

1792.

201

March the 4th Being Lord's day, I public-
ly ^{read} to my congregation a copy of a petition
from the town and neighborhood of
~~London~~ to Parliament for the abolition
of the abominable Slave trade, and
anumber of people signed it. Petitions
for the same purpose were presented
from many other places.

April the 7th I was exceedingly rejoic-
ed this day to understand, that it
was carried by a great majority
in the House of Commons, on the
2^d that the Slave trade should be
gradually abolished.

Lord's day, May the 20th A very
solemn and affecting circumstance
took place. Two venerable old bre-
thers, Daniel Marable and John
Merritt, who had walked together
in church fellowship, more than
half a century, and who both died
on the 15th were buried. Their
corps

202 corpses were both carried into
the meeting house, and were there
all the time their sermon was preach-
ing, and then were carried out and
buried one after another. I preached
on this occasion, from John ~~14:15~~
the 3. 14, 15. "and as Moses lifted
up the serpent in the wilderness,
even so must the Son of man be lifted
up: That whosoever believeth in him
should not perish, but have eternal
life. The text was chosen by John
Merritt. Daniel Wardle was 88
years of age, and John Merritt 82.
A great many people heard their
sermon, and came to pay their
last respects to these respectable
characters, who for so many years
had been honorable members
of the church.

June the 12th I received the intelligence
of the death of Ebenezer Hollick
Esq^r who died on the 10th at Whittles.
60rd

Whittleford, near Cambridge, aged about 20
or 26 years. He was born at or near Cran-
field, in Bedfordshire, and when he
was a young man came to Charlton mill,
near Hitchin, and worked in that
mill for seven shillings a week. While
he was in this neighbourhood, he joi-
ned our church, during the pastorate
of Mr Needham, and although he com-
municated for many years with the Baptist
church at Cambridge, after he remo-
ved into that neighbourhood, yet he
never was dismissed from this church
to that. While he remained in this
neighbourhood, he married Miss Ann
Hobbs, daughter of Mr Matthew Hos-
ter, of Little Wymanley, and one
of the celebrated six brothers. She also
became a member of Tylehouse
Street church, in Mr Needham's time,
and never was dismissed, though
she also for many years communed
with the church at Cambridge. She

204 died, in 1786, aged about 86 years.
She was my dear wife's great aunt.
Some time after Mr. Hollick's marriage,
he removed to ~~Wotton~~^{Hampton} mills near Cam-
-bridge, to superintend the business of
Mr. Patterson; and after an while, he
succeeded her in the business. His
wife had 500 - 0 - 0 to her fortune,
and by what she told my ~~dear~~ wife, in
five years after ~~the~~ they began
business, the five hundred pounds
rose to five thousand. Before Mr. Hol-
lick's death, he had purchased the
manor of Whittleford, and also
another manor besides, ~~so~~ so that
before his death, he was Lord of
two manors. When he died he left
property behind him to the value
of, perhaps, four score, if not one
hundred thousand pounds. He
was an industrious man, and,
in particular instances, generous.
Both he and his ~~dear~~ wife were
kind

kind to me and my wife in different ²⁰⁵
instances and at different times. He
was succeeded at Whittlesford, by
Ebenzer Hollick, Esq^r his nephew,
whom he brought up. He also left
considerable property, and among the
rest, a manor ~~at~~ to William
Hollick Esq^r of Cambridge. Thus
the seven shilling a week man at
Charlton mill, was not only raised
to Esquireship himself, but was
the means of raising two of his
nephews to Esquireships. He was
occasionally kind to his ^{old Religious} ~~own~~ counse-
lors at Hitchin, and in Bedford-
shire.

Lord's day, June the 24th I preached
a funeral sermon at Hitchin, for
Mr Hollick, from Prov. 22. 2. "The
rich and poor meet together."

In the month of July, I went, with
my son Samuel, into Bedfordshire,
Northamptonshire, and Buckingham
shire

206 Buckinghamshire. We went to Northampton, and saw Mr now Dr Ryland, who had then had an invitation to succeed Dr Evans at Bristol, and which he eventually accepted, ~~so~~ both as to the congregation, and the Academy. I spent sometime agreeably with good old Mr John Evans, who formerly had been for about 32 years, pastor of the Baptist church at Foxon, near Armshury, in Leicestershire, but who had, through age and infirmities, resigned his charge at Foxon, and had ~~now~~ removed his residence to Northampton. He told me, I think, that during the time of his being at Foxon, he had baptized about 70 persons. He was an excellent man, and had formerly been one of good old Mr Hoskett's pupils at Bedford. He lived, in a state of weakness and infirmity, several years at Northampton, after his removal from Foxon, and commenced with the

the Baptist church at Northampton. 20.
August the 30th About a quarter before
8 o'clock, in the morning, ~~at~~ another
merciful salvation was wrought out
in my family, by my dear wife be-
ing safely delivered of another daugh-
ter. Out of respect to the memory
of my honored mother, the name
of Naomi was given to her.

On the 4th and 5th of December, I spent
sometime very agreeably with Mr
John Thomas. I heard him preach, on
the 4th, at Much Wymondley, from
Ezekiel 36. 27. "and I will put my spirit
within you!" and on the 5th, at Walker,
from Acts 11. 23. "Cleave unto the Lord."
He was son to Mr. Thomas, a member
if not deacon, of the ~~church~~ Baptist
church at Hairford, in Gloucester-
shire, at whose house I once was.
He had been two voyages to the East
Indies, & in his profession, as a medical
man, in one of the East India Compa-
ny's ships. As he had preached before
he

208 he went to the Indies, he was prevailed upon, by some serious people, ~~to~~ ~~stay there~~ after he got there the second time, to stay there, and go among the natives, and endeavour to Christianize them. He staid in the East Indies six years or upwards, and while there got sufficiently acquainted with one or more of the languages of the country, as to be able to preach to them in their own tongue, nor were his labors altogether without some hopeful evidence of success. While he was in that country, he had an opportunity, in one instance, to ~~see~~ see the awful as well as superstitious ceremony of a woman's being, with her own consent, ~~put~~ burnt, upon the funeral pile of her dead husband. I heard him read the relation which he had drawn up of this dreadful scene. He did what he could with the woman herself as well as others to prevent this from being done, but all his efforts were in

in vain.

When he came from the East Indies, he had it in intention to go back again, but he knew not then of any Society formed or likely to be formed, among the Baptists for missionary purposes, but after he came to England, he found to his great joy, that this was the case, and he and Mr Carey, were the two first missionaries who went out under the patronage of this Society, and they left England in a six-week ship, in less than half a year after I saw and heard him at Much Wyndley and Walkern.

1793.

On the 21st of January, in this year, in consequence of a decree of the National ~~Assembly~~ Convention of France, Lewis the 16th their King was beheaded at Paris. As he had been declared inviolable, by the Constituent assembly, in the new constitution which they had framed, this was ~~not~~ an unconstitutional act, whatever ~~it~~ might be said about the previous conduct of Lewis. This circumstance was soon after followed by a war between this country and France, which lasted, except an interval of about a twelvemonth, to 1814, so that it was of a duration of about twenty years in all. This war has cost this nation perhaps, five hundred millions of pounds, ~~and~~ besides many thousands of lives, and has cost all the nations that have been involved in it, several millions of lives.

July

1794.

213

Lord's day, January the 12th died Ebenezer Griffiths, only son of the Rev. John Griffiths, my much respected brother, the Independent minister of this town, about half an hour after twelve o'clock. He was 15 years old, on the 9th. He had been a great while in a declining state. He was uncommonly tall for his age, and his corpse, after he was dead, measured 6 feet. He was a youth of an amiable temper, of promising talents, and, I hope, truly serious. His illness and death was heavily felt by his parents, and particularly by his father, whose life, in a great measure, was wrapped up in his child's life.

On the 20th, I attended his funeral. He was carried in a hearse, and I and his mournful father followed in a post-chaise. His mother did not attend. He was carried into the meeting, and I spoke on the solemn occasion. He was

216 was then conveyed to the grave. His poor father was much affected, particularly when he came away from the grave. It was apeculiarly affecting scene, and a great number of people assembled to witness it. I went, after the funeral, to Mr Griffiths' and spent the evening with the mourning parents, and endeavoured to console them under their loss, and prayed with them before I came away.

Sund's day, January the 26th, I preached at our own place in the morning, and gave notice that there would be no service there in the afternoon and evening. In the afternoon, I preached a funeral sermon, at Back street meeting, for poor Ebenezer Griffiths, from Psalm 39. 9. "I was dumb, I opened not my mouth because thou didst it". This text was ~~also~~ preached from, at the particular desire of Mr Griffiths, Mr Griffiths acquiescing in it, and it was at the joint desire of both of them that I preached the funeral sermon there.

In the month of October, I supplied the 22
Baptist congregation, at College Lane,
Northampton, two sabbaths, they being
destitute, though Dr. Ryland's having
removed, & with the consent of the
Northampton people, to Bristol, to succeed
Dr. Evans, as president of the Academy
and pastor of the church, at Broadmead
I supplied the Northampton congregation
Lord's days, the 12th, and the 19th. In the
intervening week, between these two
sabbaths, I went to Coventry and Bir-
mingham. While I was at Birming-
ham, I spent sometime very agreeably
with Mr. Samuel Pearce, who, to the great
loss of the churches, has been removed
by death a number of years, and also
with Dr. Williams, who at that time
was pastor of an Independent church
there, and who afterwards removed
to Ketterham, in Yorkshire, and there
superintended an Academy as well
as an Independent church. He also,
is since dead. I preached at the Baptist
meeting where Mr. Pearce was settled,
on the 14th, and at Dr. Williams', on the
15th.

224 Mr. Pearce died, October the 10th, 1799,
in the 34th year of his age; and Dr
Williams died, March the 9th, 1813, in
the 62nd year of his age. While I was
at Birmingham and its vicinity, I
had an opportunity of seeing some
of the horrible effects of the alumina-
ble riots, in 1791, which ~~are~~ were a
disgrace not only to Birmingham, but
to the nation. Dr. Priestley's meetinghouse
was still in the same state as when
the rioters finally left it, after the
flames had burnt themselves out.
The walls were ~~standing~~ standing and that
was all. There was ~~no~~ nothing
else but a heap of ruins. Another
meeting house was totally demolished
and not one stone left upon another.
This was ~~re~~ rebuilding again and
almost finished. In the burying ground
belonging to this congregation Mr. Do-
-lingworth of Cambridge, who died at
Birmingham, was buried. I saw
also where Dr. Priestley's house stood
which was situated a little way
from

meetings were peculiarly interesting, 25
as the object of them was peculiarly im-
portant. The Society was formed of Ado-
-baptists of various denominations,
Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians
and Independents. Contributions
were made very liberally. One mercan-
tile house alone subscribed £300-0-0
~~£700-0-0~~ Seven hundred
pounds were subscribed by minis-
ters only, of which Mr. Stawell's subscri-
-bed five hundred. Some thousands
of pounds, I presume, were subscribed
in the course of the week, though there
were no public collections made, this

time. While I was in London &c. this time,
I learned that Mrs. Gifford, who formerly
lived at Lehen, was dead, and whom, as
well as her husband, who had been dead
several years, I knew. I also learned that
old Mrs. Hoel was dead. My father ~~was~~
~~was~~ and mother, and she and her hus-
band, who were nearly of an age, and
married much about the same time, and
all lived at Montacute, were now all
gone.

52 September the 30th. Mr Griffiths, having
been incapacitated, for some considerable time
by indisposition both of body and mind,
for his work, Mr. William Williams, was
this day ~~at~~ solemnly ordained to the pas-
-toral office, over the Independent church,
meeting near Backstreet, Hitchin. Mr
Williams ~~was~~ is a native of
Chester, and had been for some years, at
the Independent Academy, at ~~Ston~~
-ton. After having supplied the church
for sometime, he was unanimously invi-
-ted to the pastoral office among them,
which, as their invitation was unanimous,
he accepted, and was this day ordained
accordingly. Mr. Barber, of Melbourn,
read some suitable portions of Scripture
and prayed. Mr. Jennings, of Thackstead,
introduced the service, and took the confes-
-sion of faith. Mr. Vickers, of Dunmow,
prayed the ordination prayer, and
gave the charge, from Colossians 4. 17.
And say to Archippus, ~~to~~ Take heed
to

would to him, but that he hoped he should
have rest in another world, however restless
he had found this to be. His constitution
was exceedingly affected by the affliction and
death of his beloved son. He never overcame
this shock, and it was as though he had
buried every thing as to this world, in his
son's grave.

December the 25th. I attended the funeral
of Mr. John Stevens, a member of Backstreet
church, who died the 19th, aged 91 years.

He was a good old disciple. Mr. Williams
preached his funeral sermon from Gen. 49.
10. "I have waited for thy salvation, O Lord!"

1796

In the month of February, in this year, I went to London. On the 22nd, I went to Hammersmith, and on my way thither, I called at Kensington, and spent sometime, very agreeably, with Mr. John Saunders, formerly coachman to ~~the~~ his Majesty. I had once before dined with him, at Messrs. Wood's, near Blackfriars bridge. He was a fine old man, perhaps, six feet high, and was now about 86 years of age. He drove the State coach till he was 70 years of age, and then, at his own request, he retired upon a pension. The King did not ~~so~~ wish to part with him, but signified that, if it was his desire, he could not deny him. ~~And~~ Meat apartments were therefore allotted him, over the Royal stables at Kensington, and there it was that I revisited him. It was a gratifying interview on both sides. Upon my asking

asking the good old man how he was 263
in his mind, he replied, in such a man-
ner, as I do not recollect ever hearing
any one else reply to such a question.
It was to the following purport: "Practi-
cally comfortable, God and I are agreed,
he approves of the way of salvation by
his Son Jesus Christ, and so do I."⁹¹¹
I understood him, that he was awaken-
ed about 50 years before. He informed
me that his wife was a Pharisee, and
that he was a Publican; that she was
a mighty church going woman, and that
he generally ~~went to the place~~ went
up where, as to any place of worship.
His wife in order to induce him to go
with her to church, though she at that
time had no taste herself for Evange-
-lical preaching, told him, one day,
that there was a very extraordinary
man to preach at church that day.
This worked upon his curiosity, and
he determined to go. He went,
and he found it was an extraor-
dinary

264 extraordinary man indeed, and an extraordinary time to him. It was the celebrated Mr. Romaine, that preached that day, and it was from hearing this sermon, that he dated his conversion, and he had a peculiar respect for Mr. Romaine, as long as Mr. Romaine lived, and used to come of a Tuesday from Kensington to London, in his old age, to hear Mr. Romaine at Blackfriars Church, and it was upon one such occasion, that I met with him, at Messrs. Woods, he and I having been to hear Mr. Romaine before we met there. I was particularly struck with the venerable old gentleman's appearance, and ~~particular~~ with his eating his dinner, with his spectacles on. This paved the way to my calling on him at Kensington. ~~Mr. Romaine~~ In pointing him out to me one of the Messrs. Wood said, Mr. Saunders has had his

his Majesty behind him many a time? 65
referring to his driving him to and
from the Parliament house, &c. I under-
stood him, that he was Body coachman
to the King, before he was State coachman.
One reason that he assigned to me for his
wishing to resign, when he got to be
70 years of age, was that finding him-
self not so capable of managing the
horses as he used to be, he had afraid
of some accident or other. He never had
met with any, and he wished to give
over before he did. There was great dan-
ger of this through the high ~~the~~ condi-
tion in which the ex ~~well~~ coloured
horses that drove the State coach,
used to be kept, and people being
so apt to press near the ~~the~~ coach,
when his Majesty went to Parliament.
The man who drove the State coach
before him, had the misfortune, I under-
stood him, to kill one boy, for which
the man was not at all to blame,
as it was not in his power to avoid it.
The

266 The King knew when he was his
coachman that he was a Methodist, but
respected him never the less for that. And
he always showed him particular re-
spect whenever he met with him, af-
ter he retired, and would sometimes
~~visit~~ when he saw him stop on pur-
pose kindly to ask him how he did.
He was now patiently waiting for
his great change, and not at all
afraid to die. He had had no dis-
tressing fears about his state for
many years. He was considerably
affected as to the article of hearing,
but his eyesight, with the help of spec-
tacles, was tolerably good. His wife,
I apprehend, had been dead a number
of years, but he had a good motherly
woman to take care of him. I went
to prayer with the good old man, be-
fore I left him, with which he
was much pleased. I never saw
him afterwards, nor did he live
very long after I saw him, though

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1797.

277

In the month of January, I went to London, and while I was there, the finishing stroke was put to the printing of the first volume of The Beauties of Henry. While I was in London, I learned also, that my good old friend, Dr Morgan Jones of Hammersmith, heretofore of ~~London~~ Hempstead, was dead. I think, he was 67 years of age, or thereabout, when he died. He was minister at Hempstead, anumber of years, and removed to Hammersmith, in or about the year, 1780. He kept a large boarding school, at both places. His father was a minister in Wales, and went over to America, before he stied, and died in America. His son Morgan, and his family in general went over with him. Some part of the family came back to England again, but some part of it remaind there. Mr. Morgan Jones, after

ea

278 having been in America, about
five years, returned to England. He
had always, however, a very great pa-
-triotism for America. ~~He~~ He was
educated, partly by Mr. Bernard
Haskett of Bristol and partly, by Dr.
Hewell in London. He was an
exceedingly good scholar. I have un-
-derstood, that he was the most lear-
-ned Baptist minister in England.
After his removal from Hampster
to Hammasmith, he received a di-
-ploma from Rhode Island College in
America, creating him Dr. of
-mate with my honored predeces-
-sor, Mr. James, and he had a prin-
-cipal concern, as an instrument,
in bringing me to this claim, and he
-had like a father to me, after I
came. I had a great respect for him
in life, and highly revere his me-
-mory, now he is dead. It was he
that

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Consolidated Annuities, and which sum 29
was bought into the said Stock, according
On Lords day, January the 27th, I preached
a funeral sermon for our aged brother,
John Goodwin, who died, at his sons
at Lawhall, on the 17th, and was buried
in Kingswolden church yard, on the
27th, aged about 78 years. He was
joined to the church, in the year, 1753,
so that he had been a member 45
years. I preached ~~a~~ his funeral sermon
from 2 Cor. 5. 8. "Willing rather to be
absent from the body, and to be present
with the Lord!" This was peculiarly ap-
plicable to the feelings of his mind
for a considerable time, as he had been
wishing, with submission to the Divines
will for death, whenever God should
see fit to call for him.
Lords day, February the 10th, I preached
in the afternoon, a funeral sermon
for sister Montague, from Rev. 21. 4.
"and God shall wipe away all tears
from their eyes," &c. She was buried
Jan

1298 January the 26th in Kimpton Church
yard, aged 75 years. She was added to
the church in 1756, so that she had
been a member, upwards of 40 years.
On the 18th of April, Lady Burford cal-
-led at my house, and we had some seri-
-ous conversation together. She was the
-wife of Lord Burford, son to the Duke of
St Albans, and who, by the death of his
father, is since become Duke of St. Albans
house at Paulswalden, which was for-
-merly occupied by the benevolent
Lady Bowes, whose daughter married the
Earl of Strathmore. Lady Burford was
one of the few among the noble, that was
called. She once, if no more, heard me
at our meeting house, and in more
instances than one, manifested a re-
-spect for me. She usually attended on
the ministry of my good neighbour, the
Rev. Mr. Wallham, at that time, curate
of Ickleford and Pirston. She died, at
Paulswalden, July the 18th 1800, and
-made a happy finish. She was inter-
-red in the family vault of the Duke
of St. Albans, at Hanworth, in
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Middlesex, on the 26th of July, and her 29th
funeral service was read, at her particular
desire, by Mr. Waltham, who preached two
funeral sermons for her, on Lord's day, the
3rd of August, one at Ichleford, and the
other at Dixton, to crowded congregations.
On the 10th of May, I attended at Mr. Booth's
meeting house, in London, on a very interes-
ting occasion, ~~on~~ the designation of four mis-
sionaries of the Baptist persuasion, who
were going out to the East Indies, namely,
Messrs. Ward, Marshman, Brunodon, and
Grant. I had an opportunity of seeing
them all. Three of them, namely, Messrs.
Marshman, Brunodon and Grant, were
members of Dr. ~~By~~ Rylands Church, at
Broadmead, Bristol. All these three
were married, and I had an opportuni-
ty of seeing all their wives. Messrs. Rip-
pon, Button, and Timothy and Thomas
Thomas engaged in prayer, on this in-
teresting occasion, and Mr. Booth, in a very
solemn and impressive manner, ad-
dressed the missionaries.
On the 31st of May, I went to ~~the~~ Brothers

John

300. John Merritt's in Main wood, to see him
and his wife, who were both of them ~~very~~
exceedingly ill, one on one bed and the
other on another. I conversed with them both,
and as there was some distance between
the rooms in which they were, and a
passage between them, I prayed in that
passage that they might both hear. This
was a peculiarly affecting scene. This
was Friday. He had been but poorly
for some time, but he was at Hetchlin,
the preceding Monday. She had been
ill some weeks. They were both goodly
people, and had both encouragement in
their own minds, at this time, and he
in particular, who in the contemplation of
approaching death, said that he was
not daunted at it.
Lord's day June the 2^d, I had the afflicting
intelligence in the morning, that sister
Merritt was dead, that morning, and
in the evening, that brother Merritt,
her husband, was dead also. Thus,
they both died, in one day. It was a
peculiar consolation, however, to re-
flect that they both went to ~~rest~~
hea

heaven, in one day, and thus began their ³⁰¹
eternal sabbath together. As she died first,
and her death could not be long concealed
from him, when he was informed of her
removal, instead of lamenting it, he ap-
peared to rejoice in the idea that she was
gone to a better world, and that he was
likely soon to follow her thither, which
he did before night. She died, about one
o'clock in the morning, and he about
four o'clock in the afternoon. They were
a loving couple in life, and they were not
long divided in death.

June the 3^d. I went again to brother Merritt's
and was witness to such a scene, as
I never saw before. He had been remo-
ved into her room, and I saw them both
lying side by side dead, on the same
bed. This was peculiarly trying to me, as
they were both characters that I highly
respected. June the 5th. I attended the funeral of
this much respected couple, John
and Lettice Merritt. They were brought
in

02 in a cart as far as Gosmore, and car-
ried all the way from thence to the Bur-
ing ground, on men's shoulders, he first
and she next. He was 60 years of age
and she 57. There were a great many
people attended them to ~~the~~ ~~grave~~ ~~the~~ ~~grave~~ ~~the~~ ~~grave~~
the house appointed for all living. They
were both buried in the same grave.
I spoke over the grave. It was to me and
others especially affecting scene. All
their children followed them, I think of
which there were a considerable number,
and two of his sisters and his only sur-
viving brother. This was the second
time that I had been called, since I came
to Hitchin, to attend husband and
wife to the grave, at the same time.
I had some years before attended
John Barnes, and his wife, Mary
Barnes, to the grave, ~~at the same time~~
who were likewise both buried at
the same time, and in the same
grave. As both brother and sister Mr.
Witt, had chosen a text on
Lord's day, June the 7th, I preached
at

in Lord's day, January the 5th, I preached 307
a funeral sermon for Mrs. Foster, from Gal.
4. 7. Lord, make me to know mine end, and
the measure of my days, what it is: that
I may know how frail I am!

January the 18th, Our aged Brother, ^{Michael} Wardle,
died. He was at the time he died, the father
of our church, being the oldest member in
it. He was added to the church, August
31st, 1746, so that he had been a member
upwards of 53 years. His head was white-
tened through age, but his hoary hairs
were found in the way of righteousness.
As it was desirable that his funeral ser-
mon should be preached at Colman's
green, where and at Bendish, he had ~~the~~
attended for many years, being situated
in that neighbourhood, and having no
convenient opportunity of doing it be-
fore, I preached his funeral sermon at
Colman's green, on the 9th of March,
from Rom. 8. 28. "And we know that
all things work together for good, to them
that love God, &c." He must, I suppose,
be upwards of 80 years of age. Jay

308 January the 2⁴th I received the melan-
choly information of the death of my
honored aunt Ann Curtis, which much
affected me. She was an exceedingly res-
pectable woman, and was of my hono-
red grandfather's children, the next
to my dear mother, and she acted like
another to our family, after the lament-
ed death of our own mother. She died
Friday, January the 17th, about half
an hour after 9 o'clock at night, a-
ged 63 years. She was an awfully pious
woman. Mr Price, pursuant to her
own desire, preached her funeral ser-
mon from Psalm 119. Thou hast
enlarged me when I was in distress,
have mercy upon me, and hear
my prayer!

On February the 12th I was informed
of the death of ~~Mr~~ Mr John Cuff,
of Woodhouse, near Montacute. He
died, February the 1st. I knew him
ever since I was a boy. He was some
years, however, older than myself.
He had been deaf and dumb
from

uncle Henry Brown, a
law, Mr Purchase, at Lufton, near
Montacute, in the 80th year of his
age.

March the 3rd wheat was sold in Hit-
cham market, as high as 5-15-0^{re},
A load, and barley as high as 5-0-0^{re},
A quarter, and at St. Helens, on the
7th and at Lufton on the 9th wheat
sold as high as 6-0-0^{re}. A load

was
this letter he had read
his funeral sermon, in the evening
of his removal. I found him then, as
well as I expected, upon the whole, but
considerably shook.
On the 1st of April, I went over to see
Mr. Pilley again. I then found him
exceedingly ill. He had preached
twice the preceding sabbath, but
this was what he ought not to
have attempted. He had been
de

and was exceedingly useful at Linton, 319
and he died comfortably. It appeared that
his sensible supports and comforts increa-
sed, as he advanced nearer and nearer
to his desired home. On the 23rd of April,
the remains of this venerable man, were
respectfully conveyed to the house ap-
pointed for all living, in the burying
ground, near the meeting house, in
which he had so long labored. The
funeral was attended by a great number
of his church and congregation, who
were deeply affected with the loss they
had sustained. Mr. Hunt of Ridge-
mount, after speaking a few words at
the grave, delivered in the meeting house,
a solemn, respectful and pertinent ora-
tion, on the occasion. and the following
Lord's day, April the 26th, in the afternoon
pursuant to his own request, I preached
his funeral sermon, from Phil. 1. 23,
"Having a desire to depart and to
be with Christ, which is far better,"
to a numerous assembly, consisting
not

320 not only of his own people, but of
many others, who united with them on
this occasion, in paying their respects
to the memory of a truly valuable and
esteemed minister of Jesus Christ.
It was to his honor that he lived res-
pected and died lamented; and it was
to the honor of his people, that they
knew how to value him in life,
and that they shewed to him every
mark of respect in his last illness,
and to his memory, after his remo-
val. Mr. Pilley's funeral text was cho-
sen by himself. The preaching this ser-
mon was a trying task to my feelings.
Such had been our long acquaintance,
particular intimacy, and cordial
friendship, ~~and the dear~~
~~and necessary in my life, that~~
and ^{such were} my own particular feelings at
that time, that there have been but
few public services, in my life, if
any, that I have found it more dif-
ficult to get through than I did
the services upon this solemn
occa

occasion. Perhaps, there were not less, 321
if there were not more, than a thousand
people within doors and without that as-
sembled, upon this ~~same~~ occasion.

poor Mr. Mead, who had a high esteem for
his venerable pastor, and who was in
the habit of reading the hymns at
meeting, was too much affected to attempt
it upon this occasion. In the evening of
this day, I endeavoured to direct the people's
thoughts, from dying servants, to their
unchangeable ~~and~~ master, who is the
same yesterday to day and forever, from
Heb. 13. 8.

October the 3^d, I was exceedingly rejoiced
at authentic intelligence being received
at Hitclim, that preliminaries of
peace had been signed, betwixt this coun-
-try and France; and
On the 12th, intelligence having been
received on the preceding day, that am-
-bassador had arrived from France, on the
10th with the ratification of the ~~the~~ treaty of
peace between the two countries, there was
an illumination at Hitclim on the
occasion.

Decem

322 December the 10th, I attended the funeral of Mr. Michael Foster of Little Wymondley, who died, on the 3rd, aged 69 years. He was the last of his own generation, and last of all, he died also, preaching his funeral sermon, from Gen. 18:25: "I shall not be the judge of all the earth do right?" He was very respectfully attended to his long home.

December the 29th, I attended the ordination of Mr. Broady at Potter's Bar, Mr. Newman of Old Ford, read a Psalm and prayed. Mr. Thomas of Devonshire Square, introduced the service. As Mr. Broady had been ordained before, there was no ~~separate~~ formal ordination prayer. Mr. Gill of St. Albans addressed Mr. Broady, from Eph. 4:12. "The work of the ministry!" I addressed the church from 1 Thes. 5:12, 13. "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace

323
peace among yourselves." It was upon
the whole an interesting day.

I should have remarked that on the 18th of
October, our brother Thomas Hardwick was
unanimously chosen to the office of dea-
-con amongst us, and that after taking
-time to consider and seek divine direc-
-tion relative to it, on the 29th, he modest-
-ly and respectfully, and with becoming
-diffidence accepted of it, and was decla-
-red to be invested with the office ac-
-cordingly.

1802.
 January the 15th. I was exceedingly sorry to
 learn this day that Mr Booth of London, had
 lost his wife. It was remarkable that Mrs
 Burford, the widow of Mr Burford, Mr
 Booth's predecessor, died the same day that
 Mrs Booth did. Mrs Burford died about
 1 by o'clock in the morning, and Mrs Booth
 about 6.

On the 27th of February, I attended the
 funeral of Mr John Howes of Much
 Wymondley, a venerable old man,
 who died, on the 22nd, at the age of 83
 or 84. He was respectfully attended to
 his grave by his children and grand-
 children. After he was buried, I deliver-
 ed an oration in the meeting house, on
 the solemn occasion.

On the 2nd of March, Francis, Duke of
 Bedford, died at Woburn Abbey, in Bed-
 fordshire. On the 11th he was buried,
 in the family vault at Cheneis, in Buck-
 inghamshire. On his coffin, plain &
 ornamented, is this inscription: "The

The Most Noble Francis, Duke of Bedford ³²⁵
born July 23, 1465, died March 2, 1502. His cof-
-fin made the whole number in the vault
51. It has been the burying place of the fami-
-ly for upwards of 300 years.

"Princes, this clay must be your bed,
In spite of all your towers."

I was nice in my life in this vault. As he
died unmarried, his brother John, the pre-
-sent Duke succeeded him in his titles and
-estates.

March the 30th I was rejoiced to understand
that the definitive treaty of peace between
this country and France was signed.

April the 23rd I bound my son Ebenezer
apprentice to Mr. John Crisp of St. ^{St.}ford,
draper.

May the 4th The peace having been defini-
-tively signed and ratified on both sides,
between this country and France, was
proclaimed at Hitchin,
with the customary formalities, of
woolcombers on horseback, &c.

June the 1st was appointed by the King,
as a day of public thanksgiving
for

326 for the peace between this country and
France. I preached a sermon on this joy-
ful occasion, from Lev. 26. 6. "And I will
give peace in the land!"

June the 7th I was particularly struck
with the intelligence which I received from
Mr. Sutcliffe of the death of his and my
good old friend, and fellow pupil, Mr. ~~the~~
Purdy of Clipping Norton. He died,
May the 30th. He had been laboring under

a paralytic complaint for some years,
and he was visited on that day with an-
other attack, which soon carried him off.

I had not seen him, for perhaps, 20 years
or more. He was an worthy man, and
his people held exceedingly respectful

and kind to him, as long as he lived.

Though he was not able to labor among
them for years before he died, I have
understood that they kept up his

salary, without any diminution, as
long as he lived.

On September the 7th I attended the fune-
ral of good Mr. Gamley of Southill,
and

1803.

33

January the 26th I attended the funeral
of my good old friend Mary Incey, who,
for many years, lived with us, the
of Gosmore, and died at her house.
She was a member of the church
~~by 2 years~~ and died at the
age of 58. She was a sensible judi-
cious woman, and one of the most
steady uniform friends, to me and
my family, and to our interest, at
Tyelhouse street. I preached, par-
-suant to her desire, her funeral
sermon from Jer. 29. 11. "For I know
the thoughts that I think towards
you, saith the Lord, thoughts of
peace and not of evil, to give you
an expected end." ~~And she~~
~~and she~~ She was of a weak,
-ailing constitution, in general,
all the time that I knew her, but her
latter days were rendered more
easy and comfortable than they other-
wise would have been, by her
her

332 having ten shillings a week left
her by her nephew Mr. William Tho-
mas, as long as she lived, she be-
-ing his mother's sister.

March the 10th, I was exceedingly sorry
this day, to see in the Publick papers
an message which had been sent to both
houses of Parliament ^{by the King} respecting
preparations making in France
and Holland, that this country may
be prepared likewise for whatever
might happen. This was the prelude
to the most dreadful war, that lasted
till ~~1713~~ March, 1714. The publick
thanksgiving for the peace was only
the 1st of the preceding June, after
the ratification of the definitive
treaty, and the Preliminary articles
were signed, only the October twelve
-month before this message was sent to Parliament
April the 1st, and friend Allen, in
the name and on the behalf of
our congregation, bargained with
Mr. William Lucas Senr. for an

our Burial ground, he was brought from ³³⁹
Clapham to Hitchin, in a hearse, and buried
in the evening of this day in a grave near
to that of Ulfspydia Bradley, and Mr. Williams
preached a suitable discourse, on this ~~occasion~~
^{solemn} occasion, from Psalm 39. by a Lord ~~name~~
to know mine end and the measure of my
days what it is; that I may know how
frail I am! As there ~~was~~ was not only
something peculiarly affecting in the
manner and circumstances of his death,
but as he was a man exceedingly well
respected, a great number attended his
funeral, and ~~we~~ heard his sermon.
Perhaps, there were, at least, 800 people
within the walls of the meeting house,
and some were ready to suppose, as
many without. The corpse was carried
into the meeting house and was
there during the whole of the service.
Upon the whole, it was one of the
most ~~of~~ affecting scenes I ever
beheld, and one of the most solemn
funerals I ever attended. On

340 On the same day, that Mr. Palmer
died at Clapham, Mr. Thomas Evans,
who had been, for many years, a re-
-flectable schoolmaster at Hitchin,
~~was also dead at the same time~~
~~at Hitchin~~ died at
Hitchin, aged 68 years. He su-
-perintended the education of all
my sons, except Charles.
July the 5th I and other trustees of
the meeting house, &c. went to William
Nichol's Esq^r. to execute the deed
containing the agreement between
us and Mr. William Lucas, re-
-specting the exchange that had
been made relative to his garden,
and our right of way through
his brick yard. There were at
this time eleven trustees living,
ten of whom were present and
signed the deed. It was remar-
-kable that there should be so many
trustees

trustees, relative to one object, living 34 1/2
 at such a distance from the time of
 their first appointment, which was
 in the ~~year~~ year, 1774, especially, con-
 sidering the time of life to which some
 of them had arrived. There were in
 all 22 trustees appointed in 1774,
 half of whom, 11, were now living.
 Their respective ages, at the time of the
 execution of this deed were as follow:

Thomas Gude	_____	79 years
Samuel Bradley	_____	77
Thomas Caporn	_____	75
James Smith	_____	75
James Allen	_____	74
Thomas Crawley	_____	67
Daniel Field	_____	67
Joseph Button	_____	61
Daniel Lane	_____	58
John Geard	_____	53
		<hr/>
		686

To which if Robert Thomas
 be added, who was not there
 and whose age was _____ 57
 The whole number of years
 taken together ~~amounted to~~
 amounted to _____ 743.

342 I was the youngest of the 10 that were present upon this occasion. It is remarkable that there were just half of the number that were appointed in 1774, eleven being dead, and eleven alive. Of these last, however, there are now, March 29th 1815, but three left in the land of the living, myself, Daniel Lane, and Daniel Field. I carried the writings afterwards into Bedfordshire, where Robert Thomas then resided, who also signed them. The instrument was then ratified by all the trustees who were ~~now~~ alive.

The whole of what was subscribed and obtained by public collections, were amounted to $\text{£}186.16\text{-}8\frac{1}{4}$

I was particularly struck with the largest and the smallest contributions to that sum. Our good friend Caporn subscribed $\text{£}30\text{-}0\text{-}0$ which was the largest sum; and the smallest was one farthing. We had not

intimate that at his first entering into ³⁴⁹
business, in London, the loss of one hundred
pounds would have ruined him: and yet,
~~but~~ by the blessing of Providence, he left
behind him, at his death, I have under-
stood, sixty thousand pounds. He had,
I believe, something considerable with his
wife, an invaluable woman, whom I knew,
and whom he lost by death, in July, 1802,
so that he did not long survive his wife.
He died, December the 20th, aged 75 years.
He was a man of great benevolence,
as he ~~of~~ ~~a~~ made it a point, I have
understood, towards his latter end, to sub-
scribe to religious purposes, and give
as away, in one form or other, in charity,
four hundred pounds of annum.
And as he had given over business,
some years before his death, and was
connected with a number of charita-
ble institutions, he devoted great part
of his time in attending to their
concerns. One

350 One of the last acts of kindness that
I had any concern with him about, was
respecting Mr. Richard Groom, who
then preached and still does preach at
Whitwell. As I thought it was desira-
-ble that he should become a mem-
-ber of the Hertfordshire and Essex
Benevolent Society, for the relief of
the ~~poor~~ widows and children of poor
deceased ~~and~~ Protestant Dissenting
ministers, who should die members
of the said Society, and as I thought
it would be the best way for him to
become a member for life, if that
could be managed, by paying ten
guineas at once, I endeavoured
to devise a scheme to manage this
matter, which upon suggesting it
to my friend Groom he fell in with.
This was to request his Funda-
-ment for two years upon the supposi-
-tion any person would advance this
money, upon the faith of the

sequestration of the fund money. I took 35
the first opportunity, when I went to London, to
consult Mr. Smith, who readily agreed to the
plan, and to send the money, as it should be
voted, to me. I then applied to Mrs. Heath,
a worthy woman, who was an member of
Blackstreet church, and who was a woman
of some property, to advance the money, which
she readily and cheerfully did, and which
was transmitted to the Secretary of the Society
by me. I soon received five guineas fund
money from Mr. Smith all of which she laid
out for clothes for my friend Groom: and be-
fore the payment of the remainder to Mrs.
Heath died, and she had taken effectual
care that her executors, should not have
any claim upon him for that remain-
der. Thus he became an member for life,
of the Benevolent Society, without its
costing him a single farthing: and Mrs.
Heath, besides this, left friend Groom
wife, her niece, a legacy of one
hundred and fifty pounds.

One
circumstance relative to this a

352 business has struck me exceedingly
there were three persons disinterestedly
concerned about it, namely, myself,
Mr. Smith and Mrs. Heath. Of the three
I am the only one that has been living,
for a number of years, and it is re-
markable that the other two died not
only in the same year, but in the same
month, and in the same week, and
within three days of one another,
as Mrs. Heath died, December the 18th,
and Mr. Smith died, December the 20th.

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1804.

353

Lords day, April the 22nd, I attended the funeral of my good old friend Thomas Jude, who died the 15th aged 80 years. I preached his funeral sermon from 1 Pet. 4. 10. "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" He had been a member of the church many years, having been one before my time. He was a worthy man, and remarkable for his peaceable disposition and conduct. A great many people attended his funeral and heard his funeral sermon. As he was the oldest of the trustees, who signed the instrument, referred to in Page 349, so he was the first of that number that died.

Lords day, June the 17th, I preached a funeral sermon for Mr William Hives of Great Wymondley, who died the 11th aged 57 years. I went over to see him twice the day on which he died, and was in the house, when he died, and saw him, as far as I know, draw his last breath. It was a peculiarly

suffer

354 affecting scene. He was one of my stea-
-dy, tried friends. I attended his funeral on
the 16th. I preached his funeral sermon, from
Job 14. 5. "Seeing his days are determined,
the number of his months are with thee,
thou hast appointed his bounds that he
cannot pass". This was a peculiarly affec-
-ting day to me on more account than
-one, as I not only had to preach a fune-
-ral sermon for one tried friend, but
to be informed of the death of another,
as my good old friend James Allen
died this morning, about 9 o'clock, aged
75 years. He was born, December 21, 1720,
~~and~~ ^{was} received into the church in Janu-
-ary, 1750, and was called to the office
of deacon, January 25th, 1776, so that he
had been a member of the church, up-
-wards of 46 years, and a deacon up-
-wards of 20. In him the church lost
a good friend, the poor lost a good
friend, and I lost a good friend.
He was a friend in all weathers,
and

and under all changes, and in all circum- 352
stances. He manifested his friendship, by
his activity, while he could act, and by his
contivances, when and where he could
not, and he manifested it, in life and
in death.

On Lord's day, ~~the 9th~~ ^{the 10th} I preached a funeral
sermon, for good friend Allen from Zeel,

14. 7. "But it shall come to pass, that at
evening time it shall be light." This, I trust,
was exemplified in his experience, and

that, whatever darkness or doubts he had
had to struggle with in any former pe-
riods, it was light with him at last.

A great number of people were present to
hear Mr Hewes' funeral sermon, but
I rather thought more still to hear Mr Al-

len's. ~~I~~ I sorrowed much for the loss of
both these friends, but I did not sorrow
for either of them as one without hope.

On the 13th of July, I attended a philosophical
lecture at the Sun Inn. The Philosopher
was a Mr Jackson, who appeared to

understand his business. The lecture
was

356 was upon Optics, and the Sun being fa-
-vorable for the purpose, we had displayed an
amazing proof of the magnifying power of
certain microscopic glasses. A louse was
so magnified, as that its image was se-
ven foot high, and the blood was plainly
seen circulating ~~on its~~ on its
back. A flea was made to appear five
or six foot high, and enormous as to its
size otherwise. The powers of magnifying
~~are~~ were shewn in a great many other
instances. In one instance particularly,
an article was magnified to such a degree,
as to appear twelve hundred times
bigger than it was in reality. "O Lord
how wonderful are thy works, in wisdom
has thou made them all!"
On the 23rd of July, I was at Stoke Newington,
at the house of Jonathan Cade, Esq. This
was the house formerly occupied, by Sir
Thomas Abney, and ~~after his~~ after his
death, by Lady Abney, his widow, and
her daughter, and where the cele-
bra

been also instituted by members of the 363
Established Church, entitled The Society
for Missions to Africa and the East, the first
anniversary of which Society was held,
on Tuesday in Whitsun week, May 26,
1801, wishing well to their general ob-
ject, however I might differ from them
in minor points, as an individual,
I sent them one guinea, by my good
old acquaintance and friend, Dr
Peers, and which is noticed in their
account of Subscribers and Benefactors
for 1800, Page 306.

October the 1st. My generous friend, Mr.
Thomas Caporn, having previously ac-
commodated me, for a temporary purpose,
relative to the expences I had been at,
about The Beauties of Henry, with
150 - 0 - 0, for which I had given
a note of hand, without my having
any expectation of the kind, made
me a present of the note of hand, in-
forming me that he designed

100-0-0

364 \$ 100 - 0 - 0^{re} of the said sum for the church, and the other 50 - 0 - 0^{re} for myself. On this ~~and~~ unexpected act of benevolence, I did not forget to make my grateful acknowledgements to him, on the church's account as well as my own. He had made the church a present of 50 - 0 - 0^{re}, or thereabout some years before. These sums are vested in the 4th Cent Consolidated Annuities, for the benefit of the church, to assist them in reference to the salary of the minister for the time being.

Lord's day October the 7th after the administration of the Lord's supper, the sisters as well as brethren having been desired to stop, a deacon being wanted in the room of our brother Allen, our brother James Smith, being the oldest brother present, nominated our brother John Foster, to that office. Our brother Thomas Capron, who was

member of the church at Geovil, when 34
I became one, was removed in the course
of it. He and I had a number of walks to-
-gether formerly, to and from Geovil, &c.
But his feet were this year stopped, as well
as his eyes closed by death.

1805.

May the 23rd Being in London, I at-
 tended the Monthly meeting of the
 London Baptist ministers and
 churches, at Dr. Rippon's. Particu-
 lar regard was paid at this
 meeting, to a New Academical
 Institution, intituled, The Particu-
 lar Baptist Education Society
 in London. The design of this
 Society was to afford some as-
 sistance to persons who may ap-
 pear to have gifts for the minis-
 try, as well as shall give a
 satisfactory evidence of being the
 subjects of a work of grace in the
 heart, for a year or two, as to
 getting, at least, a better acquaint-
 -ance with their own language,
 and so render their public
 addresses more acceptable than
 they otherwise would be to
 such

such, at least, as may have a gram-³⁷³
-matical acquaintance with that
language. The Society had been but
recently formed, but they had rai-
-sed a fund of 800-0-0, and sub-
-scriptions to the amount of 140-0-0
of Prannum. Mr. Booth preached at
this time, upon this occasion, and
it was the first sermon preached
before this newly formed Society,
and an admirable sermon it
was. It was grounded ~~on~~ upon
Luke 10. 2. "Therefore said he unto them,
the harvest truly is great, but the labourers
are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the
harvest, that he would send forth labour-
-ers into his harvest." Mr. Booth was excee-
-dingly indisposed, when he preached this
sermon, and fears were entertained
lest he should not be able to go through
with the service: but, though it was with
considerable difficulty he proceeded, he
was carried through much better than his
own or the fears of others suggested.

374. October the 2⁹th my son Samuel's
wife was safely delivered of a son. Thus
I became for the first time a grandfather,
a character which, however honorable,
should remind me, that the shades
of the evening are coming upon me.
This child began a new generation,
and it is remarkable, that this has
been the case now, for three generations
as to me and my descendants, in our
-cession. I was the first grandchild in
my grandfather Geard's, and my
grandfather Taylor's families. My son
Samuel was the first grandchild
in my family and my dear wife's.
And this child was the first grandchild
in my family, and Samuel's wife's.
The birth of this child also constitu-
-ted ~~as~~ Mr. Bradley great grandfather.
to unite the names of father and mo-
-ther, this child had the name given him
of Samuel Bowyer Geard.
In November the 30th I received a
letter from my cousin Ann Smith,
informing me that her father, my

Uncle Edward Curtis, died, on the 27th 375
He was 70 years of age. He was the
husband of my beloved aunt Ann
Curtis, of whom there is some account,
under the date of January the 27th, 1800.
On the 8th of December I received another
letter from my cousin Mary Plowman, a
-nother daughter of my uncle Curtis, in-
-forming me that my uncle was buried
on the 30th of November, the very day
on which I received her sister's letter,
that he did not choose any funeral text
himself, but that Mr. Price preached his
funeral sermon, the next day, being
Lord's day, from Matthew 25. 13. "Watch
therefore, for ye know neither the day, nor
the hour when the son of man co-
-meth!" Thus one generation passeth
away, and another cometh. I had a
grandson born, and an uncle remo-
ved by death, in the course of this
year. I had now a grandson, but
no uncle, in the world.

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1806.

February the 5th being in London, I breakfasted with good old Mr. Newton, Rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard-Street. I had breakfasted with him a number of times, in the course of my life, and for an number of years, generally made a point of visiting it one during my stay in London, when I was there. He always behaved exceedingly friendly to me from the first of my acquaintance with him at Olney, in 1774. His usual method, when he could see had been after breakfast, to read a few verses, and then in a familiar manner make some remarks on them, for perhaps ten minutes, and then read a hymn, without singing, and then pray. But now, his eye-sight was so impaired that he could not see to read himself. His house-keeper, Mrs. Smith therefore read a short passage, which he could remember, ~~and~~ which was

1 Cor. 15. 10. "But by the grace of God 37
I am what I am!" ~~because~~ The good man
after pausing a little while spoke to the
following purpose:
First, I am not what I ought to be. I feel
and do many things that I ought not.
Secondly, I am not what I wish to be
I feel many things that I wish I did not
feel, and do not ~~feel~~ feel as I could wish
many things, that I could desire to
feel.
Thirdly, I am not what I hope to be.
I hope to be widely different in an-
other words to what I find I am in
this. But,
Fourthly, though I am not what
ought to be, nor what I wish to be,
nor what I hope to be yet I trust, I
am widely different to what I
once was, and it was the grace of
God that produced this difference.
I desire to be thankful therefore that
"By ~~the~~ the grace of God, I am what I am!"
This was the substance of what he
said

Xpō said, and this made such an impres-
-sion upon my mind, that I have ne-
-ver forgotten the substance of what
he did say to this day; and from what
took place this morning, as well as the
various interviews and improving con-
-versations I had had with him be-
-fore, I shall never forget this good man
nor his communications.

This day also, I attended the funeral
of that venerable character, Mr. Abra-
-ham Booth. He died January the
27th, aged 71 years. He was bur-
-ied in the burying ground at
-Ulage Pond, belonging to the con-
-gregation where Mr. Wallin
-preached formerly, and Mr. Dove at
the time of Mr. ~~Booth~~^{Booth's} decease. The
-corpse was carried into the meeting house
at Ulage Pond. Dr. Rippon deliver-
-ed an oration from the pulpit on
the solemn occasion. The corpse
was placed before the pulpit.
After the oration the corpse
was

was carried through the rectory in 1799
to the ~~burying~~ burying ground and in-
terred. He was buried upon his
wife, who died ~~before~~ ^{about} four years
before him. Dr. Rippon was a very
respectful oration. It bore an ex-
ceedingly honorable testimony to
his character. He began preaching
young, and preached in all ~~the~~
half a century at least. He made
a good finish and died comforta-
bly. He was pastor of the Nap-
tist church in Goodman's field,
where he was preceded by Mr
Samuel Wilson and Mr Burford,
~~who~~ 36 years. He was very
respectfully attended to his
long home, as hundreds of
people attended his funeral.
When Mr Booth died, a great man
fell in Israel. I used to make it
a point, when in London, when
I well could, for some years, to
break

280 breakfast once with him, as well
as once with Mr Newton. They were
both fathers in Israel compared
with myself, and I found the con-
-versation of each of them impro-
-ving, and I hope, to me, not al-
-together unprofitable. I had an
opportunity of dining twice with
Mr. Booth, in 1805, the year before
he died, at Mr. Fairbro's, on May
the 2nd, when he preached the ser-
-mon before the new Academy, and
-~~was~~ again on the 22nd of August af-
-ter having attended a ~~very~~ Monthly
meeting at Unicorn Yard. I found
both times entertaining and im-
-proving. But now, all prospects of
any further improvement from
the conversation of Mr. Booth are
at an end. I am glad, however,
I had opportunities of conversing
with him so long as I had, and
that, I hope, these opportunities
were not altogether lost upon
me.

W^r.

Mr. Booth first preached to the church in
Goodman's fields, in June, 1768; and was
ordained, as their pastor, February the
16th 1769, so that he would have been
pastor, 37 years, if he had lived a
month longer. He was eminent in
the gift of prayer, and was an excel-
-lent preacher. There was something
peculiarly solemn and energetic
both in his praying and preaching; and
his labors were in general much ap-
-proved of by his town people and others,
and he was esteemed very highly
in love for his work's sake, by the free
and the other. His congregation was
one of the most respectable among
the Baptists in the Metropolis, and
considerable additions were made
to his church during his pastorship;
and he left them in a state of
distinguished respectability, for
wealth and numbers. He lay how-
-ever, his trials whilst he was
their pastor: and though he had
a good congregation all his time, of
all sorts' blessing, yet he was so dis-

382 discouraged, as to attendance on a
weekly lecture, which he ~~pre~~ preached,
at his own place, ~~at~~ on a Tuesday
evening. ~~For~~ for some years, after his
settlement, that he dropped it, years
before his death. The last time he
preached, at this lecture, he had not
above seven persons to hear him.
The small attendance on Mr. Booth's
preaching, at this lecture, brought
forth a noble testimony to his charac-
ter, from Mr. Henry Foster, an emi-
nent clergyman, at that time, in
London, and who was much fol-
lowed, as well as a distinguished
mark of Mr. Foster's humility. Mr.
Foster, at that time, preached at dif-
ferent churches, on Lord's days, and
on week days, and was much fol-
lowed wherever he went. He
had many hundreds, and per-
haps, some thousands of people
to hear him, ~~at~~ putting his dif-
ferent auditories together, in
the course of a week. Mr. New-
ton

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Newton, who was very intimate with
Mr Foster, and whom I was once with
at Mr Newton's house, in company with
some other clergymen, once ~~to~~ told
me that he thought Mr Foster had
more people to hear him, taking
into consideration the different pla-
ces in which he preached, than any
other, one man in London. This ex-
cellent man, being in company one
day at dinner with Mr Timothy
Priestly, ~~at~~ a Dissenting mi-
nister in London, who at that time
was ^{also} much ~~followed~~ followed,
addressed Mr Priestly to the follow-
ing effect: Friend Priestly, you
afraid, when we preach, have hun-
dreds of people to come to hear us,
whereas, good Mr Booth who far exceeds
us in gifts, talents and grace, has
scarcely any body to hear him, when
he preaches at his Tuesday's lecture.
What do such multitudes follow
you and me for? I had this anecdote
from my good brother Mr Williams of Hitchin,
who was present at the time and heard Mr Foster
address Mr Priestly to the above purport.

384 On Lord's day, February the 9th
as I understood that many others in
and about London, meant to do the
same, as a mark of distinguished
respect to so venerable a character,
I gave public notice that I intended
to preach a funeral ^{sermon} for Mr Booth, the
following sabbath. This I accordingly did on
Lord's day, February the 16th in the
afternoon, from Psalm 116. 15. "Pre-
cious in the sight of the Lord is the
death of his saints." When I gave
notice of preaching a funeral
sermon on this day for Mr Booth,
I little thought that I should be
called upon in the same sermon,
to have a respect to one of my own
much respected members, yet this
proved to be the case. She was
- been ill on the 10th and died on
the 13th aged 62 years. She was
added to the church, Nov^r 24th
1776. ~~She~~ upwards of 29 years
before her death, and maintain-
- ned an honorable character

407

1807.

May the 26. I attended a meeting of
 the Essex and Hertfordshire Re-
 -volvent Society at ~~Ben~~ Brentwood
 in Essex, and had the pleasure
 then of learning that the capital
 of that Society had now risen to
 3000 - 0 - 0, and that therefore it
 was now lawful according to the
 rules of the Society for the whole
 income, unless what may be de-
 -termined necessary by its ^{own} ~~its~~ given spe-
 -cifically for that purpose to be set
 aside to the capital, I obtained
 30 - 0 - 0 for good old friend Bas-
 -terville of Hertford, who had
 become through age and infirmi-
 ty ^{incapacitated for} ~~incapacitated~~ his usual work. This was such
 a sum as had never been voted to
 any one person before at any one
 time. I was at the meeting of this
 Society at Bishop's Stortford, in
 1709, when the first guinea

was paid, and after having known 400
of many hundreds of fine articles
tributed to different objects before I had
now the pleasure of knowing that in the
course of about 10, 3000 ^{of} ^{the} capital
had been realized.

At this meeting at
Brentwood, I had the pleasure of meeting
with Mr. John James Smith of Strat-
ford Miles near Watford, son of my
old friend and acquaintance James
Smith Esq. of Solihull. He gave
me the following gratifying intelli-
-gence, that Mrs. Cox, sister of Charles
Cox Esq. of Clapham, at whose house
I once was and saw him who died be-
fore his sister and his wife, also who
had lately died had left ten thou-
-sand pounds, 3 per cent. stock, which
would bring in three hundred pounds
annually and that one hundred
pounds of this sum was to be appropri-
-ated, should there be so many of
that description that should
need it, at the rate of ~~one~~ ten
pounds

410 ten pounds of Annam each, and
that old friend Nashville was to be
one of these ten. She left also three
hundred pounds to the Nicolaus
fund, and three hundred pounds
to some other Institution, the dis-
cription of which I do not correctly
remember.

On the 10th of December, I went to
Dunstable, and on the 11th set out
with the Dart coach about 1/2 o'clock
in the afternoon, and travelled all
night till 1/2 o'clock the next mor-
ning, and then arrived at Leices-
ter. ~~At~~ I went to bed at the Inn
where the coach stopped, and lay
till about half an hour after
1/2 o'clock, I breakfasted at the
Inn, and went afterwards to Mr.
Liffie's, Hosier. I dined at Mr. Liffie's
and went in the afternoon with
a friend to Thorpe, who had a bag
for himself and another for me,
and got thither about 6 o'clock
in

The 3th. I breakfasted this day with my wife and sons with Mr. Page at that time, assistant to Dr. Ryland, and son of John Page Esq^r. whom I knew when I was a student, and dined with Dr. Ryland, and drank tea with Mr. Cottle, wife of Mr. Robert Cottle deceased, with whom my good old Tutor Mr. Newton boarded, and to whom he left the greatest part of his property, and after tea, called on old Mr. Thompson, whose husband, a sea-faring man, was drowned, while I was a student at Bristol.

The 9th I and my wife and sons went to Chelwood, and we dined and drank tea and supped and slept at Mr. Dear's, who kept a boarding school there, and preached in the evening at the meeting there, and my old fellow student, ^{Mr. Satteridge} of Dunston came and heard me. He then appeared to be quite old and infirm.

The 10th we went to Cannard's grave and there my brother Samuel met

430 us with a gig, and he and I went in that, e. 12
to Montacute, and my wife and sons
went in our own gig, and we all,
through Divine goodness, arrived thither
safe.

ye. 11. We this day dined at my
brother Samuel's, and there a mesen-
-ger came with a horse, with a request
that I would immediately go to Star-
-dington to see my cousin Plowman,
formerly Mary Curtis. I accordingly
went and found her exceedingly
ill, ~~and~~ as it proved in the event, dy-
-ing. I endeavoured to say something
shittable to her and prayed with
her. ~~She~~ appeared to be sensible.

I hope there was some good thing
in her towards the Lord God of
Israel. She did not live six hours
after I was with her, so that I had
to be just in time to find her in the
land of the living. It was remark-
-able that I should travel 200 miles
and get into my native country
just time enough to see her alive.

432 Mr. Price's. Went to Montacute after
the evening service.

Apr. 16th I attended the funeral of my poor
cousin ~~E~~ Alowman, at Five Ashes.
This was an affecting scene. She left
her husband and four small children.
Mr. Price spoke over her grave. She
was buried near her mother, my be-
loved aunt Curtis. On this melanchol-
ly occasion, I saw her sister Smith of
Broadhembury in Devonshire. There
were a great many people that atten-

ded my cousin to her long home.
Apr. 22nd We ~~did~~ breakfasted at my
cousin William Curtis's at Coker,
and I and my brother Samuel and
my niece Ruth Groves went together
to Cemer, and my wife and my
sons went in our gig. I preached in
the evening at the meeting there,
where I heard Mr. Sabart, more
than 40 years before. We dined
and drank tea and supped at my
sister Shepherd's.

Apr. 23rd I got up in the morning and
wrote a long letter to Mrs. Devenish

of Hyalting to whom I had mentioned the cir- 433
cumstances of the Burial Ground at Fiveishes,
enforcing by particular arguments the re-
-quest I had, previously made, and men-
-tioning in particular the difficulty
we found in looking for a grave near
her mother for my poor cousin Rowman.

The arguments made use of in this
letter had the desired effect, and all
the ground that was requested was
eventually granted. I left this letter
with my sister Shephard to be com-
-municated to Mr. Bowenish which
was accordingly done.

We went after breakfast to Dorchester
and Weymouth, and returned to
Dorchester the same day, where we
slept.

ye. 24th. We parted with my son Tho-
-mas who in consequence of an
-agreement with Dr. Ryland, was to
go to Plymouth ^{Dock} where as soon as
Dr. Ryland's was settled to assist
him in his business. He did go
after we parted with him to Ply-
-mouth, but this scheme did
not answer any good purpose even-
-tually respecting Thomas nor Dr.
Ryland's son. after

434 After parting with my son Thomas, I and
my wife and my son John went to Bland-
ford, and there drank tea with Mr. Hen-
ry Field, who had then been at Bland-
ford 54 years. We slept at an Inn at
Blandford.

ye. 25th We went to Salisbury to dinner,
and dined with Mr. and Mrs. Marsh and
drank tea with Mr. and Mrs. Saffery and
I preached at Mr. Wilk's meeting whom
I saw at Bristol in the evening.

ye. 26th We went to Southampton
from thence to Tichfield ten miles from
Southampton where we slept.

ye. 27th We went to Portsmouth to
dinner.

Lord's day the 28th I preached 3 times
at Mr. Urial's at Portsea.

After ha-
ving spent sometime at Portsea, seen
the dock yard &c. we set out on
the 30th after dinner, and went
as far as Petersfield where we
~~left~~ slept.

ye. 31st We went as far as Cobham
about 34 miles from Petersfield
and there we slept.

Sept

Sept. ye. 1st We ~~breathed~~ at Kingston, 4.35
and got to Mr. Buttons at London, and
slept in London that night.

Sept. 2nd I and my wife left London, and
went as far as Mr. Whitbread's at
Bentley Heath and there slept. We
left John in London, to meet whom
Mr. Palmer had left Hitchin, on
business.

ye. 3rd I and my wife returned home
to dinner. Thus we had been carried
about in one way and another for
about 500 miles and brought back
without meeting with any real hurt
by the way. On the

5th John came home by the Hethering
which hopefully considerably less
letter for his journey. As far as
it concerned myself personally, it
was a pleasant journey to my be-
-lieve, as I had in general pret-
-ty good opportunities in preach-
-ing, and met with great respect
in general all the way round.
But the clouds soon came after
the rain. On the
7th we received a letter from the

436 Thomas, ~~and~~ ⁱⁿ informing us
that ~~George~~ ^{he} got safe to Plymouth
Dock, ~~at~~ ^{the} ~~very~~ ~~same~~ ~~time~~
~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~day~~. This was good

news: but on the contrary, my wife
was so indisposed that she was not
out this day. I however, preached
twice and administered the Lords
supper but she was not among
my hearers, nor communicants.

I preached in the morning from
Genesis 15. 8. and in the afternoon
from Ephr. 2. 8. the same text
as I preached from on the 21st of
August on occasion of the death
of my cousin Plowman. On the
day the 5th I heard of the death
of Mrs. Pilley of Sutton.

7th 6th This day my wife was
worse, and though she got down
stairs, could stay but a little while.
7th 7th She was worse still than the
preceding day.

7th 8th She was no better, if not
worse than she was the day before.
7th 9th Hoping that my wife
was

was somewhat better, having been 434
requested to go to Biggleswade to baptize
a person, I went to do so, but I did
not set out till after dinner. I baptized
the person who was a woman between 6
and 7 o'clock in the evening. I drank
tea afterwards at Mr. Hooper's. As I left
my wife so ill, I concluded to come
home again the same evening.
I went in my gig and my son Saml.
came back with me. We got to St. Ives
-clin soon after nine o'clock. I found
my wife exceedingly ill indeed, when
I came back from Biggleswade.
I was now much alarmed as to what
consequences of her illness. Dr. D?
Hooper came after my return from
Biggleswade, and he was so alarm-
-ed at the state my wife ap-
-peared to be in, that, upon consul-
-ting together it was concluded
that my son Samuel should set
off early the next morning to
St. Neots for Dr. Alley.
Sunday, 4. 11. Dr. Alley came
While

438 while he gave us some room
to hope, he plainly enough intima-
-ted, that there was room to fear
with respect to my dear wife's
eventual recovery. I went to meet-
-ing this day and preached in the
-morning and afternoon from
Galatians the 6th, 7th & 8th.

As Mr
Pillee had desired that I should
preach her funeral sermon, when
-ever she died, I went in the eve-
-ning to Luton and ~~preached~~
-attended her funeral and
preached her funeral sermon
from Psalm 31. 5. "Into thine
hand I commit my spirit: thou
hast redeemed me, O Lord God
of truth." She was 80 years
of age. A vast number of people
attended her funeral. She was
buried in the same grave
with her husband, my good
etc.

old friend Mr. Pilley, whose funeral I
sermon I preached there some year
before. This was a trying journey
indeed to me, as my wife was excee-
-dingly ill when I left home.
Apr. 12th I came home from Sutton. I
~~at~~ found her alive when I got home
but exceedingly ill. My daughter Mar-
-tha came home this day from Su-
-ton, and this day my daughter
Naomi began to fail, and the next
day she was worse, and never
came down stairs after the follow-
-ing day for 3 weeks. It appeared
that she had got the same disor-
-der as her ~~honored~~ mother had.
My trials now began to thicken upon
me apace. We found it necessary
to have Jane Cooper to attend
particularly to Naomi and
Sister Atkins besides Martha
to attend my wife, and Sister
Raves to attend when necessary,
and to attend the business of
the family. ~~My~~ My night and
my

440 my days, were anxious and try-
-ing ones this week, and yet I had
still greater ones to encounter.
Lord's day the 18th being buoyed
up with some sort of flattering
hopes, I went this day to meeting
and prayed and preached with
great difficulty. I preached mor-
-ning and afternoon from Ephe-
-sians the 2^d and 10th.

In the course of this week Miss
A. Bradley my wife's youngest
sister, who had kindly attended
her by day from an early pe-
-riod of her illness was taken
ill herself and obliged to go
home. My circumstances
now were distressing indeed.
Ye. 19th I and my brethren S.
Lowe and T. Hardwick met in
the Vestry, to spend some time
in united prayer, with a par-

particular view to my family circumstances. It was a peculiarly affecting meeting to us all. During the

course of this week, my trials were great indeed. As both my wife and Naomi's afflictions were dreadfully painful and as it had been contrived for me and my son Charles to sleep ~~at least~~ ~~to go to bed, in a ~~the same way~~~~

~~the~~ Beareau bed in my study I could hear the doleful cries of Naomi, who was in my bed chamber and, the difficulties my wife felt in the best room. Many an aching heart was I called to have on that Beareau bed, and many a briny tear was I called to shed.

Lord's day the 25th. The circumstances of my dear wife and my dear Naomi also were such this day, that I gave up all thoughts of going to meeting this day. My people spent the time in prayer and singing in the morning, and went to Back street meeting in the afternoon. In the course of my

dear.

442 dear wife's and daughter's illness
Dr. Alley was sent for a second time.
He gave then some faint hope, that
she possibly might recover, but he ap-
-peared to have very little idea that she
~~would~~ would. When her illness had
assumed an alarming appearance, I
wrote to my son Thomas, at Plymouth
Plymouth Dock, and wished him to
come as soon as possible, and I had
the satisfaction that he got thither
before she died and while she was
capable of speaking to him. She was,
however, too ill to say much to
him. He never returned to Ply-
mouth Dock again as his being
with Dr. Ryland's son was not
likely to answer either of their
purposes.

On the 20th About half an hour
after two o'clock in the morning,
to my ~~the~~ irrepressible sorrow,
she breathed her last. I was
not called however to sorrow
for her as for one without
hope. Thus after having
of m

led to reflect from this consideration, 455
that if I for a moment, was left to con-
clude that no minister had been ever
exercised as I was, I had five contra-
dictions to such a conclusion in my
own parlour. What made the mat-
ter the more remarkable there was not
one picture of a minister who had
been married, that had not lost
a wife, and some of them had lost more
than one. This circumstance, however
comparatively trivial, had a consider-
able influence to reconcile me to my
loss. As soon as I well could get
it accomplished, I had a grave
stone erected over my dear wife's
grave with the following inscription:
Elizabeth Beard
wife of John Beard
Pastor of this Congregation
departed this life,
Sept. 20th 1800, aged 54 years.
Her children arise up and call her blessed;
Her husband also and he praiseth her.
Prov. 31. 28.

December the 15th. I learned this
day in a letter which I received
from

456 from my brother Charles that
my aunt Kezia Brown died the 5th
at five o'clock in the afternoon, at
Penn, and was buried at Fivech-
shes on the 12th. She did not long
therefore survive my dear wife. We
~~both~~ both saw her at Penn, when
we were in the West of England
lately. She was 83 years of age
last ^{being born the 3rd of Oct. 1725} January and would there-
fore have been 84, if she had
lived a month longer.

For an account of the illness,
and death, and other circum-
stances, relative to my son
John, see my Diary marked
1820.

March 18th, 1834. Having now comple-
ted the 84th year of my age, and en-
tered into the 85th thereof, I think it pro-
per to close this second volume of my
memoir, by some appropriate reflections.

I was born, March 4th, 1750.

In looking back upon my past life, I
find

find abundant cause for humiliation and 457
sorrow. Much of my time has run to waste.

I find, however, abundant cause for
thankfulness to my kind almighty Benefac-
tor, the ever blessed God. I have been provi-
-ded with food and raiment all my long life.
I have had many deliverances and pre-
-servations, to some of which I became
-exposed, by my own folly and inconsi-
-deration, some, when I was a school boy,
as well as some in more advanced periods
of life. I have particular reason to be
thankful, that in the general part of
my life, I was indulged with an uncon-
-mon share of bodily health, and above all,
though I have had, at times, many fears,
lest the hopeful change should not have
been a real one, yet I am not without hope
that I was made a partaker of the one
thing needful, when I was not more
than 16 or 17 years of age, without pre-
-tending to ascertain, the time when, or the
means by which, through sovereign grace,
this important change took place, con-
-cerning me. Under the influence of
the hope that I had been made the
subject of this change I was baptized
or

458. on the 8th day of Dec^r. 1768, and was re-
-ceived into full communion, with the Baptist
church at Yeovil, in the County of Somerset,
on the following Lords day, then under the pas-
-toral care of the Rev. Peter Evans, and was
afterwards called to the work of the mis-
-sion, by the unanimous vote of the said
church. In the month of September, 1799,
I was received as a student, into the
Baptist Academy at Bristol, then under
the tutorage of those venerable men,
Mr. Hugh Evans, his son Mr. afterwards
Dr. Coleb. Evans, and Mr. James New-
-ton. On the 16th of January, 1794,
in consequence of a previous invita-
-tion, I preached my first sermon to the
Baptist congregation at Whitehill, from
Acts 19th ver. 2^d "Have ye received the
Holy Ghost?" and on the 13th of April, 1795,
I was settled, by their unanimous de-
-cree, as pastor over them, and in the
same month of January, 1839, I
preached my last sermon to them,
from Mark 1st ver. 45th "and they came
to him from every quarter" being 54
years, from the time of my preaching
my first sermon to them. Though I
have ~~not~~ been so useful, in my mi-
-nistry as I wished to be, nor as
some of their ministers have done
but

hopefully been, during their ministry, 459.
yet I have not been, without hopeful
evidences of usefulness, both as to conver-
-sion and edification, at Hitchin and
elsewhere.
As to my frames they have been very differ-
-ent, at different times, at sometimes with-
-out any doubts, and at other times with-
-out any ~~of~~ hopes, and that for a long
time together. My general feelings have
been neither all hopes nor all fears.
I have had my ~~own~~ heavy trials, parti-
-cularly, in the removal by death of
my dear wife, in 1800, and my dear son
- John, in 1810. I did not sorrow howe-
-ever for either of them as one without hope.
I have now through age and infirmi-
-ty been a prisoner, for a considerable
time, having not been at meeting for
some years, nor even in street, for some
weeks. However, have still many mer-
-its to be thankful for, can still read for
- hours together, without spectacles, have
a merciful degree of hearing as well,
as sight, and though my memory is
much impaired I desire to be thankful
that it is not wholly gone. O that through
the riches of grace, I may be enabled
to make a good finish at last.