

M 112

A 13/36

The life of Joseph Haley who has left the following in writing.
I was born at Little-Town in the Parish of Birstall in Yorkshire June 25th
1727. My Parents were very poor & belonged to the Church of England,
but before I was 11 years old, I was bound Apprentice for the space of 10
Years to a Broad-Clothier, which I faithfully served in Hardshead Parish.
In the middle of my time Mr. Ingham & Delamotte began to preach at
Smith-House & Raw-head, where I often went to hear them & got a lively
Impression of the Friends of Sinners. But my Master being a Cross old
Man, he would not let me go to hear the Men, and as my time was
almost out, I beg'd our Sav^r to keep me near his Person. My time
being out I hired myself with another Master, who was a Methodist, where
I became more Religious than before, but could never get any Satisfaction,
& my heart grew very dead & cold. At the end of my Year I went to
live at Hallifax, to be an Hostler; there I plung'd myself into all manner
of wickedness. Soon after I went to live at Leeds, where I was a
Gentlemans Servant, here I became still more wicked & miserable, being
tho I was always accused in my Mind & knowing at the same time, my Course was
hurtfull to body & soul, so that my Life became burthensome to me.
My Mother being a good Methodist & knowing of my going on,
she was much dissatisfied with me, & often desired me to come
home & settle to my own Business, but I found it very difficult
to leave my old wicked Companions, thinking I was fit for no
other Company. Now my Constitution was broke & I was befall'n
with a sore Sickness, which reduced me to great poverty & being
hardly fit for any thing, I then began to wish, that I could have
called back the Time I had lost & spent without our Saviour.
Having served in this place 4 Years and 5 Months, I left my
Master & went to live with my Parents at High-Town, but

did not know what course to take, for I was like a spotted Bird
even amongst the worldly People. I went again to hear the Methodists,
however here I could find no comfort & my poor Heart felt always
dissatisfied which made me resolve to go hear the Bⁿ but I always
found something to hinder me. Soon after it happened that I
went to live with W^m Taylor a Single Man of, Clockherton who belong
to the Bⁿ. Hearing that there was a very pious Minister at White Chappell
I went to hear his Sermons, but as he preached only the Law, I soon got
a Dislike, & in the beginning of the Year 1761 I went to hear P^r Byrleaus
who preached on these Words: Love, save us, we perish, these my heart
was laid so hold of, that I shall never forget it. Having great uneasiness
of Mind, I wished for an opportunity to speak with a P^r which happened
soon after to my great Satisfaction. I also got leave to come to the
Classes of the Single Men, & in March the same Year I was received into
the Society, at which I felt our Sav^t very near to me. I thought I might
keep me close to Him. I being so exposed to the world, made me think
I should never come thro'. So often came to Fulneck & saw the P^{rs}
lives so happy to gether as I never saw People live before, I thought
I could never be rightly happy unless I was there. Yet I could never
offer to ask for it, feeling my own Misery & wickedness I thought they
would never allow ^{me} to come there. In this way I continued like a
standing Water till 1760 when my Master W^m Taylor got leave to move
into the Choir House which causes me many Tears, thinking our Sav^t had
left me alone to myself on account of my unfaithfulness, what would become
of me I did not know. As I was very uneasy, & being resolved to become our
Sav^t I desired leave to live in the Cong^o at Fulneck, which I also obtained
& moved thither Oct^r 20th 1760 very glad & thankful. March 23rd 1761 I was
received into the Cong^o which was a great Blessing to me. In July I had
a hard Sickness, in during which our Sav^t gave me a new Seal of

my Grace Election & comforted me about all past things. Dec^r 20th 1761
I was made a partaker of my Lords Corpse & Blood in the holy Sacra-
ment which was an unspeakable Grace to me, & I esteemed this Year,
a Year of Blessings bestowed upon me, which I shall never be
able to express, & I wish that I may always have that Impression
of it, till our Sav^t calls me home to himself. Oh! could I but
always prize my Call & Election sufficiently & thank our Sav^t
that he has granted me a rest amongst his People. I cannot but
be ashamed that my heart does not burn more in Love towards Him.
Thus far his own words.

In the Year 1763 he got a Call to go to Bedford, of which he accepted
in a Childlike manner, & served the Bⁿ in Bedford as look for several
Years & then went to Duchenfield. On March 26th 1767 he came again
to live here, & went on in a happy Course. In the beginning of June
~~1770~~ 1770 he went to the Academy at Ilkley. He was ^{here in} ~~at~~ a
peevish Temper, but his plain, Honest & upright way of acting made
him beloved amongst his Bⁿ. He was free & openhearted with his
Labourer nor did he speak better of himself than it was. He often
felt the oppression of his sickly Tabernacle, especially in the Spring and
Autumn, but this last Spring it soon appeared that his Sickness
was a Consumption & that he would not recover again, on which
account he wished to come to Fulneck & go home in the Choirhouse
here, which was also granted him ^{last} July the 11th for which he was
very thankful. He spend his time in the Sick Room in a true consen-
sation, which came to pass the 10th instant, when our Sav^t took him happily
to himself, as a Sinner who had found Grace in His Death and
Sufferings.