

# The course of Life of Abigail Bently

I was born at Wake in the Parish of Burstall April y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1722  
my Parents was of the Church of England and brought me up in the  
same, as far as I can remember my first thought of being saved was this  
hearing my Mother speak with another what time Children begin to be uncer-  
-able for Sin and they thought at Seven-years, this had such an impression  
on my mind that I often went alone and wished God would let me die before that  
time for then I took it for granted I should be saved, when I was about Seven  
Years I began to be afraid of dying, my Parents strove to preserve me as far  
as these circumstances permitted them, in my Eleventh year I was sent to live  
with a Neighbour where I heard and saw all sorts of bad things had not our  
dear Saviour had a particular regard over me I should have been ruined in Soul  
and Body, when I was there they sent me into a Field to work where I was  
so cold that I had no feeling of Hands nor Feet nor could I come to any  
House, all on a sudden it came in my mind that <sup>God</sup> could warm me and I grew  
directly warm this was the first time I ~~that~~ that God could here us ~~or know~~  
or know any thing of us after some time I left this place and removed into a  
nother place that was more agreeable, here I took much to reading and intended  
to be very good, but amidst it all I attained to no satisfaction but a constant  
condemnation follow'd me with every thing I did, so far her own <sup>writing</sup> ~~words~~  
about this time she began to hear Mr Igham and when the Society of  
the B<sup>on</sup> was settled ~~she~~ was one of the first of that number when the  
S<sup>t</sup> S<sup>t</sup> Economy was setled at Oahaise she after some time had  
leave to be one of them where she continued for <sup>a while</sup> ~~some time~~ but her being  
of a very League turn made it very <sup>heavy</sup> for her amidst the Lectures

and as it could not be perceived that she got any satisfaction in  
her Heart the Labours thought it more proper for her to go and  
live with two or three Sisters who was under the B<sup>orn</sup> care which  
she took very much to heart and could hardly be persuaded to do as  
was however thought for the best and she took it so very near that  
it brought on a violent sickness for<sup>as</sup> she her self expressed it  
could never bear to be Debarred of the fellowship of living in the  
midst of Sisters, and yet at the same she was in her heart very  
dry and her being so very self righteous ~~was~~ made it very heavy  
for her to feel as a sinner dependent alone upon our Saviour and  
this has been a means of her course being some what heavy in the  
Congregation, and so she continued removing for some time from place  
to place by the direction of the B<sup>orn</sup> when at last she got  
leave to go and live with some Sisters at the Home where she  
at began to feel a little more of her self and was brought  
in to very great concern about her Salvation but as she was  
once coming from a meeting this verse was particularly apply'd to  
her Heart, Out of pure Grace unmerited, Salvation flows  
on our Head ~~wholly~~ because the Lord has dy'd, Because a Lamb  
was Consecr'd, ~~are~~ we invited to possess a Throne, Before the  
World was made ordain'd our own, and she was from this time made  
sure of her Election\* when the Choir House was begun at Fulneck  
she with some others Out of the ~~Academy~~ got leave from ~~Richard~~  
~~attentions~~ to remove with them to that in Pudsey, but here it  
she did not spend her time so cheerfully as could have been wish'd

\* In the year 52 when or y<sup>e</sup> 13 she was received into the congregation

for she lost many happy hours for her own heart thro' looking so much  
at others and being so very strict with her self she could not  
easily look over things that some times occur amongst her compan-  
ions, yet at the same time we cannot deny but as to her true  
Heart to her Choir and the Cong<sup>n</sup> we was fully persuaded which  
show'd it self evidently on various occasions, in the year 1754  
July The Disciple and Disciples paid a visit to the Cong<sup>n</sup> and thro'  
the earnest request of the Sister of that Oeconomy to come into  
the Choir House at Fulneck the Disciple took it into con-  
sideration and it was made out that the said Oeconomy should  
be entirely broken up, and so she with the rest of her Sisters  
came here into this House where she continued very chearfull  
for some time and could not express her self enough of the joy  
she felt that she was now got to her right home, but thro'  
her very strict way of thinking she brought her self into many  
great heavy ups and depriv'd her self of the Holy Communion for some  
time she spoke with her Labourers in a very open hearted manner  
of her whole situation and it was plain to be perceiv'd that she  
must be dealt with particular love and tenderness which her Labourers  
show'd to her at that time and it was a great means of bringing  
her to a cleare up again in her Heart in the year 1763 complain-  
ing much of a pain in her Head she was advis'd to a Cold Bath  
which removed the pain in her Head but soon after it was perceiv'd  
that the disorder setled upon her Lungs and she was much  
troubled with a violent Cough, but in a short time grew better again  
and it was made out that she should go for some time into the



Childrens Occasiony Wash Kitchen where she showed the  
greatest faithfulness, but thro' the disorder in her Lounge she  
was obliged to be taken back again, and she her self believ'd that it  
would prove a means of her dissolution thus she continued in a pretty cheerful  
way and was made use of as an Over seer in a Work Room and it  
was the greatest favour to her to do any thing for her Choir and never  
thought any thing too much but on the contrary look'd upon it as the  
greatest grace and favour, Sep<sup>br</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> she had the favour to be  
added amongst the company of Intercessors which provid a partic-  
lar blessing for her own heart that she had the favour to have  
an hour to speak with us in a Particular manner for her own and  
his Peoples cause, it was plain to be perceiv'd amidst all her faults  
and wants that her heart was truly connect'd with our Soc<sup>y</sup>  
and attach'd to her choir, but the Sinners track being not always  
clear to her interrapted her in that tender attachment to his Person  
in begining of Oct<sup>br</sup> she took entirely to the Wash room where she  
spent her time chiefly in <sup>any</sup> filthiness when at time she was spoken  
with she always complain'd of her not feeling her self in that  
~~near connection~~ Sinners like connection with our choir as she thought  
she shoud have