

Full 13114

our late Sing-13th Joseph Carr has left the following account of himself.

I was born in Friday Aug. the 27th 1764 of poor Parents & baptised by the B^{ny} at Fulneck. I used constantly to attend the public preachings at Fulneck, till my Father put me apprentice, when I was about 13 years old, to one Will^m Harrison a Taylor at Stanningley, where I got acquainted with a neighbour, which proved a great detriment to me: when his wife died, he used to get me to keep his house for him, as he was a shop keeper, while he went to the market, & on Sundays he would take me with him to public houses, & into unprofitable company, so that at last it became quite indifferent to me, whether I went to any place of worship or not: as my acquaintance cared for the expence, & I began to consider myself as my own master, I paid no regard to any admonitions, that were given me, but I thought I had met with a very good companion. My master in particular used to tell me, that he hoped, I should see the time, when I should ^{think} him not my friend: but I treated this observation with disregard, & slighted what he said, because he was a Methodist. When I was loose from my master, having lived with him 7 years, I continued to go on in my old course, keeping company with my friend, (as I then looked up on him) the above unprofitable acquaintance. about a year after I had left my master, it pleased our Saviour to visit me with a heavy sickness, so that no one thought, I should recover: I made a promise at that time, that if ever I got better again, I would forsake my wicked ways, & turn as a poor sinner to our Saviour: but alas when I got well again, I went on as before, forgot entirely my promise, & associated again with my former hurtful companion.

my sister, who belonged to the B^m Cong^y, was much pained & distressed, and tried to persuade me to attend the preaching at Fulneck; when she went thither. I went once with her on a Sunday in the afternoon, when I heard the late B^m John Miller jun. read some accounts concerning the Dr^m Bran Cong^y in North America; & afterwards keep a discourse. I was struck at hearing how much sooner the poor Indians were brought to the knowledge of our Saviour, than such a wicked man as myself. 18th Miller came down after to see my sister; & as I was at work in the same room, he addressed himself to me, & after speaking in a friendly way with me, he invited me to call & see him. I went soon after, & made known to him my desire to join the B^m; & soon after I was received into the Society, & became acquainted with the Sing. B^m Laberson; & used to spend the time between the meetings in the S. B^m house: I little expected then, that I should one come a little in it, as I considered it to be too high a favour for such a great sinner, as I then felt myself to be: I got leave also to come to the Christian meetings on Sunday mornings, which was a real blessing to me. March 29th 1790 I came to live in the B^m house; & it being the passion week I attended the meetings, which made an abiding impression upon my heart. Dec^r 14. 1791 I got leave to be an inhabitant of Fulneck to my great joy, & on the 26th of Dec^r. I was received into the Cong^y; & since then, tho' trials have not been wanting, our Saviour has sanctified them, & helped me thro' them all, for which I cannot sufficiently thank him: and I trust he will continue to lead me on to the end, poor & needy as I am.

Thus far our late B^m brother's own account of himself.

June 2^d 1792 he was speaker at the holy communion, & Aug. 29th

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he partook with us of the communion. For some years past he has been sickly, & in March last, it appeared as if his complaint would terminate in a consumption: his labourer add^d concerning him: He was a Brother of few words; but the feeling attending what he said, as well as the earnest desire, which he often expressed during his sickness to go to our Saviour, showed clearly, that he loved him: being once asked, whether he thought, he should see the beginning of an other year? his answer was no, our Saviour has made it clear to me, that I shall go before the next communion. He departed gently & happily Dec^r 5th 1796, & is now at rest.

In some papers found after his departure, he writes under Nov^r 13th 1791. This was a very blessed day to my ^{poor} soul: our Saviour let me see, what a thoroughly depraved & perverted creature I am; & that without him I am nothing but sin & misery; but thanks be to his name for the blessings, which I receive from him from time to time: Aug. 29th 1792 I partook of the Holy Communion for the first time: I cannot express in words, what a newness of our Saviour's love to poor sinners I then experienced. I began the year 1793 trusting in our Saviour's merits, & praying him to keep me ever in remembrance of his death & sufferings endured on my account a poor sinner, thanking him likewise for the many favours & blessings I had received at his hands in the year past: Aug. 27. 1793. (being his birth day) now I begin an other year: O Lord, be near to me, & let me have thee in my mind both day & night, I pray.