

F. 13/45

Departed June 2^d 1761.

Personalia of our dear Sister Esther Prothera in
Halifax.

Our happily deceased Sister, was Daughter to Mr. James
Farrer in Souland, in the Parish of Halifax, where she
was born Febr 2 1706. C. S. and brought up in the
principles of the Church of England in a carefull and
religious manner.

The following account of her was noted down by her
brother Joshua Metcalf from her own mouth:

" When I was 8 Years old, I can remember, that I was
" uneasy about the salvation of my soul. I felt the
" drawings of my Saviour in my heart (and thought
" the Lord meant to shew me something more than
" the rest of my Brethren or even any of my kindred)
" About the Age of 13th I was made more sensible of
" the Corruption of my nature and convinced that I
" was not right, but how to find Rest for my heart
" I knew not. My guilty conscience made me every
" where afraid. I often thought the grand Enemy of
" souls was in the room with me, and was so frighted
" that I would not sleep alone in a room, so that
" they were obliged to take me into that of my Father
" and Mother. My Father departed this Life soon
" after, and when I was 15 Years old, I was turned
" into the World to earn my own Bread. My Mo-
" ther would not let me live in a publick Town,
" she had a concern for my soul, and thought it
" was too dangerous for young people. I went
" therefore to live with a Widow Woman in the Country
" and staid with her near 2 Years. (One of my
" Sisters sent afterwards for me and desired me
" to come and live with her, which I did. Ha-

ving

" Having been with her some Years I returned, and soon
" after went to live at Halifax.) ~~When I was~~ ^{When I was} 25
" Years old I got a fresh Call from my dear Lord, I
" saw my sad wretched and dismal State, which I
" was in by nature, with more conviction and distress.
" I had no rest in my Soul by reason of my Sins. They
" increased and the ~~first~~ depravity of nature grew
" stronger & stronger. I made one promise after the
" other, took one resolution after the other to leave off doing
" Evil and to mend my manner of Life, but all to no
" purpose, My good will came to nought, Alas! I had no
" power in myself, Nature ruled, Sin was my Master,
" and I was a perfect Slave.
" In my 27th Year I changed my condition & was married
" to my husband Crispin Rothera. I hoped thereby to be
" delivered out of dangers, and ~~that~~ to become more religious.
" But this availed nothing neither, I was conscious that
" was not in a State of heart, that could please God. My
" poor Soul had no rest, I often knew not what to do for
" trouble of mind and Anxiety of heart. Certainly, thought
" I, there is no rest and Comfort to be found in any state
" whatsoever, that I can see into, as yet. O thought I,
" what a dismal condemned Situation am I in, having
" no rest in my heart by day or night. I went con-
" stantly to Church, and Prayers, read religious Books &
" did all I could, but remained the same, as I was.
" At Length I got to hear, that a new Preacher One
" M^r Ingham was to come to Halifax & ~~in~~ preach in
" the Church. Him I went to hear, his preaching confir-
" med me in my thoughts, that I was in a lost and un-
" done Condition, which he set forth as I found it in
" my own heart. I went home full of uneasiness of mind,
" and condemned in heart, retired into a place by myself,
" fell

fell down upon my knees in order to pray, but
could do nothing but sigh, My heart was quite broken,
and I wept abundance of tears. Now I felt then I
cannot express in words. I got some comfort and
hoped it would go better. But I found however no
abiding rest and satisfaction for my heart.
A little time after I got to hear, that some Germans or as
others call them Moravian Brethren came to preach in
Hullifax. They brought us the sweet & comfortable Tidings
Of the Salvation of Sinners thro' the Sufferings & Death
of Jesus, inviting the poor and miserable to come just
as they were to their wounded Sav^r and seek for
Grace at his feet, ^{desiring that} he had redeemed us and would freely
save us from Sin, & give rest to our Souls.
Their Words came with power to my heart, I rejoiced
at this good News, and got hopes, that he would have
Mercy on me poor miserable Sinner. I frequented
their Meetings as often as my poor State of health
would permit. When I went the very first time
to Smithhouse to a Meeting there, (and came on the
Bank Top,) I was thrown ~~from~~ ^{off} the horse. I thought
within myself, this is the Enemy^s Doing, to keep me
back & to hinder me from going. I went however
forward, (and desired those that were with me, not
to tell my husband or others of it, lest he should
hinder me to go again). I was a quarter of a Year
sick afterwards. The more I heard the B^r the more
I saw the deep Corruption of my heart, being of a
proud, passionate temper, and inclined to be self-right-
eous. I resolved to be our Saviours with Soul &
body, and parted with whatsoever I thought would
prove a hindrance to my happiness, and step in
between me and our Sav^r. I used to spin worsted
and had saved the bits of Ends now & then to
make in time a pair of Stockings out of them.

" This I looked upon as an Injustice by w^{ch} I had wronged
" the Master, It caused me much Uneasiness. I could not
" be satisfied, till I had confessed it to the Owner and made
" Satisfaction, He looked upon it as an instance of great
" honesty and had ever after a great respect for me.
" I thought, whosoever will be reconciled unto God, must also re-
" stitute all unjust things between Man & Man.
" B^r Ockershausen came afterwards to keep Meetings at
" Halifax, which I attended with blessing for my heart, beg-
" ged to be under the B^r Care and in their Society, w^{ch}
" also was granted to my great Joy and was thankful for it.
" I continued also to go to Church, but seldom heard, what my
" Soul longed for; and often sighed, Thou O dear Jesu! shalt be
" my All, my Sacrifice and Priest Thou art too strong for all
" my bitterest Foes None can thy Blood successfully oppose.

Upon her earnest request she was received into the Congregation
and got her right and Title amidst the P^{re}sence & house of God
and she
was admitted to the holy Sacrament

her Spirit was lively, but her tabernacle subject to many In-
firmities. An Asthmatic disorder hindered her these many
Years from going much abroad. But as long as she could
creep, she seldom missed any Meetings. To read the holy
Scripture was her private comfort, and she had got very
much acquainted with it, and thought much at under-
standing the same and feeling in her own heart what
she read. These latter 12 months past her Infirmary grew
stronger and her short breath ~~had~~ prevented her from go-
ing as far even as to the Stanary. But during the Meeting
she usually had her private Devotion to the head so
full of bruises, (and was very glad, when any of her friends
would tell her the subject of the Discourse.) she loved
the Congrⁿ with all her heart, (All the scandalous reports

defamatory Libels, or reasoning ag^t the Bⁿ did not shake
her. She believed solidly the Bⁿ Church to be our Sav^r
peculiar people and rejoiced that she had the Grace
to be a member of the same. She often said to those
that reasoned ag^t them, or bro^t all sorts of Tales to her:
"The Bⁿ will stand and all those that are against them will
be confounded and found Lyars, for the Lord is with them."
She and her husband had some years ago got leave to
come and live among the Bⁿ at Lambhill, But her
husband, from a scrupulosity ab^t his coming thro^v
getting his Livelihood, declined it. She was often
grieved ab^t it, and said: "Tho she loved her husband very
much, yet that thing she could hardly forgive him."
Their house was open for the Bⁿ at all times, and she
~~their~~ thought it a great Blessing, if they would put
up with the Entertainment and reception she could
give them. She was these many months in great
pain all over, but could forget it easily, when she
had an opportunity of conversing with any one ab^t
our d^t Sav^r and his Wounds. Many of her Neighbours
and acquaintance came sometimes to talk with her.
They had a peculiar confidence to her, and told her
freely their troubles, (whether outward or inward) She
used to comfort them with the meritorious troubles
and sufferings of our blessed Sav^r for us. (When
she met with any that had fallen out, or had an
Enmity ag^t each other, She would tell ~~every~~ ^{each} one
that it came from their bad heart, which they
at such opportunities shew^d itself, that they might
know it, and seek to our Sav^r to be cured.) She was
one of them that endeavoured to make Peace between
persons, and her counsel ~~from~~ was often blessed &
successfull. (A few days before her Dissolution she
desired, that some persons might be called to her, be-
cause she knew, that they thro^v Reasoning had

brought themselves into Distress and were suffering heavily.
These at her said: It would be of no good, she would do no
good to them, she should let it alone, because she was so weak
and would only make herself uneasy. She answer: Pray,
let me do it, one does not know, what the ^{best} words of a dying
person may effect upon them. Her S^r Alice Melancthon was
these several months mostly at her in the day time, and can
not express, what a blessing she has been to her in the troubles
of mind in which she was of late.

One has these many years expected that she would not hold
long, but her peculiar Cheerfulness, patience & Sincerity
made them all think, that our Sav^r would take her home
unto himself, and that she would not recover this time.)
On ~~Wednesday~~ Last Good Friday, after the publick cheeting, she
had her Share in the holy Sacram^t brought unto her by B^r
Purlew; she received it with great Reverence & Eagerness &
the Transaction was attended with an awful and sensible
feeling of the Nearness of our departed husband. And
this proved to be the last time. (When B^r & S^r Purlew was
to visit her June 2^d and spoke the Communicants, the latter
spoke also with our d^r S^r & asked her, whether she thought
she would continued till she had got the Corpse & Blood of her
d^r Spouse in the Sacram^t. She answer: No, I shall no more be
here, but no matter, I shall keep it with him above, & so
it proved, for she went home ~~the~~ ^{the} same night day
before midnight.)

Some months ago, when she thought that this her present Sickness
would be her last, she expressed constantly her Concern about
her husband. O said she, Nothing troubles my mind, but when
I reflect upon my husband I am anxious. I know him
best, I am in pain for him. She often with Tears begg
him to cleave close to our d^r Sav^r with his whole heart, and
to take the B^r's advise and never to leave them. B^r & S^r
She was advised to resign him up to our Sav^r, and to
not to make herself uneasy. Our Sav^r & the Cong^r would
certainly ~~and~~ ^{and} do all what they could to help & ad-
vise him, in case he sh^d be left alone). Towards
the

the last she dropt this her concern, resigning him up into
our Sav^rs hands & the faithfull care of y^e f^rm. He
told us, that the close Conneption she had with our Sav^r
in the Day time, continue also in the night, he often
was waked by hearing her sing in Sleep, she sometimes
~~would~~ spoke tenderly with our Sav^r and often had re-
freshing Dreams of him. Four days before her disolati^z
or she dreamt: That a Man came to her Bedchamber
and took her Drinking Pot, drunk all up, that she
~~was~~ put there for her refreshment. She thinking it
was her husband, reasoned within herself & thought It is
however quite wrong in him, to ~~take~~ ^{suppl^y} my Drink, all y^e
little refreshm^t I can take, ~~and to~~ But at Looking at
him It struck into her mind That it was the Saviour. O
thought she: It is my dearest Sav^r he is welcome to it,
he shall have me and all what I have. She catcht hold
of him at the same time & cried: Dont leave, dont
leave me, take me with Thee. He thereupon took her by
one Arm, throw her over his Shoulders. She clasp her
arm round his Neck & thought Well! now he has me
I will hold him fast. And while he carried her away,
she lookt back on her Bed to see, whether her body
was gone too, but she saw it behind, and thought Its
no matter, I shall get it once agⁿ. When she awoke
they saw she was extraordinary chearfull & happy and
the Meditation on this dream made her forget the pain
and strengthened her wonderfully. and several other
pretty dream^s she had, at times, that are to long to insert
here.) All her Neighbours, relations & acquaintance came to see her
in her sickness, and were surprized at her Chearfulness and
Confidence in our Sav^r. & went away much affected, testi-
fying that she certainly was a happy woman. Her
Landlord having been to see her, said: She is a Sheep
if there is any. An other: If there is One in heaven.

is One. I am well & fitly saying: O that my departure
might be like unto hers.
May the 26. when Mr. Dylans visited her, she her Tongue be-
gan to falter, however she assured him, that she felt our
Sav^r Rewards sweet & precious in all her pain, & that she was
as a poor weary sinner reconciled & her heart wished for his
last Visit. O I long to be soon with him & to see (my Be-
loved Man) the Sav^r of my Soul, & to kiss his Wounds for my
Redemption. Pray give him a good word that he may take me
soon. Among many sweet Passes her mind fed upon, she
was at this time peculiarly charmed with this:

I've got One Suit, what is it?
dost thou the houses visit
then make a Stop at mine
and do not pass it over
approve thyself our Lover
and leave ev'n here thy Pleasures shine

Three days after, Friday the 29. She had a great desire once
more to see ~~her dear husband~~ ^{Mr. Dylans}. For she thought she ~~did not~~
continue till Tuesday. ~~to go to visit to~~ ^{to go to visit to} ~~at 7 o'clock in the evening~~ ^{to go to visit to} to call him. She went that evening & had his
last conversation with her. She said: I & Mr. Dylans have always lo-
ved You and respected You as a Serv^t of our Sav^r, and had a great
desire to see You once more, you have been always sweet to my
heart.) I am quite ready to go, there is nothing, nothing at all that
makes my heart heavy, nothing is between me & my d^r Sav^r, he is
mine & I am his. I go as his poor sinner to him, I have nothing
to bring But his Blood and Righteousness, so he has given to me.
I am in peace with all Men, I love all my Br^s & S^rs Neighbors, Re-
latives & Friends, My outward matters are also in order, I have
given charge, how I will have it at my Funeral, & I will have nei-
ther my husband nor any body else to mourn for me. I shall be hap-
py and there is no Cause for Mourning. I will lie with my Br^s
& S^rs in Lambeth & I have ~~that~~ ^{the} promise for it.) My husband I
have resigned up to our Sav^r & to y^e Br^s (to my Sick Waiting Woman
& S^rs in Lambeth for me tenderly, I have loved them, but could
not see them. I shall see them with our Sav^r. &c. Thereupon we

met at her Bed, as many as could conveniently be called
and kept a singing hour with suitable Verses, fell upon
our knees and ~~pr~~ thanked our Saviour for the Grace he had
bestow'd on her, recommended her to his ~~tho~~ pierced
heart & begd that he might grant her her longing Desire
to be seen at home with him and rest in his ~~arms~~ Womb.
A very sweet Feeling of our Saviour's presence was attending this
last ~~liturgy~~ Liturgy, (of which every one is a witness that was pre-
sent.) From that time her Dissolution hasten'd on and
June 2^d (4 days after when I and my wife came to see her
she was not able to speak much, but lay still, not much
mindfull of any body, nor inclin'd to converse, Mr Pyrlaw
stay'd with her some hours & put her in mind of the ap-
proaching Sacrament had her last Conversation with her.
Mr Hendricks also call'd & saw her and that ^{same} evening
before Midnight her d^r beloved Bridegroom gave her
the last unction & kiss'd her soul home to himself while
several of her Relations sung her some Verses. The
Text on that Day was:

On that day you will ask me Nothing
Tears from the Eyes will flow
the Senses will be clos'd
and think Lamb, Thou, but Thou!

her Corpse had a smiling & agreeable Aspect & bespoke
the peace in w^{ch} she went.
(The 5th of June was the Day appointed for her Funeral, she
was carried by 8 of our ^{from} from her Dwellinghouse, after
the Vene The Saviour's Blood & Righteousness - her finery was
her Wedding dress - to y^e Stannary thro the middle of the
Town All the Spectators behav'd with Respect & look'd
at with Awe. A great many follow'd us to the Meec-
ting place attended in great Silence the Discourse 13th
Pyrlaw kept to them from 2 Cor 5, 8. We are confi-
dent & willing rather to be absent from y^e Body & to be
present with the Lord and after the Meeting she was
put into the Horse Litter, which had come from Lambhill
for that End, and br^o up the New Road to Lambhill
where Mr Lettrob after the funeral Discourse kept the Liturgy
for her & Saml Cates a Youth in the single ^{for} house also

from this Plan, & these 2 corpses were brot with full music
and a column procession to the Burying ground there &
laid to rest with the Bless^{ing} of the whole Congr^{ation}