

The Life of the Single Sister Sarah Leaven
who departed 10th APR 1790

I was born at Northwell near Leeds in
Yorkshire Nov 11th 1717. & lived with my
Parents till my Father died who belonged
to the Church of England. When I was a
Child I often wished to die, for I thought at
that Age I should be saved; but if I lived to
grow up to be a Woman I should come into
things which would hinder me from at-
taining eternal happiness. When I came into
riper years, I followed the World without
grief, tho' not without its persecution; for I often
felt uneasiness in my mind, but put it off,
resolving to grow better, but still went on
in my old way. After my Father's death
I went to live with my Uncle & was with
him when Mr Ingham came into those
parts, but soon after went to live with my
Mother; she asked me to go with her to
hear Mr Ingham preach, but I declined it
for this reason, I believed if I was one of
his followers, I must renounce the World;
which was my chief Object at that time.
Soon after he came again to preach near
to our habitation; my Mother urged me to
go with her which I could not do, but
complying with, tho' dead & spiritually dead.
The discourse had no effect, & I wondered

what induced people to run after him;
my Mother invited him to preach at our
house but he did chuse to do it except we
would have a Society vested, to which he
convented. For the mean time my Mother
spoke very lovely to me about the state
of my Soul, thus prepared I went to hear
him again. During his Sermon, I was made
sensible of my worst condition, I wished I could
alter, & thought I had better be deprived of
this World's pleasure than lose my immor-
tal Soul. I thought I could part with every
thing I had in the World to be assured of
my Salvation, but feared it was impossible
In this miserable state I continued a long
time, & came into self working by degrees
my misery wore off & concluded this was
the right way to do all the good that was
in my power so my confidence was to be
appeased, but being of a hasty temper &
sometimes overcome with passion, my good
opinion of my self vanished & I became mi-
serable again. In the year 1740. Mr Long-
ham & Mr Telleke came to our house. The
latter could not speak English, but his look
made a particular impression on me & I
believed him to be indeed a Child of God.
For a short time after ~~the~~ visit our Society

was

was dispersed, which troubled me very much
One of them & myself desired to be
admitted into another Society, which was
the case soon after with a small company
at Holbach near Leedes. But not having
the pleasure to see Mr. Prebster, I grew long
in my heart. Upon being asked to be a
Servant in a Family, I at first refused but
being earnestly intreated, I at last accepted
& went to the place. I was soon uneasy in it
for I found I had no freedom to mix with
worldly company, but was obliged to stay
my time out. The night before I left my
place, I ~~found~~ drew that Verse. When I
was sought for had strayed, Into a Desert
wild &c. The day after when I was with
my Mother, some Sisters came to see me.
I told them what had passed. They advised
me to make a new beginning, & then our
Saviour & the 10^m would forgive me. These
words comforted me for I did not expect
to hear such of them. The first meeting
after their visit I that I went to, Mr Telleke
kept on the following words. Ye cannot
serve two Masters. It seems as if he di-
rected his discourse to me alone, and I
there determined to have our Saviour for
my

my Master & him alone. For a short time
after I was advised to live with two Sisters
in Hollbeck. I did so, but my situation was
not at first agreeable to me. I did not
remain long with them, being desired by
Sister Suter, to go to Leeds. To wait on a
sister I had then no money left to help me the
future I was persuaded to live my Mother
with whom I remained till she died.

The day before her departure, a Sister
visited her & asked her where she would
like to have me situated, she replied
amongst Sisters. But after her death
I felt such a strong attachment to my
relations that I thought I could not part
with them, which brought me again into trou-
ble, & quite at a loss what to do. When I was
by myself, my faithful Monitor convinced
me once more that I was not in my right
place, to stay there would be dangerous
for my soul. I immediately set off to ac-
quaint my former Labourers, & disclosed
my whole case. She recommended me to
another Family in Hollbeck. This was in
the year 1750. I attended the preaching
in Farneth every Sunday. W^m La Touche

Sermon

Sermons were a real blessing to me, I
frequent imagined that he hears my in-
most thoughts. I had no rest day, nor
night, on account of the truthen of my
sins. One day as I was by myself ear-
nestly entreating our Saviour to man-
ifest himself unto me, he granted my re-
quest, & gave me a full assurance of the
forgiveness of my sins, which came with
such power that it melted me into tears
from this time & particularly during my
stay in that Family, I received many
blessings from our Saviour. This was also
a particular period with the Bethesda
Congregation. Their enemies in these parts
were not afraid to prognosticate their
ruin, & notwithstanding this I wished for a
still closer union with them, & impetioned
to be admitted a Member of the Congregation.
The two Sisters with whom I lived having departed
this life it was thought proper for me to
leave Hollbeck, & I was placed at last to my
great joy in the Single Sisters Academy at
Gummersall, May 20th 1755. & was soon at
home with them. It proved a new school
for

to my heart. The 3^d of March 1756 I was informed would be a general congregation I was
not an exception that on that day I should
have the favour to be added thereto. I there-
fore kept a band with our Saviour, warranted
of our poverty & helplessness, yet comforted
with his redempt. In this situation of mind
according to my impression, I was received
into the Congregation on the above mentioned
day which proved a great blessing to me.
Thus for her own account.

April 30th 1756 our late Sister removed
from Gumeral to live in the Choir House
here. March 21st 1757 she partook with
the Congregation of the holy Communion for the
first time. It was evident, notwithstanding
all human imperfections that she
had found her peace in our Saviour.

She knew in whom she believed and was
persuaded that he was able to keep
that which she had committed to Him.
which helped her through every trying
circumstance she met with. Her call
to belong to a Congregation of Jesus she valued
highly, and often spoke of it with the greatest

greatest gratitude. It was a particular
pleasure to her to serve her Sisters in
any little matters she was able to do,
which she did with great faithfulness
as long as her strength would admit
of it. The beginning of this year an
Asthmatick complaint which she had
laboured under many years, grew very
troublesome to her so that she was obliged
in Jan^y to move into the sickroom,
when her longing to be at home with our
Saviour increased daily. It gave her much
pain when two of her companions in the
sickroom was called home before her.
She suffered much in her sickness which
made her sometimes rather impatient
and think the time long, but she would
soon recollect herself again, and intreated
our Saviour to give her a childlike resigna-
tion to his will that she might not
grieve him by her impatience.
The night before her departure, she said

Said, I am waiting for our Saviour to
come and fetch me, he will not be long
now before he comes, I shall then see
him for myself, sickness & sorrow will
have an end, he will wipe all tears
from my eyes. That night she spent
in great weakness, but in converse
with her best Friend, Nov^r 10th
the happy moment came when she
departed in a soft and easy manner
to her dear Redeemer with the
blessing of her Choir, half past
10 o'clock in the forenoon, during
a sincere feeling of our dear Lords
presence, in the 72 Year of her
Age.