

The Journal of Life of the S. Sister Mary Taylor who Departed
to our Saviour ^{at 60} Antwerp Feb. 24 1790

I was Born at Moberly in the County of Cheshire July 11th 1745
and Baptized in the Church of England. In my Childrens
Years I felt some dawning of Grace in my heart, but did know
how to value it rightly. In my 10th Year my Father took me
with Him to hear the B. P., and I got a deep impression of our
Saviors love in my heart, which remained with me for some
time. But in my 14th Year I began to see my left condition,
which soon brought me into despair, and Satan got such
power over me, that I believed there was no God, or if there
was, I had no right to Him; I thought Hell itself could
not contain more misery, than I found dwelt in me; so I
sighed I had never been Born, and that I had no immortal
Soul to live forever: but since I had, I thought that it might
be destroyed, and not remain in the number of those Souls
that was immortal. This led me to think whether or no there
was a God who had made me & who could destroy my Soul: And
I concluded that there was a God, & that he could save some that
believed on Him. But I had no faith, and thought I must be
lost. In this Situation I went to hear a Brother Preach, the Text
was at the Time of Ignorance God winketh at, but now
Commandeth all Men every where to repent. I thought
if I had but been Ignorant; then I might have hoped,
but I have been told so often of our dear Saviour, and what he

has done & suffered for poor Sinners; how often has my Father entreated me to go alone, and to pray to my Maker & Redeemer that He would have mercy upon my Soul; but I had refused it. All this was set before my heart & Eyes in a clear light. But my distrust I could tell to no one; and kept my misery to myself for I thought no one was as bad as I felt myself to be.

In my 17th Year I went again to hear the Morn Preach and the Text was a great Comfort to my distressed Soul; It was the following He which hath begun a good work in you, will perform it untill the Day of Jesus Christ. It was as if my dear Saviour said to me, this is my work, give thine Heart to me & I will give the rest from thy Labour. Oh how did my Soul rejoice that the Lord would have mercy upon me. In the Year 1763 I moved with my Father & Mother to be near the Congⁿ in Duckenfield, where I soon got a desire to live in the Choirhouse, and Obtained leave in the Year following to my great Joy. But I must confess that I spent my Time there very indifferently & did not seek in earnest to know my dear Saviour aim with me, but was satisfied with some dawnings of his Grace. Oct: 23rd 1763 I had the favor to be rec^d into the Congⁿ from this Time I fell into a legal self working way striving in my own spirit & strength to become good, but in vain. Thus I spent 4 Years in this miserable self

righteous
working way of my own, Some times I was weary and
tired out almost, but still could not leave it off: Till in
the Year 1767, when I had the grace to become a Candidate
for the Holy Communion, this gave me a clearer insight into
myself, than I had ever had before, I now found that all my
self working was like a cob web, & all my self righteousness
was as filthy; & that Verse was applicable to my Condition,

A Garment I myself had gain'd,
A Staff I had whereon I lean'd,
Which fell when tryed from out my hand,
Oh Kabe I burnt it to a brand.

I had a longing desire to be ^{come} a Partaker of the Highest Good,
but was very timorous about it. However my S^r. Saviour
shewed me the way that as a poor Sinner I must go and
venture upon his mercy. March the 31st 1768 on Monday
Thursday I partook for the first Time of the Highest Good
in the Holy Sacrament, during which I got a deep impres-
sion of our Saviours sufferings & Death, & it was a Time
of real Blessing to me which I hope never to forget, I went
on in a still and happy Course for near a Year, when my Father
& Mother & Brothers agreed to ^{get} ~~send~~ me away from the Wm.
by telling me that they were a deceitful People and that I
was already deceived, but I could not believe them. but
as their designs were frustrated, they contrived a Scheme
to get me to my Father's House, by a message that if I would
see my Father & Mother alive, I must come immediately

but it was all entirely a falsehood & deceit. I however went
to see her, & found her rather poorly, but no ways dan-
gerously ill, now their intention was to keep me, and
when I attempted to go back again, they would not suffer
me to go. When I set off, they fetched me back, and
forced me to stay against my will, & at night locked
me in my Chamber, I desired the Neighbours to watch
me lest I should leave the House, this continued a whole
Week, before I could make my escape. At last I found
an Opportunity to get off, on a Dark Night, I went
around about way for Duckenfield, that they might
not overtake me, if they pursued me. But my two
Brothers & two other Men, got to Duckenfield before
me and placed themselves in the roads that led to the
S. ^{rs} House, so that I could not get home without meet-
ing some of them, my Brother happened to be in the
road where I had to pass, He therefore stopped me and
called the others to assist Him, they intended to take
me back by force, but being near the S. ^{rs} House, I cried
as loud as I could, that they might hear me and come
to my assistance, which they did, and came to see
the reason of my cries, and one of them asked me if I
would go back with the Men or not, I answered that

I would not return with them, they then endeavoured to get me at liberty, but one of the Sisters was knocked down by one of them, which made them flight in good earnest, and the Str being almost come out, at length prevailed & I escaped their hands, tho' I was much bruised & by the hard usage I had undergone. I was thankful to my dear Saviour that I could be at rest again in my Choir House. But my stay in Dickenfield was not long for I wrote to my Brother in Fulneck of what had happened to me, and He spoke to the Wm there about me, ~~saying~~ thinking that it would be better if I removed to some other Congregation, this was taken into consideration, and I obtained leave to live in Fulneck, accordingly on March the 21st 1769 I ~~went~~^{came} to live in the Choir House here, where I was thankful to be, altho' outwardly I had it harder to procure a Maintenance than in Dickenfield, but I believe that the Lord will make it answer a good end at last. Thus far her own account.