

The great Boy James Bates was born at Norwood Green in y^e Parish of Stalefax Sept. the 14th 1745, was baptized in y^e Church of England, but has been amongst y^e B^{orn} from a Child, during which State he ~~was~~ always bore y^e Character of plain, downright, & honest, was beloved by y^e Labourer of the Man wherein he lived & of those who visited him from time to time for his genuine Simplicity. F by the Child's Father He was rec^d. into the great Boys Choir Jan^y 4th 13th 1760, after which it was obvious, that the getting a true acquaintance with the Man of Sorrows lay very near his Heart. When he was visited & spoke with from time to time by his Choir Labourers they always found him in y^e same simple & openhearted Course, ardently desiring to become a Boy to that Heart which broke in Death for him; for which reason the Clog of his Conversation with them was generally about coming into y^e Choirhouse, where he might spend his time uninterruptedly in a true Devotion of Soul & Body to y^e humanity of Christ, the Boys Choir-head & Prind. Accordingly, this favour was granted him Apr. 4th 21st 1760 to his inexpressible Joy. The Business which he followed in y^e Choirhouse was that of a Stuffweaver, which he began with his father while at home principally and exercised great Diligence thereat, principally with a View to come soon into y^e Choirhouse & that there he might be as little burthensome as possible. He shew'd as much Diligence at his Work here as one could well expect of a Boy in his Years, but being naturally of an active turn of mind & strong in body he often solicited to be put to another business which required harder Labour & more Exercise. But this being not convenient according to our Circumstances, he was told to pursue that business which he had learnt. Herein he shew'd such an unfeigned Obedience as was exemplary to all y^e other Boys. However by his continual sitting & faithfulness at his work it is supposed the Disorder he got in his Bowels was contracted. About a Year ago he first began to complain of a Pain in his Bowels which sometimes was so violent it was obliged him to leave of Work & keep to his Room, wherein Obedience he made Use of all Medicines given to him by our Physician; but his Desire to be again amongst y^e Boys at his Work, was sometimes y^e Mot^{iv} for his saying he was well when it was not entirely so. However his Disorder seemingly left him, & he began to gather Strength, but secretly his Thoughts were principally set upon going home, which he often utter'd to his Labour with longing tears & even was so sure of this Point, that he desired his Companions in y^e Shop to take notice that he would be at home with our S^{ar} & his tabernacle laid in y^e burying grounds before next Midsummer. This he also told the Boy W^m Ashley when he was waiting for his last Kiss last October, that he would be with him before Midsummer. △

He was rec^d. into the Cong^o March 23rd last, ~~was~~ to his great Joy & Abasement, for he often said when others were rec^d. he was not worthy of such a great Grace; Soon

△ In this Situation he went on, improving in the knowledge of himself & acquaintance with that Heart who consecrates himself to the poor & needy, confiding ~~to~~ and dear amidst all the sensations of his own Poverty & often weeping after the Soul of Christ whose communion he found to be his life.

after which he began to sicken with his old Disorder & was obliged to beake himself continually to y^e Sickroom. His first Thoughts were now I shall go home not without standing which he was obliged to go to y^e Physician in taking every thing he prescribed & soon became such a companion to his Lukewaiter as he scarcely ever had before for his friendliness, gratitude, cleanness of heart, & constancy in y^e enjoyment of our Sav^r. His presence in his sickness & pain was an attachment to every body, which was alleviated by nothing but his heart living in the comfort, pain & anguish of his beloved, whose nearest converse was the Occupation of his Soul by Day & Night. If any Br. or Boy wanted to refresh himself he knew not how to do it better than by visiting our Br. Bates, who was always found conversing most intimately with our Sav^r with heavenly serenity & oftentimes with Tears. In his sleep this happy converse was not interrupted, but went on in the same track as when awake, being often heard speaking with our Sav^r by those who watched with him. There was nothing at all of falsehood or obliquity to be found in him, but that came down right honest & open hearted & genuine simplicity, shown in all his Words & Actions constantly panting for the last kiss.

May the 9th he was all the Day in an Extasy, continually occupied with our Sav^r & his coming to that the hearts of many Brs who heard him were melted & their Eyes overflowed. He often enquired about John Morgan, who lay ready for y^e departing kiss with him in y^e same room & expressed his concern for him, wishing him safe with our Sav^r. He also mentioned something of the Bands he kept with Br. Morgan in the beginning of his sickness & declared of himself how it had been with him & how he had spent his time before he came to y^e knowledge of our Sav^r, that since the time our Sav^r slept before his heart he had loved him with all his might, but was ashamed his love was not stronger, since the Friends of his Soul had done so much for him & earned his Soul & Body a thousand times over. Upon being asked whether he would choose to go to our Sav^r now or wait until he came to visit the long², his answer was, I cannot stay, he has shamed my heart, but if it pleased our Sav^r I would do either; often uttering at intervals, Oh the first sight of him personally! & frequently called out sleep & waking. My Sav^r come soon!

While the long² were enjoying the Lord's supper in the long Hall about 5 Minutes before Br. Morgan went home (tho he knew nothing of Morgan's situation) he burst out in this prophetic strain, saying to himself, Yes, yes, my Sav^r. "I now see thou wilt come soon, Yes I know thou wilt, Ay, Ay, thou wilt, oh yes I see it very plain, I see thou art a coming, Ay, Ay, thou art there a smiling, "Thou art coming just now see". When he was told our Sav^r had taken Br. Morgan to himself, he said, I am glad of it & thank him with Joy, now I only wish he would

would soon come & pay me such another visit, the sooner the better.

The 14th The Boys of his Room visited him, he was very lively & told them how happy he was & how much he longed to be at home; he wished none might withhold their hearts from our Sav^r, for his sufferings deserved a thousand times more than what they were able to give him, and said how happy it would be if each of them might obtain the favour which he was a candidate for. On being told that perhaps our Sav^r had some Views with some of them for which they must stay yet longer here below, he replied, it is very probable, but may they then be good hearts, give him Joy & execute his Views; as for me it is my happy lot to go home. He then made his Observations upon some of y^e Boys, & lastly they sung several Verses for him; a happy melting feeling attended the whole & our Sav^r.

The 21st when the Meeting was over in which the long² had been singing. C. Jerusalem above (tho unknown to him) he sent for the Labourer & said: I only wanted to tell you, I think it cannot be long before our Sav^r comes & takes me with him, I have such a feeling of him as I cannot express, only he is very near. This he uttered with a most tender feeling & Tears on both sides. Then a Band was kept. The conclusion was. I have the best Prospect before me, I have not long to continue here, I perceive plainly my Friend draws nearer & nearer.

The 26th He was uncommonly pretty, talked charmingly about our Sav^r & his happiness in him. Awaking from Sleep, he called out to his Lukewaiter & said: Well, Charles, now it is all over, now I have no more pain, for I have seen our Sav^r, have been with him, kissed his Wounds, & he told me he would come again very soon, & take me with him to himself. This he uttered with such a countenance as captivated the Lukewaiter. He then desired his Labourer might be called, & when he came into the Room, he lifted up his weak head & said with a smiling pleasant Mien. I have been with our Sav^r, & there was a most charming company with him, & bonnily did they sing, ay bonnily, right bonnily, & pretty it was, I never heard such bonny singing before. Being asked what they sung, he answered with a broken Voice: The Wound, the Wound of our dear Sav^r. & all about his Blood & how he suffered, & they also sung, that it was all done for me, & a great deal more, but I cannot tell it you all; I am sure if you had heard it you would say so too; I know he'll not be long before he comes again & that will be a fine coming for me.

Monday June the 1st in y^e morning early Br. H. took his leave of him before he set out upon his journey for Andover house. He lay the whole Day in a happy Sabbath Silence, looking out for his Friend & hearing the Mends & hearts

Br. B. who had the Watch with him observing the Key in a gentle plowder set down in Silence & fell into a Doze, when immediately he was awoken again with a Dream that our Sav^r came into the Room & was looking with surprise found the Boy awake, who called him & asked him, who that was that came into the Room & awoke him. The Br. replied, I saw nobody. Yes, say the Boy, these some body did awake me, & I believe it was our Sav^r.

I saying: my good Sav^r, my dear Sav^r, my best Sav^r!

of everyone who visited him. The 2^d. In the Forenoon he had another happy hour with his Labourer, about that first Moment when he should embrace the wounded Feet of his Sav^r, & said, I can hold it out no longer, to day my Boy will be compleated. In the Afternoon it appears evident that his beloved Bridegroom drew near his heart with smiles of Grace, but his Speech failing him it was difficult to understand what he uttered. After the Choir Evening Blessing the Labourer went up to the Sickroom, found him in a manner absent to all about him, uttering something to himself: My dear Sav^r, my precious Sav^r, my good Sav^r! & as soon as that Verse was sung for him: Now he does get Permission to leave this mortal Tent & he lift up his Eyes with such a charming Glance as captivated the Minds of all about him, seemingly intimating he look'd for his last Blessing, whereupon it was imparted to him during the Singing of that Verse: O thou holy tormented Jesus, do as Elisha did, he is the Child with a penetrating feeling of the precious Nearness of the Friend of his Soul, in whose Arms & Bosom he fell softly & happily asleep without any other Signs than of a Person dozing into the most agreeable Slumber with the Blessing of his Choir in the 16th Year of his Age.