

MS. A. 9. 2. 1. 13/17

The Life of the S^r. S^r. Ann Ketter who departed
to our Sav^r. in the Churchof at Fulbroke Jan^y 4th 1788.
1788. She has left the following account of herself.

I was born at Whitley in the Parish of Broadford
Yorkefhire, March 21st 1745, as soon as I was able
my Parents sent me to School, which was then kept
by the S^r. at Soles and Horton, and I had a great
pleasure in it, but the first real feeling I remember
to have had, was when B^r. Gross had the care of the
Children, when he came his round, he kept us a
meeting, and told us that on such a day in the next
week at Lambeth-Hill there would be a Cong^y. day
for Childⁿ, which he had wished for many Years,
telling us how he wished us to spend our time till
then, assuring us that our Saviour would bless us
in a particular manner, I longed for the time to come
as I expected something particular, and was not
disappointed, it was the first time I had been at
such a meeting, our Country Childⁿ were in the Gal-
lery, the discourse was kept by B^r. Trimmer,
during which I remember my heart was quite
overcome with the feeling, I pray'd our Sav^r. to
bless me, tho' I did not think myself so worthy as
those who were below, but He was very near me,
I long'd afterwards for those Cong^y. days to come,
When I was married amongst the great girls

my whole night was to prosper for our Saviour, and I felt a desire to go and live with the Soc^y, which lasted till a cousin I had, who went to live with the Soc^y, soon left them again, and as I knew he went with a full intention to stay with them, it put such a damp upon me, that I gave it up, thinking that I might perhaps do as he had done. My Parents spoke to me in a very close manner, and told me never to think of going, if I thought of acting in the same way, but instead of this proving a blessing, it harden'd my heart, and I did my best to fustle all convictions, I went on in this manner way for near a Year, till I could hold it out no longer, I then made a full resolution to leave all, let the consequence be as they would, My Parents were exceedingly angry with this, and did to the utmost of their power to get my things in readiness against my removal, which took place Oct^r 23^d 1761, when I mov'd into the Officer's House at Westbrook, my Mother accompanied me, but on seeing her so concern'd for fear of my not staying awhile, she was very much, but I soon got to be at home amongst the Soc^y, this one thing always put a damp upon me, which was that I was not sure of my Salvation. Jan^y 1st 1762 I was review'd into the Cong^y quite unexpectedly, but instead of this being a pleasure, it was a pain to me, as I secretly wish'd it not to take place till I knew for certain that my sins were forgiven, now I had no more rest, think I could neither eat nor sleep, till I had attain'd it, at sev-

times I thought it was all folly, I went on in this way for a whole Year untill Dec^r 19th when Mr. La Trobe preach'd a Sermon, and took his text out of the Song of Solomon, where our Chas^t is described as a Roe or a Young Hart, he first treated of the faithfulness of them and likened them to the harts which our Saviour makes to any poor Soul in distress, whilst he was speaking, I felt so overcome that it is impossible to express what I felt in those moments, when I came a little to myself, having my Blythe book on my lap, it came into my mind to open a verse for myself, which was, before my Bridalroom my Soul is - To this already joined the other, I felt as the reading of this is impossible to describe, it was as if our Saviour spoke every word of it himself, and I had never heard the verse before, I was so happy, and felt that such a change had taken place, that I could hardly believe what had happen'd to me, being once in my Class, my Labourers sister, I believe had a mind to try my faith's fruit, she had a question to ask me, nothing our Saviour will know if it is so, and she the 1st shall be witness, the question was, whether I had felt our Chas^t forgiveness? I told her I knew I had as clearly as I know when the sun shone, but I know I may have it daily renew'd, she answer'd me with these words, Yes, For without fresh supplies - The former drowns and dies - Continually we're new - I say faith on Him to feed. This made me reason a little, why she should ask me such a question, but my faith failed not. In the Year 1760 I had

the grace and favour of being reviv'd into the ^{St. Spirit} choir, which day prov'd a real blessing to me, the reception meeting in particular, B^r La Trobe sung that verse, Where agonizing Blood - The necking earth did cover - There each unlovely thought - Shall be interr'd forever. after these words he kneel'd down, and pray'd very affectingly that every thing displeasing to our Saviour might be remov'd before we enter'd into a new year, when he rose up from prayer he sung, Somewhat they'll move no where. This made such an impression upon me, that I right with my whole heart that this might be my case. At this time a new school began to take place in my heart, and those things which before seem'd not of much consequence to me, now appear'd as great sins, I thought at this time that if I discov'd my mind to any one, I should not have the favour to stay any longer in the House, and pray'd our Saviour earnestly to help me without opening my mind, a Vis^t in the Room, seeing the distress I was in, spoke to me in a tender manner, and gave me to understand that she had experienc'd the same, and advis'd me to speak my mind to my Labours, but being of a very close turn, I still could not do it, one day when I could bear it no longer, I went alone, and there pray'd our Saviour to help me, I open'd that verse, Can any ill distress my heart - Since God with his own Son did part - Whatever I want can't be deny'd - Because for me the Saviour dy'd. Then I saw clearly that no ill need distress me, for by my Saviours Birth and sufferings He had purchas'd all things for

me, and would not deny me any thing, now I could speak openheartedly to my Labours about every thing. Aug. 13th the same Year I now made a ^{Sacrament} candidate for the Holy Communion, during the Sacrament, the pouring out of the Wine, and singing that verse ^{Now} in this Hall with haste - That thy Church meet it tender &c I felt in my heart as if it really was so, afterwards I waited with ardent longing for the time to come when I should enjoy it, which favour was granted me the 4th of May following, but I did not feel so well as I could have wish'd, being very timorous, and wanting to enjoy something so very extraordinary, not expecting that at such a time one had thought should arise after another, but I found by experience that they were sometimes more ripe then, than at any other time, and I felt many things stirring from time to time, but our Saviour gave me to feel that there was no occasion for me to be a slave to sin of any kind, or in Him there was full justification. In the Year 1767 it pleas'd our Saviour to take my dear Parents home to himself, also my B^r and S^r in a few weeks, who left 3 Child^{ren} Orphan, we were in the greatest distress how they should be cared for, but our Saviour according to his promise has cared for them all, by taking the youngest to himself, and the other two are now in Somerset County. In the Year 1768 when the Unit^y Elders Conference was here, I serv'd in the kitchen during their stay

and after they were gone, I was desir'd to serve in the
Chapel^{me} much, which at first for several seasons was
not agreeable to me, but it prov'd a school for my heart,
and made me keep close to our dear^{ly} Jesus, to that I can truly
say the 3rd Verse I writ there prov'd a most blessing for
my heart, especially the 1st Verse, "I will sing of thy
mercy O Lord, thy goodness O Lord, thy goodness O Lord."
After that I return'd into
the Church where I was employed in the Night for
12 Years. — As for these latter Years, I am at a loss
what to say, and cannot express what our dear^{ly} Jesus has been
to me, but so far I can say, He has taught me to know
what this in human nature, and what human nature
— refers are, together with what He can be to a few disciples
— and that, for I often thought I was like Job, and had to
weep the bitterest tears, on account of my thinking too
much of certain circumstances that occurred to me. But
He never fail'd to comfort me in a most striking manner
by passages of Scripture, such as, Thou art too far from
fail'd for a nothing, and not one of them shall fall to the
ground without my heavenly Father's knowledge, fear
ye not therefore, for the very hairs of your head are
all number'd. Nor did all reasonings I could also believe
what that could express, How well O Lord art thou thy
People leading — This if they ways seem wonderfull and
strange — There can be nothing wrong in thy proceeding
Because thy faithful ones can never change — Thy ways
are often crook'd and yet straight — In which thy

Children are constrain'd to walk — This all to ruin
seems to go and waste — To help too few that there are
ripe and great. And now I hope our dear^{ly} Jesus will grant
me patience to wait his time, untill He shall please to
call me home to Himself, then I shall be able to praise
him better for all that He has done for me.
As for our late dear^{ly} one account,

What she writes concerning these late Years is in
reference to her receiving a fall in the Year 1786 to
some one whom in Rochester, which she herself
accepted, but as for account of circumstances, it was
afterwards found good to postpone the matter for
formation, it prov'd a great trial to her, and she took
it much to heart, which so far impair'd her health,
that (tho' it was still kept in view for her) it was
at last oblig'd to be entirely dropt. But as she
herself has briefly noted how she felt in these circum-
stances, will only further mention, that in her last
sickness, which from that time was gradually increas-
ing, and at last terminat'd in a consumption, our
dear^{ly} one particularly gracious to her, and enabled
her to resign every thing cheerfully into his Father's
— full hands, whenever she spoke of her own heart's
feeling, it was always in the most grateful tone that
she had been help'd thro' so well, for, said she, when I
look my whole course over, I see abundance of goodness

and mercy which our Sav^r has always shewn towards
me his poor one, for which I shall remain a debtor
to all eternity: the joy she felt at the prospect of
soon seeing him on whom she had believ'd while here,
was visible in every ^{evident} conversation with her, and her
confidence in our Sav^r remain'd unshaken.

January 5th early in the morning, it was evident
that her time here wou'd not be long, upon which
the last blessing of the Cong^y and her Choir was im-
parted to her, during which she was quite sensible,
and herself had signify'd that a Liturgy shoud be kept
by her, which was attended with an earnest feeling
of the near presence of our Sav^r, and of what came to
pass in those moments, for, during the same, she fell
happily asleep in them, having spent here below
40 Years, 11 weeks wanting.