

Full 3/20

The Course of Life

of the married Brother Tho: Shoesmith
whose Remains were interr'd July 24. 1770

He was born Febr. 20. 1741 in Norwood Green
in the Parish of Halifax Yorkshire; and
baptiz'd in the Church of England. His Parents
being some of the first Yorkshire People that
adher'd to the Breth.ⁿ perceiv'd in his Boys years
that he was often much drawn by our dearest
Saviour, and he knew it himself but continu-
-ally resisted the Grace offer'd unto him, and
even hinder'd his Bⁿ & P^rs by his bad Course.
He did not like to go to the Meetings and would
have even hinder'd his Parents, for which Pur-
-pose once, ^{when} he was about 14 Years of age, he
contriv'd to behave very badly ^{while} they
were gone to the Meetings at Fullneck that
they might fear to go another Time: but that
Night he could not sleep till after Midnight
for the Disquietude of his Heart and was
terribly frighted by a Vision or Spectre,
which, he always said, came to him while he
was yet awake. This caus'd him to alter his
Behaviour to an orderly but dejected Course.
When he was about 17 he obtain'd Leave to live
in the Course House where he continued 4
or

on 5 years. at first he was therein an hopeful
youth & was soon received into the Congregation
but after a while he became refractory and
so very high minded that he lost his Senses
and for some Time it became needfull to keep
him in Chains. when he had recovered so far
as to be able to work for his Living he went
to dwell with his Parents. but he still would
go his own bad Way in Disobedience to his
Creator and his Parents, & was so stubborn &
unruly as to shew a Disposition to beat his
own Father. Thus it became unavoidable
that he must leave his Fathers House and
seek a Place for himself. He then boarded
for some Time with a Relation and went on
in the Worlds bad Ways: but the Convictions of
his Heart often made him uneasy. In about
a Year he sought Acquaintance with his pre-
sent Widow, but her Relations opposing their
Connexion he came awhile to his Father, and
then went to live in Leeds where he listed for a
Soldier, but soon repented it and was got free by
his Father, & soon listed again & repented again,
but was then oblig'd to remain a Soldier about
3 Months, tho' very miserable & much shocked at
the bad actions of his Comrades, till the Soldiers
finding him unfit for their Purpose, gave him
his Discharge in London. A Bro.^r pitying him
lent him Money to return^{to} his Father and he
came

came to him sickly & under Convictions. After
living in a Brothers House in Lindsey for some
Months he married his present Widow, by
whom our Sav.^r has given him one Daugh.^r who
is still with its Mother in the Care of the Congr.^y
On March 4. 1768 He & his Wife at their Request
were acknowledged as Members of the Society
His Hot & impatient Temper sometimes still
broke out in a very disagreeable Manner, when
contradicted, tho' otherwise he kept to his Work &
went on orderly. As to his Heart & Conscience he
constantly shew'd & express'd himself self-condemned
& dejected & reserved. When his impending Dispo-
sition began to appear this Spring, by plain
Tokens of a Consumption, he could not bear to
hear any Thing of it. The very Mention stir-
ring up an Enmity in him till about May 20,
one Night he got a gracious Look from his
mercifull Sav.^r whereby he was quite altered,
believ'd thence forward that our Lord would take
him in Mercy, became genuinely openhearted,
(which had been hitherto wanting) confess'd
that Pride & fleshly Lusts had been the Cause
of all his Deviations, & said: the Enmity of ones
own Heart is much worse to bear than ^{all} bodily
Pain. According to his earnest & written
Request he was publickly absolved on June 4th
and the whole Congregation sung their hearty Wish-
es for him. As his Body grew weaker he became
more & more desirous of going to Him who

died for him, whom he could now look on as his
best Friend. Oh! said he I have been a great Re-
bel against our Sav.^r but now He will have

Mercy on me and I want to go to him this very
 $\frac{1}{4}$ of hour, if it might be while you are here. He
mentioned in a contrite Manner his own bad beha-
viour at the Time of his Bro.^r Stephens last
Sickness, and also to his own Wife at different
Times. On July 16th His Head continually caught
as convulsed, & he often gasped for Breath, and
looked ghastly as a dying Man; yet often repeated
very sweetly: Dearest Sav.^r come & fetch me!
Dearest Lamb! my Saviour! my dear Lamb!
B.^r Greening said: dost Thou then love that Sav.^r?
he replied very earnestly: yes I do love Him, I did
long to live for him as a Boy: but afterwards I
was unfaithfull but now He has forgiven me
& twill be very pretty to live with him forever,
ah! if I was but with Him! after this by a
Discharge of much Matter from his Lungs he
was relieved for some Days. once when he had
spoken a good deal of his being a Rebel & of our
Sav.^r Mercy He said: I was once out of my Senses,
Oh! I shall have much to thank him for when
I come home! This his Ardent Longing to go to
his Souls Redeemer was granted him on July
the 21st after relieving the Bleeding of the Cong.
in the 29th Year of his Age.