

The Course of Life of the S^t Mary Whithard

I was born in Speedside in the parish of Tong, May
10th 1737, my parents being protest^{ts} I was baptiz^d
& Educated the same religion, my father
departed this life when I was 7 years old &
Left my dear mother with 7 children to struggle
with the difficulties of life in very ^{much} lower
Circumstances than she'd ever been used too
The Lord blest her ⁱⁿdeavour
for our support, till such time as we could
earn a little for our selves.

about my 8 year I came into a concern after
my salvation, & was much affected by reading
in the scriptures which spoke of our Sav^{ers}
death & sufferings, ask I my dear mother
what was the occasion, she resolved me in
the best manner ^{was able} to ~~say~~ told me that children was
sinful creatures as well as up grown people
& that we must learn to love god & not the w^{or}ld
things of this world. I was much affected, & inquired
when I did ought that was not right, & when
I see my sister going to the meetings I desired
to go with her, but she refused me; however
I & some other child^{ren} ventured to the meeting
which was kept at Rich^d Mortimer in Holm
Lane & 13th Schlect, sung the verse, dearest
hide Hail, I do covet thy warm blood above all things &c
& spoke in the same manner over our sad ^{death}
& suffering as I had read, & said no one can be saved

without they become acquainted with the man Christ
Jesus, from this time I went constantly to the meeting
& became much noticed by Mr. Packard Walker, who
spoke with me about leaving the Lord's Service, which
made a great impression on my mind, I was soon
received into the Children's Choir & Catechized by Mr. &
Sister Helt. & also went to the Children's school kept
by the single Sisters which was a great blessing
to my heart, from this time I went on till my
13th year from the 4th girls Festival was received
into their Choir, where a new schooling soon commenced
my spoiled & corrupted nature began to appear more
& more, & tho' I would willingly have been wholly
our Dr. Loo^g yet in voluntary to my self my
natural disposition would have lead me into the
world, If strong conviction from the Holy Spirit
had not told me I should be a ruin & undone Creature
my sinfulness & great distraction which I felt kept
inhere from my Labourers, believing they neither
knew nor felt such things as I did; therefore
would reproach me that I would not follow on he
our Loo^g but thought I would be more communica-
tive when all my sinfulness was done away, I longed
with earnest to be acquainted with my dear Loo^g
to have my sins forgiven, but nothing yet of this kind
I attained & in my 16th year I got the small pox being
dangerously ill I was visited by Dr. Loo^g & Sister
who was Laban's amongst the girls, she ask'd me
If I did not recover had I any assurance that
I was our Dr. Loo^g, I told her no, but I believed he
would have mercy on me & bring further acquaintance
with himself before he took me hence; of this

Sickness I recovered & retained a true desire in my heart
to become acquainted with my dear redeemer, yet
I was not without intervals of turning into the world
as I could come to no realitie in my heart, but I have
seen how thro' grace & mercy. I have been
preserved,
in the year 1757 I made known my desire to my
Labourer to be received into the congregation &
resolved to give my self up to our dear Loo^g
as a spoiled poor creature as I was, without
waiting till I felt ^{was} or felt; with this impression
on my mind that as I could not ^{not} give my self freed
from sinfulness he must take me as I am for I
could wait no longer; I came to the meeting making
at full length the first that Dr. Loo^g kept after
his arrival, ^{there} who sung: I'll weep when ye shall
not come &c. & kept the discourse from the same
words, which made such an impression upon
me that I became like wax, before the fire,
in my returning home had the opportunity to give
ful vent to my eyes entered into a field there ^{presented}
with a Thousand tears before my Loo^g's feet
who gave me this happy meeting, which has been
so momentous to me as never to be forgotten tho'
all my future course, for this end he had followed
& preserved me to send me as his own,
I returned home, the rest & peace my soul enjoyed
sufficed for that night without any other comfort
to my eyes & I was quite another Creature then before
& about 5 days after this I had the June 20th
to be received into the congregation, this brought
a fresh concern upon me how I might use this

from according to the kind of my beloved, & tho' I
had experienced that he had accepted of one
in the depth of my wretchedness & misery, yet
I wanted to please him with myself Holiness &
piety of heart rather than move as a
sinful poor creature, in his presence
in the year 1750 I was received into the ^{pro} choir
in which I found I had many things to learn.
I felt a real desire to come into the choir house.
But as my mother, told me she should not assist
me, & I feared the choir house expenses would be
more than I could earn by spinning, I was much
discouraged, but being wearied out by the daily
calls & convictions of my heart, I came to such
a resolution that come life or death I must venture
& was comforted by those words, seek the kingdom of
Heaven & all other things will be added,
aug 10 1760 I joined the great house to remove
into the choir house, little expecting the unhappy
that did befall me, in this dear place I only
ingay 12 weeks of real choralness, before a
most dangerous delusion gained deep ground
in my heart & mind, viz. how by the devil Craft
laid such hold on me, that I reason over every
thing I heard or saw, & thought if I got not speedily
from the house I should be destitute of every needful
clothing, & I should be obliged to go for real work.
Human arts was now wanting to sleep in to
my assistance & under pretence of going to see
my mother, should be the means I would make
use of, having made up my matters quite
complete, full of joy & craft I ventured of

when I had got about half way home I was all
at once seized with such a fit that I stood
quite still, trying one aloud, Lord have mercy
what have I done, many questions pre; & conscience
in my heart & conscience, peter denied his Lord
but peter did not deceive his Lord as I have
done my sisters; pretending to love them & had
nothing real at the bottom, & then comforting
my self that perhaps I should be happy with
my another & sister, who received me very gladly
past some time with an outward ^{one} ^{the} look of penitence or condemnation
least any should ^{one} look of penitence or condemnation
which was all the while mixed with the most
cutting pain, thus I went on till Christmas &
at the night watch I took courage to venture
into the ^{without} ^{leave} choir house, Trembling & frightened almost
out of my senses, yet with an assumed boldness, all
who saw me viewed me as a spectacle, Ann tently
was the first who came & spoke to me & ask me
how I could think of entering this house after such
deceit as I had been guilty of; & special to the
labourers before whom so lately in my chapel
I had spoken so cheerfully & satisfied, as I did.
the truth of what she said reproved & made my very
heart & conscience, I felt my self as a criminal before
the place of caution, got out of the house as fast as
ever I could, not reflecting, it was night & as I knew
my eyes knew no rest for this night & several more, the
dreadful apprehension of every moment being my last
was continually with me, those eyes who as flames of
fire to the guilty persuade me were ever I went.

in this deplorable situation I sent one who I loved
then resolved to beg forgiveness of my Lord in write, for
without them I could not bear my life much longer
the contents of what I wrote moved my dear Labourer
to send a Lib^{ty} to me the sight of which, surprised
me beyond myself so that I could say very little
to them, they comfort me in my deep distress, & told me
if it was a scale in my heart that I could not live
with them, I had leave to come to all the opportunities
of the Socinian Sisters, my thankfulness for this was
far from being what it should have been, for my
pride made a further ^{claim} ~~claim~~ but this I kept at
under all I could; resolved to impetrate my dearest
Lord for a thorough reformation of my happy
with a monger the doctors, & beg the favour to
speak my self unto my Labourers, the permission
of which had lik^e to have lost me very dear, the
quill & distraction of my mind laid me in such an
manner that had not her friendly arm & bosom
lean my support I sunk down in despair, it is
enough to comfort, & feel as close you from you to our
D^{ty} & so, & if you cannot do this I wish without
fellowship with us, you must only, seriously, express
that you must expect to conform, to the Brethrens
& regulations of our house & that I have said you
self to them, I could from that moment have seal
it as with my life that those things if I was but
once a gain within the house that they would never
be any molestations to my peace; Ah little did I
know.

what a poor weak human creature was daily, yet to
appear in me, I returned home but with a heavy
heart, pour'd out my ~~strong~~ desires with tears
to be forgiven by my Sa^r & his congregation & the
next day I felt the pain to be a deep wound in my
heart & in the feeling sense of my humility. I found
it no hard task to beg most earnestly forgiveness of
my Choir & the congregation ^{or worshipers} without feeling any
right or worthiness at all; ^{^ this was read in the coffee}
on the following Sunday the joyful tidings was
imposed that I had leave to come again into the
choir-house, this humbled me into the very dust before
my dearest Sa^r & on April 7th or 8th I had the grace
to be secured in the midst of my Choir with an
assurance of thank love by my ^{or as many who did}
me that all former things should be quite forgotten
& forgiven, kiss me & recommend me to the heart of
of my beloved Sa^r thus I was blest for weeks beginning
but a lapse I mist the path for my Sa^r & thankful
ness soon abated, & I began to doubt over the
sisters not loving me as they did one another
my unchristianlike way of thinking, fear brought
me into abstractions of every kind & great dry
ness of heart, in so much that I felt my self like a
fish out of water, all whilst I kept entirely to my
self thinking, I shoud never more prosper in
this time, & tho' I had so lately felt what it was
to be separad from the fellowship of my Choir
yet my pride look for more complacency from
the sisters, which my foregut told me thoud I

merited or deserved, this reprove brought me
more upon my heart then ought I had meet
with & I plainly see the fault lay intirely in
my self, I became more humble & humble
& then love & mercy poured in upon me & my
gracious Lord gave me leave to become a
candidate for the Holy Sacrament 1800^{to}
1761, & on March 13 1762 I had the grace
to become a participant of the Holy Communion
& blood which put much to shame & also the
gracious promise of the W W, of the day, I will
make an end of all my Mourning & days of Day
shall begin,

then the following I was directed to keep the
childrens school in the country for the ~~Minister~~ &
which did hold out ~~very long~~ by this apparatus
and many things to learn & go a daily in sight
of short falling, but was thankful to enjoy rest
& peace again in my Dr. Chorus house were I, not
been long before before I was lost with an intermit-
ting fever to gather with my Lungs disorder that
came on me Spring & fall, which occasioned me
13 week sickness in the sick room which was no
small blessing to my heart He proved Himself
my all in all Circumstance in my course the desperate
situation I was often brought into thro' sickness &
other Occasion was very contrary to my disposition
but my Su^r proved it needful & wholesome for me
tho' it caused me many an heavy hour. to be thus
burdensome to my dear Choir.

The repeated sickness of our happily departed Sister caused
for many reflections of the last mentioned kind, as
her natural Tendency was not to be too, therefore
she applied herself industriously, on all occasions that
she might maintain herself, but our Lord who
knew the disposition of her mind used all possible
means to induce Himself unto her heart as the
only object to be depended on, she was very mindful
of Her own depravity, & the inclination to serve or
do something for our Su^r was at times such a fine as
carry beyond the summer form & enjoyment of her
wounded friend; this impatient ambition caused
her many perplexing moments, which our dear
Lord had to comfort her very often about

3 months ago, Her former disorder fell upon her
stomach & caused violent reachings which occasioned
her moving into the sick room, from the first time
whom she had served with great faithfulness
during the short time she was with them
when in the sick room it was soon perceivable that
our dearest Su^r intend by this sickness to finish
Her course in this time. but she did not believe
it, till Her bodily weakness increased so fast, that
she often cal'd out to Her dearest Bridegroom to
prepare Her speedily for His arms & bosom as a poor
needy dinner who thro' the Merits of His wound
tho' she might enter into Her eternal rest
she often with the greatest earnestness would express
How Happy it was to have a couple of Hearts & no
other duties then to wait with patience those or dearest will

to retain a true & lively sense of all the grace bestowed
upon one, especially in such hours & moments when
the bodily pains press in beyond all patience; a few
days before her departure she asked the sister, if they
thought or knew of ought that would detain her
she thought she had nothing on her mind, but
what she had thoroughly spoke about with her
dearest friends, but she was answered by a friend
that patience & resignation with a living spirit
after him is of happy consequence to a soul that's
waiting for his coming, she paused a little &
then said Ah that is it, He alone can give me
patience, tho' I want to be with him yet I wait
his time, nor longing increase every moment
& her great pains which had inflexible her
dying bones grew more bearable, & on the
29 of June between the hours of 11 & 12 in the
night she fell softly & happily a sleep, thus
Rested her course having spent 32 years
& some days in this time