

FW/3/42

Journal of Life of the S. Br. John Lambrook,  
the first part of which he himself has wrote down,  
& the latter dictated.

I was born at Moreley in the Parish of Batley June the 20<sup>th</sup> 1736. My first 13 Years I lived with my Parents, which good Care to instruct me in what was religious, to the best of their Knowledge, particularly my Mother, whom I remember, when Mr. Ingham & other awakened Men first began preaching, she went frequently to hear them; & a Sermon of Mr. Whitfield's being then published, she got it to read. I read the same, it treated so much of the sufferings of our Saviour, that it brought me into some concern about my Salvation. I was then about 5 Years old, & this was the first Conviction, That, as much as I can remember. At the End of my 13<sup>th</sup> Year I was put an Apprentice to a very religious Man in Thivarna Town, a Distiller, in which Way I had been brought up. Half a Year afterwards my Father departed this Life. This struck me pretty much at first, but I soon forgot it. The 3 first Years of my Apprenticeship I spent among young Company as much as I could, & indeed in that Time I got addicted to many bad Things. One Day, when I was at Work by myself in the Field, a sudden Thought came into my Mind, that I must once die & appear before God to give an Account of my sins. I thought, if I died in that Condition, I certainly must go to Hell. I immediately left of my Work & went & knelt down under a Tree & prayed to God to forgive me. This was the first Time I ever prayed, except such as the Lord's Prayer & others learned out of Books. From this Time I began to be very religious, I read many religious Books & prayed 6 or 7 Times a Day. I entirely broke from all my old Companions, who despised me very much; but the religious people praised me greatly; & this made me very proud. But all this availed me nothing; all my reading & praying brought no Peace to my Heart. I was a bound Slave to Satan, & when Sin presented itself, I had no Power to resist. Some Times I used to be a fortnight or 3 Weeks without coming into any extraordinary great Sin; this made me think, I had now



made for them. But I soon perhaps came into the very Street of  
that Sea, which I thought I had conquered. This made me think, you  
were displeased with me, & all my prayers & Reading were of no  
signification. I must begin anew & be more watchful, than I  
had been hitherto. But with all I could do, Sir had the Rule over  
me. I think, I spent near 4 years in this miserable course.

At Easton, in the Year 1781, (as well as I can remember) I thought, I would go & hear the Sermons, tho' I had no visiting for them, because I believed them to be Roman-Catholic. However I went & heard. St. A's Sermon to my great astonishment. Just a Year since I never had heard in all my life before. I thought directly, this is the true Way to be saved. I went home, & what I had heard of the sufferings of Jesus, & how that Salvation could be obtained no otherwise, than by his Merits, Death & Bloodshedding, this wrought much on my Mind all the Week following. When on Sunday I went again, I was so overcome, that I afterwards could not go any where else. I soon got acquainted with St. A's & got a great love for him; but he soon after went from Easton. I was received into the Society, attended the meetings on Sunday constantly, & was then so struck with what I had heard, that I many Times in my Day home, retired into a Wood near Long, & wept before our Lord; that I might enjoy what I had heard. But I did not rightly prosper; for I had got some Thing else in View besides my Salvation.

I had got an Invitation to travel, & this engaged my mind pretty much, & I put this in Execution, as soon as my present duty was over. There happened just at that time two Persons who came from London to see their Relations at Norfolc, & I took the Opportunity to go with them at their Return, the one being a married Person, took me to her House, & it was my Home, till I got a Place which I did in ten days Time; but it was very hard, so that I left it in 3 Months, & got another Place, which I left in about the same Time on account of some Differences. I went to my first Lodging & stayed there out of Place, till Doctor John their friend returned from the West Indies, where he had been as Surgeon of a Ship. I visited him & told him, I would like to go to sea if he wou'd, he would recommend me to Captain Thomas <sup>Brown</sup>, if he had any Place that would suit me. This Captain was a Person he himself had been with at Greenland, before he went to the West-Indies.

Accordingly

Accordingly on his Recommendation the Captain took me as his steward, I went on Board, but all things were very awkward, having never been on Board of a Ship before, & I knew no more about my office than a child; but I soon got to understand, that the chief matter was in that office the Voyage before. So I made it my business to get acquainted with him <sup>the Captain</sup> ~~with a~~ <sup>in a</sup> ~~Boat~~ <sup>Boat</sup>, for he lived ~~among~~ <sup>on</sup> the boat all my time, what I should do & what belonged to my office. Thus I got into the Ship pretty well. It sailed from the River <sup>the</sup> latter End of March, & we were not long out at Sea, before I was sick & continued so for 15 Days. I thought many Times, if I was on Shore, they should be kind to me, but when I got better, I came thro' pretty well as I had no Ships Duty to do. It was a very odd uncomfortable Voyage. In about 3 months we returned very unsuccessful, having got no more than one fish. I got from the Ship as soon I could, weary enough of my first Voyage.

A few Weeks after by Accident I went to the East-India House & met with a Captain, who saw ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> shipping people, I asked him: if he wanted people & he said he did & gave me an Order to go on Board. I immediately went on Board & met with a Company of very wicked, cursing & swearing Sailors. However we got ready & put to sea. About a Week after our Ship Company was seized by Burns with a violent Fever, I also felt sick & I brought me very near my Disposition. In the ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> While we were so sick, we hung altogether by ourselves. It was one of the most shocking Times, I have had in all my Life, most of them died cursing & swearing, they all at one Time died, that were sick & left me alone. I prayed heartily to our Saviour, that if the world spard me & bring me home again, I would be his & live for him. But when I got better, I soon forgot all his Goodness & went on a wicked Course with the Rest of the Sailors, & some Times worse. But amidst all, I had many Con-victions, & I often could not sleep, but wept in my Hammock, on account of the Course I had entered into. When we came to a Port, there was generally nothing seen but Nickedrafts. I remember very well some Times, that I was grieved at myself, that I could not be so bold in Nickedraft as the Rest of my Company, & when I thought that I would be so wicked as they, I generally had such Con-victions, that I could not do like them. He had a good Voyage, but with regard to his former we had of them some Times, & were about 6 Months without Bread Living on Rice. On account of the Length of the Voyage we also



were obliged to leave in the store in the East-Indies, which were very bad & mostly this is done. After 2 years & 3 months we arrived at Spicers. I then made myself sick & came myself from the ship. When the people were all recovered, I got on shore & came to Dover. I lived there with my friends till the ship was paid off, & then according to my resolution of going to sea no more, I began to look for a place, where I could earn my bread & by the help of a friend I got a good one in Liverpool, where I lived very agreeably 6 months, & I found they had great confidence towards me.

And the Ship beginning to be fitted out again, which I had been with before, I made me very useful in my Ship, & I got a Desire to go to Sea again. But I did not know, what Counsel to make, to get away from the Place, as I had no fault to find with any thing I had be- come to. Antagona I ordered one of my Companions, that he should come dressed like an Officer of a Ship of War, & enquire for me, that I might appear, as if he had an Intention to probe me. I ordered it so, that he should come at an exact hour, in Order that I might be out of the Bay. Accordingly he came. As soon as he was gone, then my Master called me & told me, that he was afraid, the Officer would re- turn again. I told him, I was under some apprehension of being pressed. He desired that I would get ready, & should go away, & not be pressed if possible. When he settled with me about my Wages, he gave me  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Guinea more than was due to me. So I came away ~~unmolested~~ with many good Wishes. Yet I was concerned for acting so unwisely; besides that, I had left my Place & did not know, whether I could get Voyage or not to the East. Indies; I went to the India- House & spoke to Captain Wilson, with whom I had been before, & desired him to recommend me as Mr. Symonds to Captain Jackson, that was to succeed him. He was very friendly & promised that he would do it; & he was as good as his Words. I then began to get ready suitable for that Station, as well as I could. And when I had got my Necessaries, I had not much Money to spare, to trade with. A gentle Woman, that wanted some Things from the East. Indies, advanced me 6 Guineas in hand, which I laid out in such Merchandises, as I thought, would suit the best in India. He soon got ready & had a very prosperous Voyage from England to Madras in 4 Months, where I disposed of my Effects to good Advantage. I then bought such Commodities, which I thought would suit for China, which likewise turned out to

good Providence; & what Money I had laid out in Guinea goods & brought them home. After 18 Months we arrived again at Plymouth, where I escaped the Breasting & came by Land to London. When the ship got round to London, I found, that I had 10<sup>s</sup> to receive for Goods, that a Person had disposed of in the Passage. Afterwards went on Board from Day to day & some Times rode from Board & brought on Shore, till I got off all my Effects. I found myself worth a considerable Sum of Money, that made me think of no other Way of life, than wandering Life, as I had such a good Length of time remaining. ~~I was now a free Man, & I was now a free Man, & I was now a free Man.~~ After I had settled all my Affairs with the Ship for that Voyage, I paid a Visit to Northfleet, to see my Mother, where I went on Sunday to Bulwark, & was so tired here of in the Evening, that I had greatly staid, if I had known, how I should get my Living. In about 6 Weeks I returned to London, where I went to see about the Ship, & found, it would be some Months, before she would be fitted out again. I waited the Time, but then some Objections arose between the Captain & me, & I resolved positively, that I would go to Sea no more. I acquainted my Friends with my Resolution & advised with them, what I should take up. I had then spent all my Money. They agreed to advance me 30 £, that I could procure me a little Shop, for which I had to give them Bond & Judgment. He soon met with a little Shop, in which I entered. Soon afterwards I was arrested by a Person, that I owed 40<sup>s</sup> to, & went to the Sparging-House, where I wrote a Letter to my Friend & told him my Circumstances. He went directly & put the Bond & Judgment in Force, & took all I had, & came to me next Morning & paid the Money, for which I was arrested, & set me at Liberty. I had now no Home, but went some Times to one Friends House, & some Times to another, where I had been formerly acquainted. But this I could not do very long, & it came so far, that I suffered till to the Benevolence of Life. One Day I met in the Street one of the Family, that I had the Money from, he invited me to go to their House, & they were hearty & friendly with me, & seemed to pity my Circumstances. I served in their Shop a few Weeks, & then they hired me as a yearly Servant. I lived there very agreeably, & some years ago, they did write to me to Bulwark, that I should come, & live with them. <sup>again</sup> After some Time I called to a Barber's Shop to get shaved pretty late in the Evening; while I sat there, I thought, I



was going to die. I got up & said, I was very bad; but no Body gave me any answer. I stood at the Door till some Body, who was before me, was shaven; then I got in & <sup>where</sup> I was shaven. I went home very heavy & told our people, I was not well. They advised me to get some Supper, which might help me. I went to Bed & in the morning still found myself the same. I began to reflect on my present State, for I had not minded Religion for a long Time. I thought, it was a Punishment from God for my bad Course. Accordingly to make Amends, I thought, I would go once on Sunday to some Place of Worship; but the other Part of the Sunday I would walk about & take my Pleasure as I had done before. I went on so for some Time, but it did not help me. Then I thought, I would go both the Forenoon & Afternoon to Worship; yet still I found no Ease. I began to be so terrified, that I thought, I should be in Hell every Moment. When I had a Pen in my hand to write a Bill of Farewell, I flung it away, when I had done with it, & thought, I should be in Hell, before I should want it any more. When I went out, I often thought, I should drop down dead in the Street. It came so far, that my Appetite left me & I could get no Sleep. I used to awake in Frights & get up. I read some Times in the Bible, but I thought, every Word seemed a Sentence against me; I thought, I had sinned against the holy Ghost; therefore I had nothing to expect but Hell & Judgment. I was in that Distress in more than 2 Months. One Sunday I went to Fetterlane Chapel. When I heard some Courses of Sermons similar to my own, it gave me great Hopes, when I heard, how they were redeemed by the Blood & Wounds of Jesus. I went home full of Hope, that I should soon be released. Next Day in the Forenoon, when I was going thro' a narrow Passage near Spitalfields Church, it came into my Mind, that there was Mercy in Jesus for every believing Soul. In that Moment I believed, & the Love of God was spread abroad in my Heart. I saw Jesus in his crucified Form quite clear, who had redeemed me from all my Sins. I don't know, how I afterwards got home. Every Body was dear to me & I loved every one, & would gladly have imparted unto them of what I enjoyed. I went on in that Enjoyment for some Time & thought, since I was come to the Knowledge of our Saviour, that I should no more feel the Depravity of my own sinfull Nature. But I found my sinfull Nature still, & was obliged to apply to our Saviour for his Grace to preserve me, which he did from Time to Time.

I began

I began to have a longing Desire, to become acquainted with the Brethren, as I believe, they were the only people, which I belonged to. Accordingly I began to go frequently on Sundays to Fetterlane. I went so long, till Br. Broderick took Notice of me in the Breaching & made it out with one of the S. Brethren, that he should speak with me at the first Opportunity. Accordingly he bid me a good Day after the Breaching & asked me, where I was abiding? I told him, I was abiding towards Bishopsgate Street. He said, he was abiding that Way too & desired my Company. He said, he had observed, that I frequented their Breachings for some Time, & inquired, if I knew any Thing about the Brethren? I told him, yes. I knew the Brethren in Finsbury & I knew Br. Broderick too, & had spoken with him formerly. I told him, I had often fixed a Day, that I would go & speak with him again. He asked, if I should like to speak with him, & if it would suit me that Time, if I had an Opportunity for it? I answered, yes; I had no Objection to it. So we turned back both together & went to Ralls Buildings. As soon as we got into the House we met Br. Broderick in the Passage, & he took me into his Room & we had some pretty Conversation together. The Choir-Singings was going to begin, & he gave me leave to be absent. I was so melted, that I wept all the Time. After spending some Part of the Evening with the S. Brethren, I returned home very thankful for the kind Reception, that I met with. From that Time I went every Sunday to the Brethren, which was the chief Opportunity, that I had. Some Time after I petitioned for Reception into the Congregation, which Blessing was granted me January the 13<sup>th</sup> 1768, & I entered into a Covenant that Time with our Saviour to be his for ever. I spent my Time for the most Part in a very happy Franchise of Grace, considering my Situation, wherein I was, & I had many near Thoughts of our Saviour, which made my Time very pleasant. Tho' I felt naturally my depraved human Nature; but I applied to him & got preserved. When Br. Abraham returned from the Provincial-Synod at Finsbury, he acquainted me that they had made it out in a Conference that if I did accept of it, I should go to Finsbury & be employed in the Congregation. I told him, I had no Choice in it, I would go any where. Accordingly as soon as I could make Things suitable, I left my Place & set out from London Feb<sup>r</sup> the 17<sup>th</sup> 1767 & arrived at Finsbury the 22<sup>d</sup> of the same Month to my great Joy.

Thus far his own Words.

By dictating his Course of Life, he said, I thought, there was some



Thing in the World, which I must experience; but I found, there was nothing but phantom. How often have I thought of Fulness, & wished me to be there, when I was uneasy, which was very often.

This Course here was solid; he served faithfully in the Shop & was legitimated among Bre & Strangers. His Connexion & converse with our dear Sav<sup>r</sup> was real, but in Silence. He was admitted here to the holy Sacrament May the 28.<sup>d</sup> 1767, which was a real Grace to him; & as often as he fed afterwards with the Cong<sup>n</sup> on the Body & Blood of Jesus in the holy Sacrament, he enjoyed it as a poor Sinner, who thought himself very unworthy of this great Grace, but felt at the same Time, that he stood very much in Need of it, & that he could not do without. And so he always got new Strength & Life out of the Wounds of Jesus. When he was spoken with previous to the holy Sacrament, he was not of many Words, but one perceived clearly, that his Heart did live in the Sufferings of Jesus. All the Nights he enjoyed both in the Cong<sup>n</sup> & his Choir proved a Blessing to him; the Doctrinal Day, we had last Novemb<sup>r</sup>, was very blessed to him, & he afterwards told, that he enjoyed a particular Nearness of our Sav<sup>r</sup> at the Sup of Covenant. Last Year he was made ~~and~~ a Candidate for the East-Indies, which he accepted of: for he was very willing to serve our Sav<sup>r</sup>, wheresoever his Service should require it, tho' on account of his weakly Constitution he had but little Hopes to be of any Use in the Service of our Sav<sup>r</sup> among the Heathen. That Time he came among the Intercessors, which was very weighty to him. But our Sav<sup>r</sup>, who was pleased with his Willingness to serve him, had other Thoughts about him. He grew weaker from Time to Time, & in the Beginning of Decemb<sup>r</sup> he was obliged to move into the Sick-Room. First we did not think, that he would go home at this Opportunity; but he soon thought so, & was quite well upon going home. There he had a sabbathal Time in the Nearness &

F<sup>r</sup> tho' it was a short-  
Time for him too, in  
which he had to learn  
many Lessons & so is the greatest Gain;  
I speak thoroughly with  
our S<sup>r</sup> Sav<sup>r</sup> about  
many Things.

Converse with our Sav<sup>r</sup>. Once he said: tho' our Sav<sup>r</sup> has had so great a Mercy upon me, yet I feel myself often so indifferent towards him, which is the greatest Pain, I have in the Sick-Room; at which he wept very much. But he soon was comforted again & cheered by a gracious Love of our Saviour. He himself debated his Course of Life to Dr. Martens; & when he had done therewith, & which was last Friday, he made Haste to meet his eternal Bridegroom. He had it very easy in his Sickness; the Day before his going home he once complained, saying: Dear Sav<sup>r</sup>! it is so hard for me; but he soon got it easier. He was present to himself to the last Moment, when the Blessing of his Spirit & the Congreg<sup>n</sup> was imparted unto him during the service of our Sav<sup>r</sup> Nearness, & soon after his soul departed unto the Arms & Bosom of Jesus, last Tuesday about 7 o' Clock in the Morning, viz<sup>t</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> 1770 in the 34<sup>th</sup> Year of his Age.

Grave to thee, our God, be brought for this Sinner redeemed with thy Blood.