

Sarah Ann Fletcher

- 1<sup>st</sup> 1862 With the Chief Mourner.
- 3 The Sisters of the Conference.
- 4 The Testing. Rebuffers.
- 2 Sts Hunting and Saugh. to. Kere. Ke. Jm.
- The Horse-Sisters
- The Outside Sisters

Order for the late P. Fletcher  
funeral procession

Nov 25 1862



1  
I was born July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1820 at Mapperley  
a small village in Derbyshire. My dear  
Mother, being a decided child of God  
endeavoured to bring her children up  
in the nurture and admonition of the  
Lord; and I do not ~~remember~~ remember the  
time when my thoughts were not <sup>very</sup> ~~not~~ to  
dwell upon serious things; but <sup>as</sup> they  
were too much of a reasoning, <sup>superficial</sup> nature.  
Very little took place during my childhood  
that is worthy of recording. Had the privilege  
of attending a small school that was kept  
by the daughters of a most worthy and  
excellent Independent Minister, whose  
loving and affectionate manner will ever  
be sweet to my memory. I attended their  
school until I was in my 14<sup>th</sup> year.  
when my dear Mother placed me in the  
Mr House at Eckbrook. — where, after a  
few weeks, I became exceedingly happy  
and comfortable. — the life of a Mr House  
slave being well adapted to my nature.



merciful, yet somewhat <sup>retarded</sup> ~~distur-~~  
-tion. In the beginning of '37 I joined  
with several others of my companions  
instructions for confirmation, or rather  
in my case for adult baptism, my  
dear Mother being a baptist. I had  
consequently not received that sacrament  
in infancy, but I cannot say that  
either the instruction or the rite  
itself made any lasting impressions  
upon my mind. I enjoyed the instruc-  
-tions, as I did, combining knowledge  
of any kind that came in my reach.  
Unaware almost to myself, I pursued  
my own views on ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> way of  
salvation, and as might be expected  
stumbled upon many errors. At one time  
I was seeing the <sup>instead of seeing</sup> ~~fruit~~ of the Spirit  
at another I was fully impressed with the  
idea, that I was very very far from  
what ought to be as a Christian, yet  
must wait the Lord's time, to make  
in different, I could do nothing. At this

time "Baptists Priests Pest" fell into my  
hands, which by the blessing of the Lord  
made a very deep impression on my mind  
and showed me that there was much for  
me to do, in an earnestness of spirit, and  
a determination to give the Lord no rest  
till he was graciously pleased to reveal  
himself to me. From this time I was more  
more in earnest, but my dear Mother  
was not any all in all; consequently she  
was second long, and <sup>long</sup> ~~often~~ felt inclined  
to exclaim "what is sufficient for these things"  
In the year '50 I received a call to be the  
warden of the single sisters in Culmuck  
and tho' deeply conscious of my own insuffi-  
-ciency for such a post, I felt such a strong  
conviction that it was from the Lord  
I dared do no other than accept it. In the  
first year I had many trials and difficulties  
caused in a great measure by my own  
inexperience, but afterwards my work was  
very pleasant, and light to me. The next  
year after, I came to Twickenham, the Baptist

my birthday struck me very much on  
looking at them sometime before. The  
daily word was "For the Lord shall all  
the head of Israel be justified as it shall be,  
45th of Isaiah & 25th verse, and the doctrinal  
text was the second of Acts & the latter part  
of the 47th verse "For the Lord addeth to  
the church daily, such as shall be saved."  
I felt to hope that these texts had a reference  
to some that were very near & dear to me, who  
were not added to any Christian church,  
and over whom my heart had often yearned.  
I never once thought of them in connection  
with myself, I thought I was added to the  
church, and of the real meaning of the  
daily word. I had at that time very little  
knowledge, oh how possible it is to deceive  
ourselves and others. In the morning of my  
birthday I found three verses on my table  
which had been drawn and placed there  
by a very dear and worthy sister, as was  
her custom, the three were very striking, but  
the text of one was ~~Love~~ "Lovest thou me?"

<sup>to which</sup> was added the verse

"Lovest thou me? Hear the Saviour say,  
Would that my heart had power to  
answer you."

Thou knowest all things, Lord in heaven above  
And earth beneath, thou knowest that I love  
But 'tis not so: in word, in deed, in thought  
I do not, cannot love thee as I ought,  
Thy love must give that power, thy love alone  
On reading the last line <sup>with glad real pangs</sup> I exclaimed, oh  
my beloved Saviour, that is the very thing  
which thou not show me that before. It is  
indeed thy love that must give ~~me~~ power  
to love thee in return, there is indeed nothing  
worthy of thee but thine own. Oh do thou  
grace that "with the love wherewith thou  
lovest me."

Reflected on myself. I <sup>may</sup> would love thee.  
My dear Saviour, had that instant striven  
me to himself — but when he put his holy  
spirit into my heart, oh the sink of iniquity  
I saw there "in did indeed receive and  
I said" Rom 7th ch. 5th verse. So heavy was the



weight of guilt upon me, that I then  
felt I must sink under it, or that I should  
lose my senses, I stood a guilty, hell-deserving  
sinner, and felt that I must be lost, if my  
Saviour had not died for me; but I could  
take no comfort, the promises were as tho  
I had never heard them, except occasionally  
a text such as "I will not always strive with  
man, <sup>but I will be gracious</sup> least the Spirit which I have made  
should fail before me" was as a little gleam  
of sunshine, and then the cloud passed  
over again. I remained in this state of  
mind some weeks, till one Sunday evening  
the text was from some part of John's first  
Epistle, but what chapter or verse I have  
no recollection from the distressed state of  
my mind. During the sermon I earnestly  
besought the Lord to reveal himself to me,  
and he did, the peace and joy that I felt  
that night, none but a pardoned sinner  
can have any conception of. I had not a  
shadow of a doubt of my acceptance in the  
Beloved. And tho' God was not at all times

before in my thoughts, yet my beloved  
Saviour has never suffered my feet to slide.  
O thou who hast begun a good work in  
me, do thou perfect it unto the end.  
Oh do thou empty me of myself, and fill  
me with thyself be thou my all in all.  
1857. I again devote myself body soul &  
spirit unto thee dear Saviour, but oh  
do thou keep me, thou knowest how weak  
and frail I am, how prone to stray from  
thee, and how contrary I continually act  
to thy mind.

### Thus far her own

In addition to what our late Sister  
has stated her fellow laborer adds  
the following on behalf of herself  
& the choir, & can truly say, that  
both she and every inmate of the  
house, feel that they have lost  
in our late Sister, a sincere and  
valued friend & conscientious  
Christian.

Upright in principle & faithful  
in business, she did all she had  
to do, with a single eye to the interest  
of the concern she was intrusted  
with, & never for an hour, would  
sacrifice duty to pleasure.

To be unexpectedly called upon to  
part with a friend so faithful  
& untiring, in her exertions for the  
good of the whole household, does  
indeed fill all our hearts with sorrow.  
We deeply mourn our loss, but we  
cannot but say, that our loss is her  
eternal gain. She knew in whom  
she believed, & when the summons  
came for her to lay by her earthly  
duties she was enabled to say, "Thy  
will be done!" And we doubt not  
would hear the welcome: "Well  
done good & faithful servant, enter  
thou into the joy of thy Lord!"  
As a fellow laborer & member of our  
Elders' Conference, our dear <sup>St. Elizabeth</sup> ~~St. Elizabeth~~  
was much esteemed by us all, for  
the candour of her mind, & her

strictly conscientious discharge of  
her official duties. She would ever  
freely & clearly state her views on  
any subject she was interested in,  
& in case of a difference of opinion  
her family & faithfully maintain her  
cause, without however in the least  
being self-opinated or obstinate.  
Her warm interest in the Lord's work  
& the spread of His kingdom, both  
at home & abroad, she quietly,  
yet continuously manifested, not  
only unto the Searcher of hearts, who  
delights to hear the prayers of his  
people, when they plead with him  
for the furtherance of his gospel, but  
also unto man, by the lively & intelligent  
interest she always displayed in  
conversations on the subject of  
missionary labours, & by her untiring  
& successful endeavours, to collect  
subscriptions for such objects, as the  
Foreign & Home Missions, the Bible  
Society & so forth. The local committee  
of these associations, will miss in her  
a valued member, & a successful  
collector.



We were often struck with her correct memory of men & things, relating to Missionary enterprises, especially those connected with our own Church, of which she was a very consistent & attached member.

She also took her place as a teacher in our Sunday school, & by her prayerful & careful preparation for her work, succeeded in securing the love & gratitude of her scholars to whose hearts his memory is much endeared by her valued instructions in spiritual things.

She now rests from her labours, & her works do follow her. Whatever she did, she did unto the Lord, & this imparted real worth to her activity. Her memory is dear to us.

When the Ministers of the Cong<sup>y</sup> saw her on the evening of the so called "Sister's coming in day," she was remarkably calm & cheerful in her mind, & resigned to the Lord, who had laid her on a bed of sickness,

while the other inmates of the house, were holding their festive meetings in the adjoining prayer hall. For the visit paid to her & the prayers offered up by her bed side, she expressed her thanks in a very cordial & lovely manner. Little did the Ministers think that on his return from Brook, whither duty called him away for several days, he should no longer be permitted to see her among the living. To a fellow laborer, who visited her late one Sunday evening, & who engaged in spiritual conversation & prayer with the dear patient, she remarked on his enquiry, if she felt her Saviour near, that He was her only real comfort & true support: "for what should I do without him now?" And truly He was with her in her last hour. Her own memoir tells us, that she knew in whom she believed. Trusting in his merits, & saved by his blood, bidding it death, she gently fell asleep in Jesus to be for ever with the Lord.

Memor of S<sup>r</sup> Sarah Ann Fletcher  
who departed at Fulneck on  
the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1869

I was born July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1820 at  
Mappert, a small village in  
Derbyshire.

My dear mother being a decided  
child of God, endeavoured to  
bring her children up in the  
nurture & admonition of the  
Lord; & I do not remember the  
time when my thoughts were  
not wont to dwell upon serious  
things; but, alas! they were too  
much of a reasoning, sceptical  
nature. Very little took place  
during my childhood that is  
worth recording. I had the  
privilege of attending a small  
school, that was kept by the  
daughters of a most worthy &  
excellent Independent Minister,  
whose loving & affectionate manner,



will ever be sweet to my memory. I attended their school until I was in my 14<sup>th</sup> year, when my dear Mother placed me in the first house at Oakbrook, - where, after a few weeks, I became exceedingly happy and comfortable, - the life of a first house being well adapted to my naturally cheerful, yet somewhat reserved disposition.

In the beginning of 1837 I received, with several others of my companions, instruction for confirmation, or rather in my case for adult baptism. My dear Mother being a Baptist I had consequently not received that sacrament in infancy.

But I cannot say that either the instruction, or the rite itself, made any lasting impression on my mind. I enjoyed the instructions, as I did imbibing knowledge of any kind that came in my reach.

Unaware almost to my self, I formed my own views on the way of salvation, & as might be expected stumbled upon many errors. At one time I was seeking fruits of the Spirit, instead of

simply going to Jesus, & at another time I was fully impressed with the idea, that though I was very very far from what I ought to be as a Christian, yet I must wait the Lord's time to make me different, I could do nothing. At this time "Baxter's Saints' rest" fell into my hands, which by the blessing of the Lord, made a very deep impression on my mind, & showed me that there was much for me to do, viz. an earnestness of spirit, & a determination to give the Lord no rest, till he was graciously pleased to reveal himself to me. From this time I was much more in earnest, but my adorable Saviour was not my all in all; consequently the way seemed long & heavy & I often felt inclined to exclaim: "Who is sufficient for these things!"

In the year 1850 I received a call to be the Warden of the St. Paul's <sup>in Pulmott</sup> ~~Pulmott~~, & though deeply conscious of my own insufficiency for such a post, I felt

such a strong conviction that it was from the Lord, that I dared do no other than accept it. In the first year I had many trials & difficulties, caused in a great measure by my own inexperience, but afterwards my work was very pleasant & light to me.

The 2<sup>d</sup> year after I came to Fulneck the texts for my birthday struck me very much, on looking at them some time before. The daily word was, "In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified & shall glory." Is. 45. 25 & the doctrinal text was, the second of Acts & the latter part of the 47<sup>th</sup> verse: "And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved." I felt to hope, that these texts had a reference to some, that were very near & dear to me, who were not added to any ~~Church~~ Christian Church, & over whom my heart had often yearned. I never thought of them in connection with myself, I thought I was added to the Church, & of the real meaning of the daily word I had at that time very little knowledge. O! how possible it is it is to deceive ourselves & others! On the morning of my birthday

I found three verses on my table which had been drawn & placed there, by a very dear & worthy sister, as was her custom, the three were very striking. The text of one was, "Dost thou love me?" To which was added the verse "Dost thou love me?" I hear my Saviour say, "Would that my heart had power to answer, yea," "Thou knowest all things, Lord in heaven above & earth beneath, thou knowest that I love!" "But 'tis not so, - in word, in deed, in thought." "I do not, cannot love thee as I ought," "Thy love must give that power, thy love alone!"

On reading the last line I exclaimed with clasped hands, Oh my beloved Saviour, that is the very thing - Why didst thou not shew me that before, - It is indeed thy love that must give me power to love thee in return. There is indeed, "nothing worthy of thee but thine own" - O do thou grant that "with the love wherewith thou hast loved me, reflect on thyself I may love thee!" - My dear Saviour had that instant



drawn me to himself — but when  
he put his Holy Spirit into my heart  
On the sink of iniquity I saw there —  
"I have died indeed revive & I died"

Rom 7-9. So heavy was the weight  
of guilt upon me, that I often felt  
I must sink under it, or that I should  
lose my senses. I stood a guilty  
till deserving sinner, & felt that I must  
be lost if my Saviour had not died  
for me, but I could take no comfort.  
The promises were as though I had  
never heard them; except occasionally  
a text such as "For I will not contend  
for ever, neither will I be always wroth;  
for the spirit should fail before me, &  
the souls which I have made." Is 57. 16  
was a little gleam of sunshine, & then the  
cloud passed over again. I remained  
in this state of mind some weeks, till  
one Sunday evening, the text was  
from some part of John's first Epistle,  
but what chapter or verse I have no  
recollection from the distressed state  
of my mind. During the sermon  
I earnestly besought the Lord to reveal  
himself to me & He did. The peace & joy  
that I felt that night, none but a  
pardoned sinner can have any conception  
of — I had not a shadow of a doubt

In addition to which  
our late sister how ~~valued~~  
her ~~offellow~~ <sup>offellow</sup> Labanor adds  
the following, on behalf  
of herself and the Choir  
~~was seen truly state. That~~  
both she and were inmates  
of the house, for that they  
have been in our late  
sister, a sincere and

valued, friendly and  
conscientious Christian  
upright in principle, &  
faithful in business,  
she did all she could to  
do with a single eye to  
the interest of the concern  
she was intrusted with  
and never for an hour

praise, sacrifice worthy to  
pleasure. Every inmate  
of the house must and  
will feel that when it  
was perfectly called to fight  
with her, she had left  
a true and valued  
friend. But while we  
deeply  
mourn her loss  
we cannot but say our  
loss is her Eternal gain.  
She knew in whom she  
had  
believed, and when the  
summers come for her  
to see by her earthly duties  
she was enabled to say  
They will be done most  
we doubt not would hear  
the messenger Message

Well done

of my acceptance in the Beloved.  
And though God has not at all  
times been in my thoughts, yet  
my beloved Saviour has never  
suffered my feet to slide.  
O thou who has begun a good work  
in me do thou perfect it unto the  
end. O do thou empty me of myself  
& fill me with thyself - be thou  
my all in all.

1857 I again devote myself, body  
soul & spirit unto thee dear Saviour,  
but Oh do thou keep me, thou  
knowest how weak & frail I am,  
how prone to stray from thee  
& how contrary I continually act  
to thy mind

Thou for her own  
In addition to what our late sister  
has stated, her fellow laborer  
adds the following, on behalf of  
herself & the Choir, & can truly say  
that both she & every inmate of  
the house, feel that they have lost



in our late Sister, a sincere & valued friend & conscientious Christian.

Upright in principle & faithful in business, she did all she had to do with a single eye to the interest of the concern she was intrusted with, & never for an hour, would sacrifice duty to pleasure.

To be unexpectedly called upon to part with a friend so faithful & untiring in her exertions for the good of the whole household does indeed fill all our hearts with sorrow, we deeply ~~for~~ mourn her loss — but we cannot but say that our loss is her eternal gain. She knew in whom she believed & when the summons came for her to lay by her earthly duties, she was enabled to say: "Thy will be done!"

And we doubt not would hear thee welcome — "Well done good & faithful servant — enter thou into the joy of thy Lord —"

As a fellow labourer and member of our Elders' Conference our dear S. Fletcher was much esteemed by us all for the candour of her mind, and her strictly conscientious discharge of her official duties. She would ever openly and clearly state her views on any subject she was interested in, and in case of a difference of opinion firmly and faithfully maintain her cause, without, however, in the least being self-opinionated or obstinate. Her warm interest in the Lord's work, and the spread of his Kingdom, both at home and abroad, she quietly, yet continuously manifested not only unto the Searcher of hearts, who delights to hear the prayers of his people,

when they plead with him for the  
furtherance of his gospel, but also unto  
man, by the lively and intelligent  
interest she always displayed in con-  
versations on the subject of Missionary  
labours, and by her untiring and  
successful endeavours to collect sub-  
scriptions for such objects, as the Foreign  
and Home Missions, the Bible Society,  
and so forth. The local Committees of  
these Associations will miss in her  
a valued member, and a successful  
Collector. We were often struck with  
her correct memory of men and things  
relating to Missionary enterprises,  
especially those connected with our  
own church, of which she was a very  
consistent and attached member.

She also took her place as a  
Teacher in our Sunday School, and  
by her prayerful and careful prepa-  
ration for her work succeeded in  
securing the love and gratitude of  
her Scholars, to whose hearts her memory  
is much endeared by her valued  
instructions in spiritual things. She

now rests from her labours, and her  
works do follow her. Whatever she  
did she did unto the Lord, and this  
imparted real worth to her activity.  
Her memory is dear to us.

When the Minister of the Congreg.  
saw her on the evening of the so-called  
Sisters' Coming in Day, she was re-  
markably calm and cheerful in her  
mind, and resigned to the Lord, who  
had laid her on a bed of sickness, while  
the other inmates of the house were holding  
their festive meetings in the adjoining  
Prayer hall. For the visit paid to her,  
and the prayer offered <sup>up</sup> by her bedside  
she expressed her thanks in a very  
cordial and lively manner. Little  
did the Minister think that on his  
return from ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> ~~hook~~, whither duty called  
him away for several days, he should  
no longer be permitted to see her among  
the living. To a fellow labourer, who  
visited her late on Sunday Evening,  
and who engaged in spiritual communica-  
tion and prayer with the dear patient,



she remarked on his enquiring, if she felt  
her Saviour near, that He was her only  
real comfort and true support; for  
what should I do without Him now?  
And truly He was with her in her  
last hour; her own Memoir tells us,  
that she knew, in whom she believed.  
Trusting in his merits, and saved  
by his bloodshedding and death, she  
gently fell asleep in Jesus to be  
for ever with the Lord.

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