

When all thy mercies O my God
My rising soul surveys.
Transported with the view ^{lost} thy
In wonder, love, and praise.

Looking back upon days which
are gone, a long life which
has passed away as a tale
which is told. — What cause
do I find for deep humilia-
tion and adoring gratitude
to my gracious God and
Saviour who, thro' all the
changes, and chances of this
mortal life, has helped me
to this hour, and given
me a good hope through
grace; I would fain leave
a poor but grateful testimony

of his love, mercy, & forbearing
goodness to me, His poor
erring child. In London I
first saw the light - 1783.
one of four, two only survived.
My Father one of a numerous
family, was early cast upon
the world to obtain his
own bread - married early.
My dear old Grandfather
I will remember, he had
at that time some situation
in the India House having
lost all his property and
mainly speaking through
the carelessness of a female
servant. Being then in
good trade in Kent she
instead of cutting off a

candle she wanted, burnt
it off and not taking
time to observe whether the
wick of the separated part
was extinguished, left it, it
is supposed still burning.
In the night a fire broke
out, & everything was consum-
ed, nothing being insur-
ed, all was lost. As soon as
they could, - came to London,
through whom he obtained
this situation. I know
not, but that he appeared
to me a very dear old man.
My Father was at this time
in the employ of the Right
Hon^{able} J. Sheridan a noted
political character, who
for his second wife married

a lady related to the late
Lady Elizabeth Whitbread
Mother of my beloved

Mrs. Waldegrave - Part of this
lady's fortune was expended
to purchase an estate in
Shropshire to be settled upon
herself and children.

While we were yet young my
Father undertook to be

Land Steward or to be Bailiff
of this estate - we all removed
to the country & dwelt in a
pretty cottage on the borders
of a romantic common.

Even now the remembrance
is sweet and I seem to inhale
the fragrance of the beautiful
Moss roses in the little garden
before the house.

Yet there my precious time
was wasted - there my false
views of life were nursed up -
Our dear parents were strictly
moral - we went to church
and learned Catechisms -
but of the depravity of human
nature I had no knowledge -
if vital religion we might be
said to be almost as ignorant
as the heathen. I had
exalted ideas of what human
nature might be - and aimed
with all my might to be what
I called good. I read with
sagerness works of fiction - loved
to dwell upon those characters
who were represented as
overcoming all difficulties
by their own generosity of
heart and nobleness of mind.

I might spend much time in
enumerating the trouble this
caused me - not finding mine
whose ideas presumed as mine
and constantly failing to attain
all I intended to do I sighed
murmuring - turned back upon
myself - indulging a morbid
sensitivity, finding no rest
for the sole of my foot.
My gracious God and Saviour
in His love and mercy intended
that I should yet become
acquainted with His love
and mercy manifested
in the redemption of a
lost world. About this time
the Lady of the mansion
having a dear little boy
now old enough to commu-
nicate - Master A. B. C. took a

journey to me, requested to
have me to care for this little
boy, promising to care for
me as her own. To the utmost
of her power she performed
this, but it would surprise
many to hear of the straits to
which she was often reduced,
by the thoughtless extravagance
of her husband. Having some
qualities she admired, my
self-righteous delusions were
strengthened. After a few
years upon the marriage
of ~~my~~ dear departed sister to
Mr. Whit^{son} ~~son~~ ^{son} of a substan-
tial farmer of Ripley, a
neighbouring village, I return-
ed home. This match was
thought so good that there was

much rejoicing but in a few years came a sad reverse my brother in law's affairs became embarrassed. And alas! he concealed the embarrassment from my sister till the last moment, from mistaken feelings of shame and tenderness. And thus put it out of her power to help to avert the impending ruin. His friends helped him but a dealer in cattle he failed to a large amount. In the end my sister and her two dear boys returned to the parental roof. And Mr. Whitburn went out to the Cape of Good Hope with letters of recommendation from the late lamented Mr. Whit-

bread the faithful friend of all whose cause he was next to. And I again left home going to the sister in-law of the lady whose little boy I had cared for. This lady travelled a great deal and had some time before offered to pay a person to stay with her, mother if my Mother would spare me which then she did not, but now we think it providential we did. We saw a great deal of the country but grieving over the troubles of my family - I enjoyed much less than I might have done; and at the end of two years thought myself

highly favoured, when I
heard that the eldest daughter
of Mr. & the Lady Elizabeth
Whitbread was going to be mar-
ried to the Rev. ^{Wm.} Cap. Mon-
creaf of Walsgrave. And
that the Lady Elizabeth wished
to present me to her daughter.
The character of the Lady I
greatly admired, what I
heard of the gentleman
prepared me to honour him.
In the Lady Elizabeth and
Mr. Whitbread I felt an idol
out of admiration. They
had tried to aid my
brother in law and my
father, I felt grateful

and devoted myself en-
thusiastically to their
daughters. In 1812. I came
into Bedfordshire, after my
brother in law left England
we heard of his safe arrival
at the Cape - of (letters) having
obtained a situation but
he had had two fits of
sickness - was then going
some hundred miles up
the country, promising to send
amusements, but we heard
no more and the constant
state of anxiety under-
mined the health of my
beloved sister. And some
wholesome regulations
being made at Somerset
House - so that no person

could any longer hold a situa-
tion in that office who did
not fulfill the duties of it
in person - obliged my father
~~who~~ who had long held one
employing a Deputy until
he gave it up to remove his
family to London which
was a great pleasure to me
as we sometimes came to
London - but at Cardington
I was treated with the great-
est kindness and confidence
I went among the soldiers
searching for and relieving
their wants. Doing all I
could for them with the
approbation of Cap^t & my
beloved Mr. Waldegrave
whose Aunt the Lady St. John

being a member of the
B^{apt} Church invited me
and my friend Mr. Steer
to go to the Chapel at Bedford
in the evening of Easter day 1813.
we were pleased but no particu-
lar impression was made upon
either on the Easter Sunday
following Lady St. John invited
me to the love feast. I was
pleased and in the meantime
becoming more intimately
acquainted with St. Thomas
Smith late St. Hannah's B^{apt}
resident at Cardington &
whose family had joined
the B^{apt}. my knowledge
of the Brethren and attach-
ment to them increased
Then has she refreshed

my soul by accounts she
has brought of persons &
meetings, and now my
Father being much embar-
rased by the arrangement
of the affairs of the Charities
before alluded to, it was
but the prelude to a train
of sorrow - & more recently
I felt because in ^{the} persons of
three near and dear to me.
In 1810 we lost our mother
and I driven by the departure
of from Cardington an
enlightened & serene, often
accompanied the dear
family of our worthy
Wm & P. Brown to the
Marrian Chapel finding
comfort and one Sabbath I

morning Wm. Harkie preached
when he gave out the hymn
(in the old H.B.) The true good
Shepherd God's own son & when
he came to the 2 verse For thou
hast shed His precious blood
and now His own doth claim
I was as it were transfixed
to my seat what I felt I
cannot describe. then surely
the Lord gave me the first
intimation of His will in
this matter yet this deeply
impressed I heeded not
this intimation as I ought
to have done. Yet I was during
this time fervently praying
Lord thou hast blessed me
by these people bless me with
them. I began to consider

how strong the claims which
my dear Mrs Waldegrave
had upon me not only for
her kindness to me but
from the interesting considera-
tion with which she and
her honoured parents had
in every way endeavoured to
aid us in the troubles of
our family. I found too
that to attend to the chapel
as I wished I could not fulfil
my duties to her and then
meeting with Newton's four
letters an apology for the
Church of England. — gave
up going to chapel — satisfied
myself with what I heard
at Church. Certainly believing
myself right as far as I then
knew the principle. —

My beloved mother de-
parted in May. The lament-
ed Mr. Whilbread in July
the same year - we upon were
for I took a near interest. My sister
my Mary came to see me - attended
business in Riggleswade - nothing
seemed to prosper - her mind
ultimately gave way under
accumulated trouble. My
own received a shock which
only the Rock of Ages held from
shattering me. - her youngest
boy obtained a presentation
to Christ Hospital. This elder
brother went to sea under the
guidance of Captain Valdegame
who after the death of Mr. Whit-
bread during the minority
of his son held the his seat
in parliament. On his coming
of age and taking his seat

Cap. Waldgrave with his family
in the continent - we went
thru France into Italy - we
had scarcely been fifteen
days in France when we lost
their dear eldest daughter
of dysentery - which was then
prevalent at St. Quinten
the eldest boy was nearly
gone but Sir Charles Proust
an English physician
who proved to be a friend
of the late Lord of Waldgrave
arrived & was providentially led
thru the town and met by
Cap. Waldgrave came to
the inn prescribed for
him and he was spared.
The dear little girl was ten
years attached to me. I

could not have loved any
one more. The moment she was
dead, she left her home &
we generally passed our
time together. And was the
journey to me, after she left.
Remind constantly I went
to Bedford, hoping to retreat
to the St. House there, but detain-
ed from mentioning my
retire by a sense of obligation
to beloved W. Waldgrave,
and the grief I knew it
would cause her, if we parted.
so there was the desire,
pent up in my own
bosom, and thinking.
On our return in 1825.
really in 1819, the house

was found too small
for the family and they
removed first to Stokes
Eastmarchie and ultimately
to a family seat in
Somersetshire. I saw them
through all this - and
after many trials and
conflicts which I need
not detail on the 26th
of October 1821 was received
in the S^r's House at Redford
with true sisterly kind-
ness by S^r. W. B. W. B.
S^r. Barke and the
sisters dwelling in
the house. —

I went a learner and
was a learner still
Many changes have I seen
and passed through among
the Brethren and have
had much to learn and
in a way I little an-
ticipated. Holding an
office in our schools is par-
ticularly trying to those
who join the Church
in mature years - who
have not being brought
up among them
But I bless the Lord for
my call of grace and

rejoice with humiliation
to be numbered with His
people and among the
flock of His fold. As in-
dividuals & especially
myself we do I fear come
far short of what we ought
to be. O may He graciously
pour out His Holy Spirit
upon us so that quickened
to new life we may love
Him more and serve
Him better. Soon I may
through abounding work

- Arise, mercy see His
gracious face - and
would acknowledge the
tender sympathy and
kindness which during
this season of weakness
I have received from
my beloved Brethren
and Sisters in the
Lord. & May He bless
keep and guide them
into eternal life.

Saturday. February 14. 1852.

Mrs. Georgiana Edwards.