

<sup>1</sup>  
The Course of life of the S.<sup>t</sup> Sarah Shelton who departed  
to our Sav<sup>r</sup> May 2-1778 - in the S.<sup>t</sup> House at Sulmuck.  
she has left the following account of herself.

I was born at Robert Town in the parish of Bursfoll,  
Yorkshire, and baptised in the Ch: of Eng: in my 5<sup>th</sup> year.  
My Mother departed this life, my Father being left with  
5 small children, sent me to live with one of my  
relations; and removed himself with the rest of the family  
to Quirey: in about a year after, he took me home again,  
that I might have the opportunity with the rest of the children  
to go to the meetings at Sulmuck, which I did with great  
pleasure for a time. when I was about 10 years out, I began  
to love the things of this world, and forgot in a great measure  
what I had heard of our Sav<sup>r</sup> in the meetings. I then left my  
Father, and went to service: which indeed proved hurtfull  
to me: being led by others into very bad things, and fall-  
-owing at the same time my own evil inclinations. but  
my faithfull Saviour kept a gracious eye over me, and  
let me feel, that if I went on in this way I should be  
lost forever. My M<sup>r</sup> with whom I lived, did not like  
me to go to the meetings, but I intreated for one day very  
earnestly, she gave me leave, I then went to my Father  
and told my case before him, and told him, I could live  
there no longer, desiring him to take me home again  
which he did: I then could go to the meetings at Sulmuck  
of which I was very glad. in my 13<sup>th</sup> Y<sup>r</sup> I was received into  
the G. Girls Choe: and from that time our Sav<sup>r</sup> began  
a new work of grace in my heart, he let me feel what  
a poor lost creature I was by nature, I kept for grace



and wanted to be his entirely. I soon got a strong desire to go and live with the Socy, but durst not make it known. Thinking I was too bad; but when I could conceal it no longer I ventured to tell my Father, he gave me no encouragement at all: but as I could not give it up, I speak to my Labourer about it. Who promised not to forget me, as it was a good while before I got leave to go, and I was weak and unsteady in myself; the things of this world took again hold of me, and proved a temptation to me in many respects. but my dear Sav<sup>r</sup> never left me, but let me feel I was not right, and caused me to be very uneasy about my poor soul, so that I could do nothing but pray him to make out a way for my escape from the many snares and temptation which were in my way.

March 25<sup>th</sup> 1770 I obtained leave to go and live with the S. Socy at Gomersall, for which I was very thankful, and now it was my only desire to prosper in the Cong<sup>y</sup> to leave more of myself as also to become more acquainted with our Sav<sup>r</sup>. Feb<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1772 I had the favour to be received into the Cong<sup>y</sup> which was a great comfort to me. May 1<sup>st</sup> 1773 I was received into the S. Socy Choir; this change proved both a blessing and a burden of heart to me, I felt more of my corrupted state by nature, but being very close, and not willing to be known as I really was. hindered our Sav<sup>r</sup> work in my heart, yet I felt him constantly busy to bring me to the knowledge of himself as the author of poor sinners, but instead of coming to him

as a poor sinner, I stood looking at myself so long till my misery became greater it was to me as if all the sins I had ever been guilty of, were laid before my eyes, and I became quite dark and perplexed: and thought I had better leave the Cong<sup>y</sup> than be known just as I was; for I thought, certainly no one has ever been like me, when I would have turned to our Sav<sup>r</sup> it was as if something stood between, so that I knew not which way to turn for relief for my poor distressed soul. Nov<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1773 I had the favour to be a spectator at the H. Communion which I took as a proof of our Sav<sup>r</sup> love to me, that I might know he had not forgot me; even when I thought I was forsaken of all, and what a feeling I had of his precious nearness during that transaction I can never describe in words; this encouraged me so that I could go on cheerfully for some time, but the feeling of my misery still oppressed me, for it was now made quite dear to me that I had hindered our Sav<sup>r</sup> work by my own striving, and self working, at the time when he wanted to bring me to a clearer vision: and I felt for the fresh deficiency he gave me of my great misery and wretchedness that he was now quite intent to do it, and as I could now do no otherwise, I devoted my whole heart to my Labourer; whom I found so tender and sympathizing that I was quite ashamed, sometime after having not yet felt our Sav<sup>r</sup> forgiveness I came into darkness and confusion about it, and was not without thoughts of leaving the Cong<sup>y</sup> being continually distressed on account of my many sins, which I thought to have blotted out: and be absolved from.



in this long and painful I once retired alone, and prostrate before  
our Sav<sup>r</sup> and he appear'd before me in that bleeding figure as he  
hang upon the Cross, and gave me the assurance that he had  
forgiven me all my sins. This was a comfort which no words  
can describe. Thus I became cheerful and was thankful for  
what I had enjoyed. and I felt an insupportable desire to be a  
participant of the E<sup>st</sup>. Communion, which grace I was made  
a partaker of Dec<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1778 to my great joy. from this time  
I gave myself up entirely to our Sav<sup>r</sup>, and wish'd for nothing so  
much as to live in a close connexion with him, till I shall see  
him face to face. -- so far her own words -- Since she had the  
favour to be a partaker of the Body and Blood of our Sav<sup>r</sup> in the  
E<sup>st</sup>. Communion she was very strict with herself: the sense she had of her  
own poverty made her always timorous, lest wrong thing should  
occur in between our Sav<sup>r</sup> and her, and when ever the smallest thing  
did, she could never be easy till it was wash'd away by the blood of  
our Sav<sup>r</sup> which had once given her pardon: This watchfulness over  
herself provid'd the means of her keeping in a close connexion with her  
unsan friend. she was for some years past at times very sickly, and  
towards the latter end of last year, she got a bad cold and cough;  
which never rightly left her tho' severall means was try'd for that  
purpose, Jan<sup>y</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1778 she mov'd to Truro to see if change of air  
would not be of service to her; but she was soon oblig'd to move  
into the Sickroom her sickness terminating in a Consumption.  
it was soon clear to her that our Sav<sup>r</sup> was hastening to prepare her  
for himself: and tho' at times she wish'd to recover, yet she soon resign'd  
herself to the will of our Sav<sup>r</sup> that he might do with her as he  
thought best, and so spent her time in the Sickroom in a tender childlike  
hearts connexion with him. in her last days here below, she rejoic'd at the  
happy prospect she had in view, after praying that the time might soon  
come. it was very agreeable to be near her; the peace of our Sav<sup>r</sup> so near  
surround'd her, it was likewise a pleasure to her to be visited by the Sisters to  
whom she often told how she long'd to go to her everlastingly rest  
which longings desire was happily fulfill'd May 1<sup>st</sup> 1779 in the morning  
when she breath'd ever into the bosom of her progenitor with the blessing  
of her dear in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of her age.