

Mary Peel

I was born at Northam in the parish of Halifax  
in the year <sup>May 29</sup> 1722. My Parents being very religious  
endeavour'd to bring me up strictly in the fear of God.  
they very early perceiving my natural turn to be ~~very~~ quick lively  
and active, on that account took the greater care of me taking  
me with them constantly to the Dissenters meetings, as I at that  
time did not understand their meaning, I took upon it as being  
very hardly dealt with, but afterwards saw clearly that their  
intentions were only to prevent my entrance on a very loose course  
of life which I might have fallen into, had not their unwearied  
care & faithful labours, been a great means of preserving me, together  
with an invisible Hand, which I often felt while very young over  
me without any knowledge of the meaning thereof for which I  
shall forever remain thankful. I went on much in this way  
till Mr Ingham came to these parts, to whose preaching the  
greatest part of the people respecting, I went among the rest, being  
thereby stir'd up & often brought to reflect on my state, but with-  
out any lasting impression. I remember one night being very  
thoughtful when going to bed, I dream'd that I was to be put to  
death, at which I was very much perplex'd, I intreated to be spar'd  
while I was fit to die. the earnestness I was in awoke me,  
but the impression of this I never lost, & by means of the uncon-  
mon feelings I had sometimes I thought surely there was some  
thing to be enjoy'd, to which I was as yet a stranger, but was  
not rightly satisfy'd to be without it.

In the year 17 <sup>came</sup> the Brethern ~~came~~ into Yorkshire with a  
view ~~intention~~ to settle societies, accordingly took down the names of  
those who constantly attended the preaching. I therefore was nulling  
to have mine taken down, which was no sooner done, but I was  
amazingly struck, thinking I am now however fast, but did not  
repent it. I soon found it was not alone the taking down the

names but they intended to look more particularly after each one  
therefore they soon settled Bands to which I was admitted & getting  
a great love for them they were very much blessed to me. Some of my  
companions being soon after this received into the Congregation it  
caused me many uneasy hours, as I was left. However I thought  
to try & get to them though I knew not how to set about it, when almost  
despairing I often felt exceedingly encouraged and very much strengthened  
I was not allowed to go to the Cong<sup>n</sup> meetings this drove me to the  
determination to make my mind known which I did by a letter  
to the Cong<sup>n</sup> expressing my greatest desire to be embodied with them.  
My request was soon granted viz in year 1745 this was an inex-  
-pressible grace & favour to me past describing, being then very  
cheerful I thought I had then got all that could make my happiness  
complete, In this way I went on for some time.

In the year 1749 the first Soc<sup>y</sup> Economy was settled at Oxhaights I  
having the favour to be one of the first, I looked on it & accepted it with  
a real thankful heart, & the blessing which I there enjoy'd will never  
be forgot by me. This happiness lasted for some time but before I was  
quite to my mind, there I often lamented my state without the least  
hopes of being helpt through, & said at last. but my best & faithful  
friend notwithstanding my negligence followed me, endeavouring  
to bring me to the place where I at all timesought to have remained  
viz at his feet, he therefore took an opportunity to shew me my state  
by nature & convinced me that noself working would avail me any  
thing, but he was willing to take my care on himself. I was hereby  
quite overcome, by his assuring me I was his, which so worked on me  
that I was determin'd to be his intirely with soul & body, and as a poor  
sinner to receive grace at his hand.



my longing was now daily increased to become a partaker of the  
Holy Sacrament which grace was granted me Nov 1749 after  
which I believed simply I should yield more satisfaction to the  
Cong<sup>y</sup> & my self. These thoughts brought me into every legal  
way but could not with my best endeavours effect what I wish for,  
And having no Labarets at that time to help & encourage us,  
I thought to direct myself, ~~but~~ not being able this way only brought  
me into confusion. at last I was convinced that even those who were  
partakers of his body & blood could lay up no store without a  
daily & hourly supply from the fountain from whence all good  
springs. therefore I determin'd to be directed and Influenced  
alone by him who has often approv'd himself as my friend in need.  
In the year 1748 I mov'd to home Oconomy where I liv'd a year  
Cheerfully & satisfi'd. then there being a new Oconomy began  
at Little moore, I was one that was plac'd there, where I learn'd  
to know more of myself and the leading of our Saviour with me  
then I was sensible of before. In the year 50 I mov'd again  
to the Oconomy at low house. where I thought to live Cheerfully  
with the rest of my Companions. But here I must observe  
I was again disturb'd by my own Corruption of which I thought  
I had sufficient knowledge <sup>before</sup> but found the depth of my natural  
Corrupted heart was unfathomable which made me almost  
conclude it was impossible for me to be help to the end of days  
~~and so I was~~, I was often encouraged by those about me to  
believe I was not so bad for our Sav<sup>r</sup> but to no purpose, till I  
felt it scale & made clear to my heart by my best friend. He  
often took such opportunities as these to melt & bow my heart before  
him anon, & thereby to make my call & election of grace of greater  
value to me. The same year the Oconomy mov'd to fulneck  
there to reside till the Choir house which was then ~~in~~ building,

was finish'd, into which as soon as it was ready, I mov'd with  
the first company, at the entrance of which I again renew'd  
my Covenant with my d<sup>d</sup> Sav<sup>r</sup> and partook of the grace  
which in a particular manner prevail'd at that time.  
here as well as in all other places & during my whole life  
~~although I stand not~~ <sup>acknowledging</sup> all failings wants & defects I was always follow'd  
and often comforted, by him who has always approv'd himself  
as my only effectual Comforter & Sav<sup>r</sup>. So he will continue  
to me to the end of my days. he has often been so visibly near  
my heart as if I had seen him with my bodily eyes, yea I could  
Converse with him as with an intimate friend about every  
thing. In the year 1760 I had a call to go to Bedford, as  
it was thought best I went out of Obidience. at which place  
I was receiv'd with so much love & heartiness as I can't express  
~~but I have often~~ <sup>and I have often</sup> reflect on it with thankfulness. So far Her own  
but meeting with difficulties of various sorts, the employment  
for which I went there not answering the wish for end,  
and having a great desire to return to fullneck, as my  
Bodily Health was also much impair'd I made my desire  
known, which after Consideration was consented too & return'd  
Feb 16 1770 Here she liv'd several years in the strictest Decency with great  
faithfulness till her bodily circumstances she was oblig'd to retire into the Choir  
House there but finding Her ~~weakness~~ <sup>weakness</sup> increase She desir'd & obtain'd leave  
to remove back again to The Choir House in Fullneck where she arriv'd Feb 16 1770