

The course of Life of the Single Sister Anne Thornton

I was born at in m^{rs}field Nov^r 13th 1736 Bapt^d in the Church of England having heard of our Sav^r from my infancy, I had a great desire to go into the meetings but my mother thought I was too young, but one day I ventur'd of my own accord to stay the whole meeting took care to be at home before my mother, fearing she would be grieved, but when she heard of it was much pleas'd, & from that time always took me with her. When I was about 8 year old I was took into care amongst the Child^r by B^r & S^r Helt. I liked the Childrens meeting & also the school kept by the sisters prov'd a great blessing to my Heart, in my 14 year I was took into the frst Girls choir & heartily wish I might be a joy to our Sav^r. after my fathers departure I removed with my mother to live in Holm Lane that we might be nearer subiect to enjoy the meetings & about my 18 year I had the small pox in which sickness I was brought to reflect upon how my heart stood with regard to it^s connection with our Sav^r for I found my self much afraid of dying, feeling my depravity of soul & body & that I had no assurance of going to our Sav^r in my present situation, I cur'd my self as well as I could at this thro^u pier'd feel for his gracious absolution & the friend of sinners took my fears away & made my sickness more bearable to me on the 13 of nov^r 54. I was received into the congregation to my great joy and deep abasement, & renew'd my covenant to be his soul & body my dearest Sav^r & I continu'd happy & cheerful for some time, & in april the following Spring, I was admitted a candidate for the Holy Sacrament to the blessing of my Heart; for it brought me upon being more earnest with our Sav^r to prepare me for the enjoyment of his body & blood, but this I carried too far in my own strength & self working; & thereby came into deep distress, my own depravity laid such hold of me that I had no more the sight or feeling of our Sav^r in my Heart & became cold and indifferent to all the former promises which I made Him & I got a love for the world & the pleasures which I saw other young people enjoy; thus with forming various ideas of delight unto myself I went to bed one night seemingly well pleas'd, my proud & high dispos^{ition} to conceal all these imaginary pleasures to my self & I thought to sleep as at other times, but I no sooner laid me down my pleasures vanish & such distress came upon me that I spent the night in the bitter tears crying out for mercy but felt no sinner in my Heart. This distress continued so long that I thought it more than possible ever to survive it with my senses; one day I retired unto a lonely place fell upon my face & my Heart burst into a flood of tears at my dear Lords feet

From that time Our Saviour gave her the grace to relish & enjoy
His Bleeding Merits, to her comfort and satisfaction; and engaged
all her wants richly; she had for some time past a secret
intimation that her stay here would not be long, at which
she rejoiced like a child; at that Blessed Meeting when she
should see our Saviour, But her Disorder having hung on her
for some years being something asthmatical we did not think
it would be so soon; Till about a week ago; she altered
perceptibly; & ~~she~~ began to speak with firm assurance, that her
Hope would soon come to the full Enjoyment; She thanked &
Praised Our Saviour night & day for His Love & Goodness
And often repeated, O my own Dear Saviour how shall
I poor worm thank Thee enough; It is impossible for me
to tell what He has done for me. Soon I shall have
the favour to see Thee & kiss those dear Wounds which
have healed me; In this Happy Expectation she ended her
dying; & all Perplexity, Comforted & reconciled, on the 12th
between 1 & 2^o clock ^{in the after} noon with the Blessing of her
Choir, in the 34th year of her age.