

This is a memoir of
S^r Elizth Claggett.

She has left in her Choir house a good odour behind her, so that those who were acquainted with her, and had an opportunity to converse with her, will always retain a blessed remembrance of the grace which our dear Lord had bestowed upon her. —

Tho' she has not, for some time past, frequent^d the meetings on acct. of her disorder, yet it was remarkable that she always had a feeling of partook those blessings which were enjoyed by the Cong^o. or her Choir, and would speak of to the C^o. as if she had been in the meeting.

Some ~~that~~ time before her dissolution, her peculiar disposition, namely a shyness to see or speak wth any but a few particular friends, went to an extreme, but this served to her greater humiliation, and she became so loving, that she could not sufficiently express her gratitude, love & thankfulness to all about her, often repeating: I love & thank you, I love & thank you all. and desired often those who came to her to kiss her. — It was a great pleasure to be with her in her last days, the serenity & happiness of her heart, notwithstanding her great pains, made her sick room pleasant, tho her disorder would else have been very disagreeable to the outward senses of those who came into the room. At last, her long & ardent wish to be dissolved and with our Sav^r came happily to pass on the 12th Inst: with a sensible feeling of her Bridegroom's nearness, & wth bless^d of her Choir in the 52th Ps^m of her age.

I was born in Yorkshire in the Year 1715 where I staid with my Mother's Relations till the Year 20, in which my Mother came & fetched me to London. I remember to have had some Influences of Grace even in my Infancy years, but when I was about 14 years of age, I came under strong Convictions. in the Rights I was sometimes so surprised, that I thought I nearly heard the Trumpet give the Signal of our last coming to Judgment. I believed I should be ~~one~~ the Number of those who would call on the Rocks & Mountains to cover them. I made repeated Resolutions of devoting my future Life if God should spare me a little longer, to his Service. I began to be pretty Diligent in Prayer, both publick & private, & in the 15th Year of my Age having now recd an Invitation from one of my Aunts in Yorkshire a religious Woman, to go & stay some Time with her; having first instructed the Lord with many Tears, that he would direct this affair, I asked & obtained leave of my Father & Mother to go. The encouragement & instruction as well as she could, which I prosecuted in my Way, but was never ~~entirely~~ satisfied. when I was 17 years old, I went to the Sacrament in the Church of England, for the first Time. I was near 19 years old when I returned back to London, where I still continued a kind of religious Course, but the Gayeties and Devotions of the Town, strongly took hold of my Heart; till in my 21st year, when I got such a Sense of the total Separation of my Nature, that I believed the very marrow of my Bones was ~~affected~~ with Sin. I had never heard of any ones being awakened, nor did I know there was such a Thing; so I concluded there was not another such vile Wretch existing as my self. I got various Books of Devotion but could not use ~~any~~ of them; so I concluded they were not calculated for such a Creature as I. I then betook my self to David's Psalms, & from thence Collected Sentences & so Compild Prayers which expressed the Language of my Heart. I often fell prostrate on the Floor, & with Floods of Tears, lamented my wretched State; some Times I had a Glimmering of Hope; These Books often alleviated my Distress. "perfect Love casts out Fear, for Fear hath Torment, to which my Heart answered "yes Lord, that Fear hath Torment I know very well, if there be a Love which casts it out, bestow it upon me. another Text also was much in my mind; Except ye eat the Flesh of the Son of Man & drink his Blood ye have no Life in you: to which my Heart replied "where shall I get this Blood? Why in the Sacrament, but that I dare not partake of lest I eat & drink my own Damnation. (I had entirely left off going to the Sacrament, since I came to a Sense of my sinful Nature). One Day meditating about that Blood, I resolved on a Saints Day to go to St Laurences Church, & try when I came there if I could venture to go to the Sacrament, I chose that Place rather than my own Parish Church, for my Friends & acquaintance already thought I was out of my senses, so I concealed every Thing which had the appearance of Religion as much as I could. accordingly I went to the above mentioned Church: after the first Service I remained dubious whether I should stay the Sacrament or not; I then opened my common Prayer Book on these Words of the Psalms, "unto the Wicked faith God, why dost thou teach my Laws or take my Covenant into thy Mouth. with this I was quite struck, & thus I went directly out of the Church home, & then to my Chamber, where I fell prostrate, & silently poured forth Streams of Tears. I went on in a disconsolate solitary way conversing but little with any one; at length I contracted some acquaintance with an old Woman who was a Presbyterian, she some Times spoke Words of Consolation to me, tho' I afterwards believed she herself did not understand them. In my 22^d year, during the Plague Year

which I enjoyed a particular serenity of mind. Being wearied of my wandering
ings, & finding my last Resolutions to be but vain; I then my self in a manner
now upon Grace & Love, saying, it might exhaust even to me. In this I was
I visited that Woman, I told her of my desire to go to the Sacrament, & she
replied, my dear child, she encouraged me to continue, saying, I shall surely
get strength & nourishment to pursue my future Course. I thought that
my Lord "will not except of me before, perhaps he will now; so I con-
cluded that if the same Father & Comforter of mind, then I con-
tinued till Sunday I went to the early Sacrament, which was
was in a certain Congregation of Christ, & went to the early Sacrament
which was kept at my own Parish Church. At receiving of the Bread &
Wine, as we were said, so that my Head trembled greatly, which caused
the Minister to move ~~me~~ at me, but the Love, Peace, & Joy, which
in those moments took Possession of my Soul, words cannot express.
I returned home so cheerful & light-hearted, so happy, that it found its way
to my heart. I went on singing. Being come home I met with many things not very agree-
able, but so palliative as I used to be, so that my heart was not much
I found every body so cheerfully that I had never had seen a lot than
I had upon me. I longed to be again at Church out of the night, & hearing of
Catholics things, so that I went again at 10 O'Clock, my heart was in such a
business condition that the tears would not & then burst out of my eyes, till
the people observing, told my Relations that now I was indeed gone out of
my house for I had been at Church; which obliged me to get a retired place
among ordinary old people. In the nights my heart would be pining for
me & Philadelphia, for I knew not what to say or say, nor what had hap-
pened to me: other things as well as my self found about, & the Scriptures
as if I had never read them before, but for all this I had times of Re-
freshment, so if my feeling was long withstanding, even of doubting of my sal-
vation, for after this a poor Roman ^{came} to my Father's house & gave
some relief for his sister who was ill of a Cancer in her Breast, I did desire
to visit the sick person, & accordingly went to his Lodging, there I for the first
time had the Father who was then in his apprehension, & that his nearest
kinsmen acquainted with Elizabeth's death & others of the death-bed, among
whom I continued till in the year 1740 when the Breⁿ began their labor
in England. I knew diversely that they were the people for me, since which
time I adhered to them entirely, in June 1742 I went with great reluctance
but in compliance with my Father's commands to spend the Summer with
the rest of my family at Bondocks in Essex, I had been there 2 or 3
weeks when as sitting alone in my room, our Lord presented himself to
my heart in his bleeding wounded form, he brought me into such a Con-
vulsion his own dear Person, as I had never known before, then it was that
my heart was over to him, then I was willing to lose any where, or be any
thing which might be most pleasing to him. His blood his death, & though
by attendance has since that that Father never, assuming my new-fangled
source of comfort & consolation, in all trials & necessities whatsoever.
He reminds & Father's Person, his death was my Confession, & shall be
till my eye-strings break. The Breⁿ & sis^s appeared much at my return to
London at all the grace our dear Lord had bestowed on me. In June 1742
my Father having departed this life, I went by the direction of the

Breⁿ & sis^s to the Chatham Oecumeny in Lambeth, where I
lived with the Eger Girls. Oct^r 29th I returned to London, & on the
30th of the same instant, that our memorable day, I was present at the
settling of the London Cong^o: which we felt that time I suppose well by
we truly as if we were there that day. I thought that I
was not other but the House of God, & here are the Gates of Heaven; there
I got my inexpressible Call, to be a visibly united to that body. -
on the Cong^o day next following, I was read over on Christmas Day -
1743, & had the favor of being admitted to the Sacrament next follow-
ing Sacrament, which I think to have been June 1743.
I applied in the labor amongst the Single Sis^s in London according
to my small ability till June 1743 when I was put by the Cong^o into
Yorkshire, to have the joint care of the Single Sis^s Choir there with
my Sister Susanne & Sarah Lewis. In June 1744 I was sent for to the
Office of Minister of the said Choir, & in Aug^o following, I succeeded the
Office of Minister. I afterwards held amongst the Single Sis^s being
glorifying for the Office. I afterwards held amongst the Single Sis^s being
a very anxious Preacher of the Word of God. In that Situation I continued
till my state of Health rendered me incapable of serving my dear Sister
as I had before done; I then put my Relations to send for Anne
& Anne Johanne to send a sis^s from Germany to supply my place
which was at length granted in the year 1748 to the value of 1000
pounds of my money, & I paid for my Office, & my salary, & my
more inclination than I had at first to receive it, yet carefully con-
sidering how he might have looked upon my poor Services; and if his
heart could upon the whole be satisfied with them? His friendly words
never cheered me. I paid his satisfaction for all my Faults & failings,
& mistakes, & thus with a thoroughly composed & composed heart I
entered into my work for Sabbath School. I was desirous to go to
the then new settled Oecumeny at Little North, hoping a change of air
might be of service to me where I continued near a year, & really
did grow a little better. Having read a letter from my dear Marriage
(who was not quite satisfied with my Relinquishing my self wholly to the
safe & Retirement) wherein he mentioned in the most gentle & kind
manner, that he should like to have me go to Litchfield, & so what
I could amongst the Single Sis^s there. I paid the matter before our
Breⁿ & sis^s found that notwithstanding the seeming impossibility of my
performing the journey, my heart was never easy, but when I thought
of going: thus I came to a Resolution, & having had a blessed journey
I arrived there May 1749: from whence I returned with the whole
Oecumeny of Sis^s Sept^r 29th 1750. The Breⁿ favored me
with ~~one~~ one of the Houses on Lambeth Hill, where I lived
cheerful & contented only in an exceeding poor state of Health
till Feb^r 27th 1750 when I came into the dear Choir House.

Here I conclude, ^{with} ~~being~~ persuaded that my manner of writing
~~has been well known, & that who have seen it in the past~~
~~to the present, & that it is the same. I will only add~~
my Thanks to all who have ~~been~~ had compassion on my very ail-
ing & sickly Tabernacle; and all who have shown ^{kind} kindness in time
of need, God reward them for it.

Elisabeth Craggett

happily departed D^r. 18th. Laboured under a heavy com-
 plication of Disorders for many years; w^{ch} together with J^r. peccatorialities of
 her disposition greatly obstructed ~~that~~ ^{her} social Fellowship & intercourse ^{with others}
 w^{ch} was especially regretted by her choir, so ~~that~~ many of w^m she had been
 an united Instrument of comfort, & consolation as well as edification, &
 a blessed Nursing Mother in their first awakening. her Maternal
 affectionate concern for J^r. welfare & prosperity, of J^r. whole Congⁿ &
 particularly that of her choir, she ~~eventually~~ ^{in the greatest degree} retained thro' various Trials,
 changes & vicissitudes, so that it was evident, ^{that} nothing ~~so~~ ^{so} sensibly affected
 her as when painful circumstances occurred here & there, either in J^r. whole, or in
 part, of ^{individuals}; ~~and this has been more evident~~ ^{and this has been more conspicuous} since her more close
 retirement; in w^{ch} beside her constant happy intercourse with ^{laughter & friend}
 she diligently entertained her self with our ever memorable D^r. Disciple's Discourses
 & the utmost J^r. most consolatory delicacies ^{on} this side eternity.
 during J^r. 13 years, & months & 11 Days of her abode in her ~~beloved~~ ^{beloved} Choir-
 house, she has enjoyed a Sabbath Season, as a poor, frail, ^{disordered}
 human Creature, truly sensible of her election of grace, ^{rejoicing at}
 her free salvation, charmed & captivated with J^r. wounded Person of
 her ~~dear~~ ^{dear} faithful Lover. ~~Here~~ She has conducted her-
 self as a d^r. Handmaid of Jesus, & as a Priestess of God; but, not-
 withstanding this her ~~happy condition~~ ^{happy condition} as a virgin of J^r. Lamb, she had many
 weaknesses, Faults & imperfections; w^{ch} ~~also~~ ^{humiliation} she was truly sensible
 of, & served for matter of great ~~humiliation~~ ^{humiliation} to her naturally high Spirit.
~~But~~ Grace alone had brought ^{her spirit} into subjection, & set her above
~~every thing~~ ^{every thing} false, crooked & designing ^{spirit of dissimulation so prevalent in}
~~the~~ ^{had very good & strong natural parts} ~~she~~ ^{and I was}
~~a fabled~~ ^{which made us regret that she was rendered unfit for publick thro' her disorder.} ~~her~~ ^{as the}
 expressed them in J^r. following Verses. 2^d. p. 171. S. 7. 6 & 8. D.

A mind so Lowliness inclin'd;
 A gall-less Boon's unspotted mind;
 A mind that strives untir'd
 For a true Spiritual Frame
 Shut up herein, that poor I am,
 From hurtful Fancies far retir'd.

O souls who know that Mystery
 Joyful to look upon & see,
 But Love how much He can;
 For comfort of the amazed with guilt
 He children from the bottom spoils,
 In secret now a finish'd Man.

Aug 20 &
 undisturbed

Entirely serious, childlike too;
In all Essentials fix'd & True;
An Ear that one may trust;
A hearty genuine Sister's heart
To sympathize with every smart
Wh^{ch} chance sometimes 'mong Sister's must.

In her Choir House she has defused an odorous perfume of that
sacredunction wherewith her chaste soul was distinguishingly
paraded, ^{which} will forever remain as a fragrant savour in y^e deep
recesses of those hearts who had y^e ^{pleasure} ~~happiness~~ of her more intimate
union & connection. Nor can we by any means leave unremark'd,
that notwithstanding ^{this} our venerable Sister, did not lately ~~frequent~~
personally frequent y^e meetings, on account of indisposition, yet
her lively spirit, happily partook of those divine revivifying breezes
in each, w^{ch} to y^e admiration of her intimates, she would distinctly
communicate. *

She had many years earnestly long'd & panted for her happy dismissal,
w^{ch}, on y^e 12 instant came blessedly to pass, in y^e sweet earnestness
of her D^y eternal spouse, & y^e Blessing of her Choir, in y^e
52^d year of ~~her~~ ^{mortal} life.

* Some short time before this our dear Sister's approaching
desolation was so perceptible to us: (tho. she her self had some
inkling of it) her peculiar natural disposition prevailed,
to an extrem^e; w^{ch}, afterwards led to her ~~great~~ deeper
humiliation, so that she was altogether incapable of expressing
her unfeigned gratitude, Love & Thankfulness to all about her;
often repeating: "I love & thank you, I love & thank you all!"
w^{ch} she tenderly seal'd with y^e warmest kisses.