

Ed 1811
Life of the widower, ^{Rev} Timothy Gray, who
departed to our father at Wyke Aug. 11th 1795.

He has left the following account of his course
thro time.

I was born Aug. 5th 1719 at North Buram in
the parish of Salisford. I lived with my parents
till I was 14 years old, where I was put appren-
tice to a cloth maker at Birkenshaw. During
my apprenticeship, I became very uneasy about
the state of my soul, & took to praying & self
working, but soon found, that I could not help
myself. Soon after I became acquainted with
one John Nelson, to whom I would freely open
my mind. Upon his enquiry, I told him, how
I had proceeded, & that with all my endeavors
I could not attain to rest for my soul, but
found myself as wretched as ever. His answer
was: I find that you are a poor slave of the
devil. He then told me his experience, that
he had been of the same way of thinking, but
had found all laboring in his own strength to be
in vain. He advised me to go to hear Mr Wesley,
& he would teach me the right way to heaven.

me with cords of love to himself. I longed but, as it were, to touch the hem of his garment, & this our fat^r graciously granted me, & I felt, that he owned me as his. About this time I lived with my sisters at Birkenshaw, where we were visited by the Broⁿ, my shyself towards them wore off by degrees, & I soon had the favor to become a member of the congⁿ. Now a new school commenced in my heart, I learnt more & more to know my natural corruption, but my fat^r likewise granted me the grace to depend more & more upon him, for which I have great reason to thank him all my days. Soon after I went by advice of the Broⁿ to live at Milfield with John Sheard, where I staid nearly 2 years, & then spent 4 years agreeably with the Broⁿ at Wyke. Then I moved into the single Broⁿ choir house at Fulneck, but here I got into company with some of a reviving spirit, whereby I suffered hurt in my soul, & this proved the occasion, that I left the Broⁿ for some time, & came to live at Wyke. Nevertheless my fat^r held his hand over me, & in due time brought me back to his fold.

Thus far our late Broⁿ own account.

He was received into the congⁿ at Fulneck, Dec. 12th 1748, ^{admitted to the Broⁿ congⁿ in 1749. He married} ~~he married~~ to his late wife, Elizabeth whose maiden name was Ubank in 1755, which marriage was blest with 1 son & 2 daughters, of whom only 1 daughter has survived him, & is now married to Mr Wm Ellis of Hopton. In 1749 ~~he was admitted~~ ^{he was admitted} to the holy congⁿ with the congⁿ. In 1789 he became a widower. He has been for many years a respectable member of this congⁿ, tho^{ugh} he has weaknesses & singularities, which, sometimes rendered his course heavy to himself & others, yet amidst all, it was evident, that his heart cleaved to our fat^r, & that he had sunk down upon him, as the only sure foundation. It was always a pleasure to him to be visited by the Broⁿ & Bro^s, & delighted to speak freely with them of what our Lord had done upon his soul. He prized his election of grace to belong to the Broⁿ congⁿ, & there was nothing he regretted so much, when confined by sickness, as to be deprived of the opportunities of blessing to be enjoyed by children of God in fellowship. He however endeavored in some measure to make up for this loss by reading diligently in the bible, & meditating daily in stillness.

on the texts of the Day, which was his constant
practice, & whereby according to his own testimony,
he often received gracious visits from our Lord.
Of late years, the infirmities of age, & increasing
bodily weakness, depressed him greatly, & his
strength declined visibly. His constitution was
by degrees quite worn out, & he sighed, like a
weary traveller for repose, longing ardently to
be released from pain, & at home with his Lord.
A couple of days before his departure, he declared
that he had nothing, that lay heavy upon his
mind, but was ready to go hence with joy, as a
poor, but pardoned sinner, trusting alone in the
merits of Christ, & thus he fell gently & happily
asleep in the Lord, aged 76 years & a few days.

