

The course of Life of the Single Sister Elly Lawson

I was born in the parish of Wymond April 12. 1744 & baptiz'd in the Church of England. And in my Childrens years frequented the meetings of the Born along with my parents which was at that time kept in Wymond & what they spoke & sung of our Saviour was very pleasing to me. I had also the satisfaction to be Educated at the school kept by the Sisters & to enjoy the Childrens Meetings & got a pleasing Idea of our Saviour that he loved the children & would make them happy. Thus I spent my Childrens years having no distress of any kind till about my 8th year when it pleased our Saviour to take my mother very suddenly home, by which occasion my sister & I were to live with an aunt & by sister who ^{propose} to take care of us at my dear mothers departure. Here I continued for some time, till I was persuaded to go & live in a family to have the care of a little child; but my first inquiry was, do they belong to the Born? I was answer'd no, but ^{they} were good friends.

I spoke with B^r Grosse who was the child^{ren} parent, & he seem'd not to encourage me in it, but yet he gave me leave & tenderly remind'd me to keep close to our Saviour & he would help me thro', I had not been long in this place before I perceiv'd quite the contrary, to whatever had been told me, I had many instruments to lose company & conversation besides various hardships to single with, which occasion'd a disorder to fall into my feet, so that I was necessitated to return unto my father, in hopes of being cur'd of my lameness, when I came to my fathers house, I found my youngest B^r in the small pox, which disorder I also got in a few weeks time & had no other prospect but of going home, during this sickness I got a lively impression of the single sisters in a dream, being present with them in a room where they made the finest Musick I ever heard in all my Life which affect'd me very much.

about my 12th year my natural depravity bore such an appendage over me, that I often wish'd my father had not belong'd the Born for then I wou'd have pass'd the world & all the pleasures which my inclinations and circumstances wou'd admitt of, & certainly shou'd have gone on to my utter ruin, had not my good & gracious Saviour impress'd upon my mind a constant apprehension of a future state & that his Life wou'd be of no long duration, thus I went on having all my imagination

in battle with a painful conviction that I could never intended pleasure
till the year 60. Month 25th having the favour to be present at the grth girls
Fetich in Falmouth, what I saw & enjoyed in the meetings of that day, was
an abiding grace unto my death. Especially the last discourse held by
H. Labaree, which was a convincing proof to me that my soul "had" desired

me, a happy lot amongst them which saved me before him in prelude to come.
I kept a ^{little} life ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{hankering} to attain my call & with earnestness beg^d for adm^{ss}ion
admission to the choir house which was granted by the ^{also} ^{my} ¹⁸ 1761. I enjoyed
that great space of the coming, an inhabitant, in which I had not
been many weeks before the grth was perceived by the ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{meeting}
me the deep depravity of my nature & so I often pray^d my dear Lord
to show me all my misery, yet by my life & reformed disposition I felt
many times more than was possible for me to bear. Especially about
May 1762 when in the greatest anguish of my troubled soul I broke out
in powerful supplication to my Lord "to help me with all speed for I
could do it no longer; he comforted & let me feel his peace and
gracious absolution & felt to me as if my burden was now dead in
Leaven from the 10th of the same month I had the grace to be received
into the congregation. I went on happy & cheerful for some time but
when my infirmity appeared a gain, he came repeatedly in the same way
& did not like to be known by my Labarers & sisters, and was known to my
dear Lord & when my dear companion had leave one after another to
go to the Communion & left behind, I gave me ^{several} ^{times} ^{to} ^{my} ^{Lord} ^{not} ^{to} ^{give} ^{leave} ^{that} ^I ^{should} ^{let} [&] ^{direct} ^{my} ^{own} ^{damnation}
but to give me an upright & open heart

in the year 1766 I was sick with the ^{fever} ^{and} ^{chills} who recommended opening of
heart. I both had courage & spoke my situation to my Labarers and as I felt
it proved an abiding blessing to me & I resolved not to remove from home yet
till I felt the gracious absolution & a new conviction to be the poor sinner who
the Lord's host was daily labouring to bring me too.
the speaking by the Lord for the first Fetich after her arrival I felt such
a sympathy from her as encouraged me to a fresh confidence in my Lord, that
he was the only sinner from the same year had the grace to be a ^{double}

for the Holy communion & was comforted from the following words that he had
thy own sickness, but in my sufficient merits, I got a small longing for this
highest food which I partook of Sept^m 1762 the same year to my deep shame
for it proved a sacramental joy to soul & body & was thought. I renewed the grth of
my heart. Love to him whenever I partook of his precious body & blood. I was for her own sake
about a 12 month ago, our happily departed sister was precious to become sick
but had no particular complaint, that any medicine could be prescribed for
her relief. ^{Her} ^{relieve} ^{was} ^{nothing} ^{of} ^a ^{kind} ^{that} ^{terminated} ^{into} ^a ^{cough} ^{that} ^{seized} ^{her} ^{very}
much at times & so weakened her constitution so much that she was obliged
about 3 months ago to remove into the sick room & as she was one night in
her bed she perceived an auditor or as she expressed herself something came over
that crept along from head to foot & left an impression of death shadow as if she
should immediately depart, she sent for the choir helper & with firm after some
believed our Lord intended to take her soon. & tho' she grew unable to be yet she
sister perceived that a great alteration had happened to her. & accordingly removed
her into the new sick room intended for the retirement of those who are in
all likely good candidates for the same. I was at death, which proved the happy
period this dear sister ever enjoyed in all her time. Since her Sabbath down
commenced & she received the peace & comfort in submitting to be the poorest &
worst of sinners, & thro' the trials in herself brought on many convictions
how she had reflected upon others to the no small pain of heart & confine
yet our gracious Lord comforted & healed her pain of mind, over every un-
faithfulness which she thro' grace was made conscious of & believed her
present friends to be her nearest & ^{most} ^{precious} ^{future} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{kingdom} ^{which} ^{our} ^{Lord} ^{had} ^{tried} ^{to} ^{purchase} ^{for} ^{her} ^{for} ^{the} ^{road} ^{now}
in the comforts of the sinners fellowship with her sister (which she before
was so much shamed in) but she should be known to be that woman (which
she knew her self to be, but now thro' grace I can take to all my shame
done with all) (as this ready sinner could say he is the only sinner of my
soul & my soul's proprietor, when her sister from school came to see her
she was exceedingly glad & thankful & recommended her with the rest of her
sisters to the gracious love & mercy of our dear Lord, till he took

in his arms, she now began to long for the enjoyment
of the Holy sacrament, which she for the 2^d time received it in the afternoon
which was brought to her by Mr. Charkworth, which was particularly pleasing to
her heart, Mr. Charkworth took a remarkable notice & leave of her, & when
she heard that he was sick, she said, he will be yet before me with my Lord &
God, when I come there, but the sisters thought not so, but she answered yes you
will find it so, & when it was possible she attended very fast & on the 28th
took very little notice as the pain in her breast was very violent, which made
her restless & desirous to be released, by her dear & dear bridegroom
about half an hour before her departure Mr. Sout went to see her &
she besought for her not to speak one word, saying I am going to get a little
rest & am quite composed, & if the sick waiter had not watched her
closely she would have slept away in a sleep according to her own desire but
the drawing of her breath gave the signal & the slipping of her chain
was imputed as her happy soul took flight to rest for ever in ^{the} arms of its
former husband, in the evening a beautiful July 30. 1770—

In the 27th year of her Age