

MARY BIRD

Memoriam of the very happily  
departed Sister Mary Bird

She was born Dec. 1. 1754. at Bath  
of Parents who educated her with great  
moral rectitude in the principles  
of the Established Church and was  
from early youth the subject  
of very serious inquiries;  
After the death of her esteemed  
Father, she was placed at a Board-  
ing School in Bristol, where she  
was instructed in the usual  
Female accomplishments and  
also French, Music, & Dancing  
which she learned with avidity  
but whilst the Master was in-  
structing her in the latter she  
was inwardly impressed with a  
voice within her heart saying  
if you die this night go with  
me to Litch. This and then



convictions so drew off her attention  
from all vain worldly amuse-  
ments that she soon forgot all the  
songs she used to sing and then  
sought retirement where she  
may seek the Lord unobserved by  
her companions they were much  
surprised at her <sup>great</sup> change of conduct  
and statement, which some of  
them thought to be idle. But our  
Saviour who began this good work  
of grace in her soul unaided by  
any sermon or one human in-  
strument finally drew near.  
When one day she was medi-  
tating in loneliness and applying  
those words of Isaiah 61. ~~and there~~  
house thereof for thy light is,  
come the glory of the Lord is now  
upon thee. most forcible to her.  
This enabled her to proceed with



comfort & fresh courage the same  
way. The Gospel was not preached in  
such delightful abundance as  
at present in the Churches  
of Bristol; yet <sup>sometimes</sup> the name  
of Jesus was only mentioned  
in a sermon. It was delightful  
to her ears, in very short time  
after her change of heart, when  
preparing to go out to visit a friend  
she was suddenly seized with  
an attack of Rheumatism Gout  
in her stomach & limbs which  
seldom altogether left her yet  
the rich promises contained  
in the Holy Scriptures, were by  
the Holy Spirit's teaching, made  
such sweet pasture to her soul  
that they yielded her daily  
consolation and instruction. She  
was heartily fond of reading  
works of piety and truth  
especially of Ecclesiastical by which  
her mind became well informed



and her Opinions fixed by matters  
of fact. Being returned from  
Bristol home to her father, she  
constantly enjoyed the blessing  
of evangelical preaching, and was  
for many years an attendant  
of Lady Huntingdon Chapel where  
she first took of the ~~the~~ Sacrament.  
She married at the age of 23 and had  
five children four of whom have  
preceeded her into the Blissful  
Eternity. It <sup>was</sup> in ~~an~~ <sup>her</sup> maternal ~~tender~~  
faithfulness her character ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~in~~  
by whose the joyful ~~un~~ <sup>un</sup> ~~remitting~~  
attention to the health of her chil-  
dren and had an agreeable method  
of improving their ~~un~~ <sup>un</sup> ~~der~~ <sup>der</sup> ~~stand~~  
ing which rendered her ~~un~~ <sup>un</sup> ~~der~~ <sup>der</sup> ~~stand~~  
in the church pleasing: but as soon  
as the first dawn of reason commen-  
ced she ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> taught them to pray to our  
Saviour telling them of his great love  
to and suffering for them so that they  
shd not need to go from home for retri-  
bution of sin. She often procured  
innocent sensible Books for them



amusement, for never were they  
permitted to perceive an improper  
blame. Her watchfulness over her  
two sons was exemplary, yet connected  
with such affection that they were  
drawn to obey her from love, though  
severe discipline was not withheld  
when <sup>absolutely</sup> necessary. Having affianced  
her eldest son to the late Mr Hazard  
of Bath at his particular desire  
where she knew he would be taken  
care of, she came over to Bristol to place  
her youngest son under our dear father's  
to Mr C Court Whollstreet in May  
1795. and on July 13. she and her son  
being daughters opened a Day School  
with some scholars, in the evening  
they had 40. to in the school which  
school with many instruction of the  
attended to till her sight failed, the  
year following her husband departed  
this life relying in the merits &  
blood of Christ, she then attended  
Tabernacle but was intent on accom-  
panying her son Robt to which ever place  
of worship he preferred that he might  
be under her careful inspection



and kept as much as possible those down-  
grove which abounded in the young in  
such a large city. Her Daughter had  
mean while joined the B<sup>n</sup>, till he  
at length the same also came thereby  
to C. & G. L., she now during the  
Edifying Ministry of our Elder and B<sup>n</sup>  
Chambers was added to the Society and  
near to the end of his stay here returned  
to her Congregation privileges, B<sup>n</sup>  
Sweetser then became our faithful  
kind and beloved Minister who togeth-  
er with B<sup>n</sup> H. Grimes extended the hands  
Crosby so kindly that the daughter who  
had been previously turned from  
her home to light by our benevolent  
efforts work of grace on her soul was  
brought into the blessed fold and became  
a devoted Christian. ~~Christ's kingdom~~  
one Sunday since to her father from  
going to the F<sup>r</sup>. B<sup>n</sup> Meeting. This greatly  
rejoiced her friends, Her eldest son  
who had experienced true conversion  
under the ministry of Dr. Ketchum  
and become a member of the Cong.  
with her family with five sisters  
were unitedly walking the same  
path to the heavenly Canaan.  
In the sequel it pleased the Lord



to bereave her of those children so tenderly  
loved and she had to witness one after  
another step over their heavenly  
father's threshold. First her youngest  
son. Then her second daughter <sup>Elizabeth</sup> ~~Elizabeth~~ <sup>Elizabeth</sup>  
then her son Thomas who had served  
his Lord in several Cong<sup>reg</sup>s & Stephen  
led this life at Marlborough, 3<sup>rd</sup> month  
months after her sister also died and  
that time her sight and her once  
retentive memory have been gradually  
failing, yet her heart could retain  
its past and present memories,  
and those of her young ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> which  
had soiled the morning of her life be-  
came her evening song it was always  
her heart's delight to believe of Christ  
and to awaken in her friends a love  
for their souls' salvation and many will  
remember her impassive admonitions  
Aug 13. 1832 she was at Chapel for the last  
time, her weakness from time to time  
so increased that she waited with  
longing the Lord's coming being sometimes  
weary with the length of the way  
yet wishing to be quite serene. Oct 18.  
last, the Holy Communion was admin-  
istered to her in her habitations and  
enjoyed by her with much thankfulness



on Nov 24/1833. in the afternoon she  
had a paralytic seizure which greatly affected  
her power of speech but her heart was  
firmly fixed on the Rock of Ages, & when  
she felt Jesus precious she was so  
happy and the consolation was difficult  
to get she gave all who spoke to her to  
understand that her foundation  
was firm having been here for  
within the veil, the prayers offered  
for her by the church & her friends  
were a great comfort to her  
feeling by joy and solemnity  
and by her faithful spirit Dec 1 being her  
birthday she spent it in a sweet holy  
calm often trying to anticipate mysteries  
and when informed of the kind  
remembrance of a Dr. Friend, expressed  
kindness and was truly thankful for  
the exercise of the love & goodness  
done for her she seemed almost  
inwardly to enjoy it & was  
on earth & every day a faithful  
felt some pleasant perception of the  
heavenly peace which pervaded her soul  
she never expressed any sorrow or  
sorrow in her suffering, which (the  
kind for something with the past) towards the  
end was increasingly from full  
and a cloud of doubt ~~appeared~~ appeared to her  
about her mind, on Dec 4 she changed her  
place which made it evident her  
suffering was at home, and at a  
point before & Thursday morning the willing  
soul entered the celestial city there to