

~~The Course of~~ Life of the Single Sist^r

Rev^d Whistly, ^{concerning} ~~of~~ which she has left the following.

I was born at Lightcliff, in the Parish of Halifax, in the year 1783 and baptiz^d in the Church of England, My Mother departing this Life, When I was about a year old My Uncle took me to care for till my ninth year, When I was put apprentice To Joseph Cates, of ^{Wood} Green, Who at that time entertain^d, Mr Ingham, and ^{Mr} Bellamotte, ~~the~~ who preached in his House. Sometime after B^r and Sist^r Reed, came to Yorkshire, and took on them the care of the Children; they kept a Lovefeast with us and settled us in bands, ~~of which~~ I had the favour to be in One. The feeling I got at that time I can't express; tho' but a Child, I felt my heart was bound in a Covenant with my mercifull Sav^r, and he made it clear to me, that I belong'd to Him, and His people, tho' I did not always abide by that Impossiⁿ, but came into hours of distress and darkness, at which times, he prosper'd me, so that nothing was able ~~to~~ divert or draw me off from his people; tho' I had many difficulties to struggle with, yet he let me feel that he was my Support, whenever I was willing to rely on him alone, and not seek to help my self. About this time an Oeconomy of Sist^{rs} was begun at Oxgangs, Which prov'd a great Blessing, and Benefit to me; I came more into fellowship with the Sist^{rs}, yet was not satisfied as I had not yet perceiv'd that pardoning Gift from my D^d Sav^r assuring me of the forgiveness of all my sins. I spoke my mind to one of my Companions, who told me to cast my self Just as I was, at the feet of my Tr^u Sav^r and believe that He wou'd accept me, which I accordingly did, and was not disappointed for he graciously Own'd me his Poor Child, so that I was for sometime Quite in a rapture, thro' the feeling sense of his Mercies; but this Joy did not last long, which together with Circumstances Occuring in the Family where I Liv'd, and the Sist^{rs} Removal from the Oeconomy, Made my Course very heavy;

as I now had neither the opportunity of speaking with the Sister
nor even hearing the preaching, being oblig'd to go with my Mistress
to the Methodist meetings ~~which~~ ^{which} went very hard with me, this
continued a year when to my great joy I had the pleasure to see
Sister Mary, the then Choir Helper of the English Dist^y for the first
time. She spoke very tenderly to me and comforted me in my great
distress, after which I was rec'd into the Society, but could still
not go to the meetings which caus'd me much pain. My Dr
Sister Mary, assur'd me she would do her best for me, that I
should lose nothing which lay in her power. I was still not
satisfied, till by means of Dr Gros I got leave to go to the
meetings, for which I was very thankful, and enjoy'd that
privilege once a fortnight during the last year of my apprenticeship.
In this time I often felt my own misery and depravity to
such a degree, that it was as if the condemnation of all
bad things lay upon me, and I could find no comfort. My
time being almost out my Master desir'd me to stay longer
with him which adding to my perplexity I made my mind
known to Sister Mary, who advis'd me ^{on August} as I felt in my own
heart, this brought me to a bold reflection, and I often pray'd
to me that I belong'd to the long. Whenever I should obtain leave
to live with the Dist^y. Aug^r 10 1756 I unworthily Child, had
the favour to come into the Academy at Gomersall, where
according to my desire, it was clear to me from the first hour
that now I was in my right place, where I belong'd which has
been a support and comfort to me. During my abode with the
Dist^y, thro' all difficulties, I went on cheerfull, and spent my
time happy as a poor sinner, and had the grace to be rec'd
into the long. Jan^y the 6 1756 to my unexpected joy and
abusement. This was a real comfort to me, amidst the
feeling of my own depravity, which my Dr and unweary'd Sav^r

Sav^r made me from time to time more sensible of, ^{just} as I poor Child
was able to bear it. When I was spoke to about the Lords Supper
I felt a great deal, but my ardent prayer was, that Our Sav^r
might make me a right happy poor sinner that I might not
renew the Holy Sacrament to my detriment, desiring him to wash
my heart in his most precious blood that so I might be a fit
candidate for it. This time was a real blessing to me, wherein
I felt his rich comfort amidst my poverty and weakness both of
body and mind. Aug^r 15 1756 I was spectator ~~at~~ ^{of} the Holy Communion
which increased my longing desire to enjoy that highest good,
tho' conscious of my unworthiness. Yet I spent my time more
cheerfull, in reliance on him. Knowing his time would be the
best. Sept^r 2 1756 I enjoy'd this grace to my deep humiliation
which blessing I hope to remember till I shall grow pale
in his arms. Thus I spent my time in his nearness as a poor &
faulty creature, ashamed to think what patience my Dr Sav^r
has had with me from my very Birth, as well as the love
and tenderness of the sister towards me whilst in the Academy.
July 18 1756 I had the unexpected pleasure to move into the
Choir house at fullneck.
Our late sister ends her own account with a few lines to the
Helper of the Choir as follows

Now my Dr and tenderly beloved
Sister Lancel I pray you to excuse me entering any further on
on my poor Lifes course as I am not able. So much I can say
my Desire has been from the first moment that I might live
according to Our Sav^r mind, poor as I am, and have been all
all my Life. May but his will be fullfill'd in me, whatever
pain my Body may go thro' tis no concern to me. I am His
He may do whatsoever is pleasing in his sight, with this unworthy
Child. Her heart was tenderly attach'd to Our Sav^r and
Her Election of grace to be among his people, was a matter of joy
and thankfulness thro' her whole course, and Our Sav^r
Faithfullness

to her kept her in a feeling sense of her own depravity, so
that she knew herself and the grace to enjoy what he had
merited for her, which she often declared with tears, was more
than she deserved, in all variations in her course among the Siste^{rs}
none gave her such sensible pain, as when she had grieved our Sav^r
who had redeemed her from all things, which could deprive her
of the enjoyment of comfort and peace from him, The Sacramental enjoyme^{nt}
ment of the Body and Blood of our Lord she esteemed the greatest grace
and was truly sensible that he loved her and would stand by her
when all things failed, her lively Disposition made her troublesome
Disorder which more or less afflicted her for many years, bearable,
and whenever her Cough & Asthma caused her the most trouble she showed
a Childlike Resignation, with Cheerfulness to await, what our Sav^r would
do with her, as soon as she got a little relieved, she soon forgot her sufferings,
spent her time in sinnerslike Cheerfulness among the Siste^{rs}, the repeated
return of her Cough brought her very low, and so weak that about
3 months ago she began to take to the sick room, yet agreeably to her
her heart's Disposition, she was able to go about till the very last, and
thereby enjoyed the fellowship with her room Siste^{rs} whereby they had
hoped that she might Recover, and grow in her usual way a little better,
but she seem'd as if she expected a sudden call into Her Lord's Joy; and
spoke very seriously to her Siste^{rs} on that account, about a month ago
she exprossed herself thus, "it is as if our Sav^r had taken all care and
concern from me, and I have nothing on my mind, If he pleases to take me,
" I go to him, as a poor helpless worm, he has forgiven me all, and if He
" should take me unexpected to you it will not be unexpected to me; Pray don't
" be uneasy about me, I am His, His will be done with me his unworthy Sinner."
nothing particular ~~was~~ ^{was} perceived, but that she grew more weak
and consequently her Cough more troublesome, on Friday evening Sept 28th
she sent for a Siste^{rs} desiring her to settle some little matters for her
saying, "one can't tell what may happen, His gracious will be done, I fear
" nothing, whatever pain he pleases to lay on, ^{me} if he is but near me, that's
" enough for me, She had a tolerable night, and was next morning lively
and Cheerfull as usual among her Room Companions, in the evening the
Doctor came into the sick room, found her cheerfull and as he thought better
than she had been, but he had scarcely left the House, before Her precious soul
took flight into the ~~arms~~ ^{arms} of Her beloved with the closing of Her Choir in the 98th
year of her age