

R.

The Single Sister Hannah Hillas who went to our  
 Saviour on the 23<sup>d</sup> of January has left the following  
 account of her self,

I was born April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1745 at Bank house in the  
 parish of Calverly and baptiz'd in the Church of England  
 my dear Father being much concerned for our Procuration  
 sought and obtained leave for my sister Mary and me to  
 go to Milnord to live in the Childrens Economy there  
 where I accordingly went in my 3<sup>d</sup> year; here as a Child.  
 I still remember how our dear Sav<sup>r</sup> w<sup>d</sup> to draw nigh to  
 me his poor little one, and gave me such a tender impression  
 of his love in my heart, that it never entirely left me; in  
 the year 1754 the Economy being broke up I with my  
 Sister returned to our Fathers house, which we did not at all  
 like being tenderly attach'd to the Children and B<sup>on</sup> & so  
 in my 12<sup>th</sup> year my Sister by order of our Parents went  
 to live at Leeds which cost me no little sorrow having  
 before now never been parted, but soon recovering my spirits  
 I thought to divert my self with what the world calls  
 pleasure and so to spend my time; I soon lost all former  
 impressions I had had of our Saviours love to me and  
 grew fond of the world with all its allurements, in  
 which I was quite alive hardening myself against all  
 convictions and resolved never to go to hear B<sup>on</sup> any  
 more for fear that what I heard might make an im-  
 pression on me; which my dear Father perceiving dis-  
 tress'd turn accordingly and concerning which he spoke  
 to me with many tears and great emotion of heart I well  
 remember when he w<sup>d</sup> to return from seeing my sister at  
 Leeds how much affected he frequently was and upon my  
 once asking him the reason; he answered, d<sup>d</sup> Child, the  
 great disturbance of my mind is occasion'd by finding



you and your Sister are so much of the same <sup>sense</sup> sentiment and I fear you'll both be misled by following your own inclinations instead of the Lord Jesus Christ; but as yet I was so hardened that all this made but little impression on me soon after hearing my Father say that he must go to York which happened just before Hudson died it pleased me much thinking then I could take my followers without any restraint I accordingly made it out with my companions how we would spend our time in all kinds of diversions but the Sunday following being dawned in on winter (I know not how) to go to Tubach where W.<sup>d</sup> Lathrop Preached and began with singing the Verse, here is an Envoy on a Shell, some better Sinners look your fill, &c. I was so affected and overcome with such a powerfull feeling that I resolved immediately to drop all former resolutions and acquaintances and live to our Saviour alone, but so weak were my best efforts that I no sooner had got among my companions but I gave against all convictions, and entered into my former wicked course with them, with if possible much more greediness than before and now tide time being come and my Father being gone: all things answered my wish we accordingly set out together in order to gratify our inclinations but we had not gone far before it was to me as if I heard a Voice say remember thy Soul which so struck me together with all my proceedings that I stood quite still and could not go one step further. Oh how much did my present situation fright me I thought Hell must be my portion eternally for mercy I durst not call for thinking my sins were too great and I did verily believe I should die with anguish of soul, at all which my companions were so offended that they reported that I was

I was out of my mind and I really believe they thought me so, but this was nothing to me, I went home and left them as soon as I could, what I now had heard in the Preaching the preceding Sunday made such an impression on me that I resolved from that Day to be our Saviours at all events, it was now to me as if my eyes were opened, I saw myself the worst of creatures and prayed incessantly to our Saviour to have mercy on me and help me; all my desires were now entirely changed, I sought after nothing, but our Saviour and the fellowship with his S. People, and my S. Father returning home, I took the first opportunity to acquaint him with my very great and important desire, namely to live with the Sisters, and that I should be no more happy in my present situation, which so joyed and affected him, that he shed many tears with me, thanking our Saviour for this blessed change, he accordingly went to Tubach the next day, and interceded in my behalf that I might come and live with the Sisters, fearing, if it should be delayed I might lose the impression, I accordingly obtained leave, and went in a fortnight after May 2<sup>nd</sup> 68 to live in this blessed House where I have been ever since, and where amidst manifold imperfections I am inclined to thank and praise our Saviour whenever I think on it. May 24<sup>th</sup> 1768 I was received into the Single Sisters Choir which was the first I had enjoyed; and on which day I was so happy that I could do little but weep, lamenting my past life and thinking I could never enjoy the present sufficiently in this pleasant and comfortable manner I remained his years expecting it would always be so with me but entering into reasoning with myself



That this imposition and came into darkness and confusion  
not being able to comprehend how it was that I should be thus  
with me. I gradually lost all confidence in me & in others  
and believed I never should be happy any more and grew quite  
dejected, in this way I remained a year and half till near  
the end of the year 1764. I had some friends who were of great assistance  
to me, but to whom I never got confidence to disclose in a  
simple manner the situation of my heart, whereby I was  
helped to find my road again to our Saviour and an experience  
I was helped him to be in reality my friend both now and  
then. In March following 1765 I was a spectator for the first  
time at the Holy Communion and enjoyed for the first time  
and enjoyed so much for my poor Soul that I thought  
it was impossible for me to be kept much longer from the  
participation thereof, but little expected that I should have  
the great grace conferred upon me the next month to enjoy  
the same with the Congregation. O how was I surprised at receiving  
myself and enjoyed at the wonderful kindness and great  
consideration of the Lord to me, his poor one, I cannot help  
shedding tears of love and gratitude whenever I think of it  
I now thought I had got all I wanted and was quite happy  
in my Saviour. Wishing all was well with me, but  
also here was a visitation about the very next Communion,  
my eyes were opened to my natural depravity in such  
a manner as I had never before experienced. I now  
felt in reality what human nature is, and was much  
frightened at it. I found myself united with the congregation  
at the Holy Communion but did not know whether I  
should partake of it. I prayed most sincerely to our Saviour  
to help me in this wretched situation and he certainly

did so far as to compose my mind that I should partake  
of the Communion to the real benefit of my Soul, but  
still I found myself afterwards not set at liberty from  
this terrible but should not communicate it to my dear  
neighbour I thought by <sup>that</sup> to another station where I  
could give me good advice, I might be helped  
I wanted something of my present distress to one but finding  
that she was unacquainted in it I sought it with the intention  
of keeping it to myself in that way I went on for some time  
often times much perplexed and not knowing what would be the  
consequence, sometimes praying to our Saviour very earnestly  
to help me and at other times feeling a strong inclination  
to cherish what I felt I was backward in speaking frankly  
with my Saviour believing me one to have myself  
remembered as bad, but one day being at my heart, the Saviour  
that kept it came upon the communication of feeling one only  
as one really is by nature, I therefore wanted to achieve  
it was possible that at the most important opportunity  
one could feel themselves most depressed to which she said  
it was full of fullness in our Saviour to such a Saviour  
as one ought to be too much dejected at it for he thereby  
means to bless us and advised me to look to him with all  
that might oppress me as a child does to his parents and  
I should be helped in all cases, and this comforted me so that I  
was resolved to throw my burden under his feet and there  
I found release from all my misery my Saviour again  
owned me his poor one in a particular manner forgiving  
me my manifold sins, and let me feel his sweet peace  
which I now could enjoy without any intermissions.  
In the year 1765 it pleased our Saviour to take to him  
self



My d<sup>r</sup> Father in whom I had a real friend, this was a new trial to me concerning which I spoke freely with my Labourers and she telling me, if I would but close close to our Saviour and make him my father and friend I should be helped thro' all these instances might have ever such a precarious appearance, upon this I was comforted again with my best friend to keep me in his hand and to preserve me as his blood bought property as long as I should remain in this vale of tears, and he richly comforted me. the grace I have to live in such a blessed song was again renewed to me, where the opportunities in the same, and particularly those of my Choir, has been of great service to me I also had the favour to serve in my small degree in my Choir and can truly say it was a great pleasure to me to serve my d<sup>r</sup> Sisters in what I possibly could for our Saviours sake and have found cause to crave forgiveness from my best friend for not being more resigned and satisfied that I was not able to do more in this way. in the year 1782 My d<sup>r</sup> Mother came to live in the Widows Choir House here which was another remarkable occurrence in my life which I cannot easily pass over, because it so much redounds to the Honour of my d<sup>r</sup> Saviour, my dear Mother as is well known did not belong to the song<sup>st</sup> fellows, but he who knows best, how to bring things into order and at the right time or incline her heart that she beg'd for this grace, which upon my hearing did as strike me that I could scarce believe I heard aright, I immediately made her request known which was granted her, and there she has been ever since with her whole heart, and I have great reason to thank our Saviour for this, still praying that all my B<sup>r</sup> and S<sup>r</sup> may be brought

brought to the knowledge of him and his love tho' late in this their day, how shall I ever find thanks him even in eternity sufficiently for such great love so repeatedly experienced by me, I in brief sum up the whole with three lines, be for all this Husband of Souls here and in Heaven adored. Or. So for her own account, and we can all, that she through the grace of our Saviour prize'd her call to the song<sup>st</sup> very highly and more so as she had such manifest proofs of his faithfulness towards her and enjoy'd the privileges of it as a poor sinner thinking herself unworthy of it she has been used among us as an Overseer in a Room, which office she perform'd with great faithfulness and willingness, and was much beloved by her Sisters, some years ago she got a strong spitting of blood, since which time she has been very weakly, but being naturally of a very lively turn she remained active as long as she was able, December the 15<sup>th</sup> last year being the anniversary of our moving into our present Choirhouse, all the opportunities on that day was particularly blessed to her, and feeling herself already very poorly, secretly thought maybe our Saviour will soon take me to himself, not many days after she was violently taken with her old disorder, and was obliged to move into the Sick Room, and this being so often repeated that notwithstanding all possible means being used it was soon so be perceived that this would prove the occasion of her dissolution therefore she brought her outward matters into order and said now I have nothing more to do but to beg our d<sup>r</sup> Saviour to give me patience to bear what he



pleases to lay in me, for we understand one another and  
I go to him as a poor Sinner whom he has redeemed with his  
most precious Blood; She was sundry times visited by her  
d<sup>r</sup>. Mother and B<sup>r</sup>. and Sisters whom she recommended  
to our d<sup>r</sup>. Saviour telling them how happy it would be for  
each when they once go out of this World. to know him; and  
how she rejoiced to go over into his Arms on the 23 she enjoys  
once more in great weakness the Holy Communion for which  
she was very thankfull, and only wished in this feeling to go  
and kiss and only greet the Prints in hands and Feet.  
which favour was granted the same Evening with the  
blessing of her Choir and the Congregation.