

The Course of Life of the Married Sist^r

Grace Stansfield

[who went home May
23^d 1770]

She gave the following account of herself

I was born March 17. 1727 at New-Fosse in
 the Parish of Falingae; & was brought up in the
 Originality of the Church of England. As a Girl I heard B^r Spangier
 -very sometimes at New-Fosse, but my Father
 being prejudiced against the Brethren warned
 me against them, and as I grew older I became
 soaverse & bitter against them that afterwards
 when I had lived 17 years in Ludsey and was
 married to my Husband Jⁿ^s Stansfield who
 had been among the Brethren, I insisted on it
 that he should not go to Fullneck, for I believed
 them to be Papists and was so bitter against
 them that I could have drowned them in the
 Sea with much Eagerness. As to myself I en-
 tirely depended on Religious Duties instead
 of our Sav^r's Merits & Blood shed for Sinners.
 I often reason'd with my Husband against what
 he disowned with me of the atoning Blood of
 Jesus Christ shed for undone Sinners. but this my
 Husband's Talk many Times confounded me, &
 sometimes brought me into Tears. A while after
 I bore a Son which our Saviour soon took home
 to Himself, This brought me into Concern about
 my Soul, and I went on Easter Sunday to Full-
 neck and heard B^r Latrobe preach, my Heart
 broke

broke and vented itself in many Tears the whole
Time of the Preaching, while my Saviours
Blood fell so upon my Heart on this important
Day as I can never express. I could not be satis-
fied till I went to speak with B.^r LaTrobe
but when I came to him, my Heart was so
melted with a Feeling of my Saviours Near-
ness that I could scarce speak a Word for Tears.
This made me reflect on what I had thought
& spoken against the Brethren a foretime,
and this makes me still blush and stand a-
shamed at His thro' bod's Feet on account of
all my sinfull Thoughts & Words against
his dear People and I could not then be
satisfied till I went to Sis.^r Charlesworth
and declared my whole Heart, and it proved
a Blessing to me. When my Husband's Sis-
ter lay sick in the Choir House, I frequent-
ly visited her & so got acquainted with some
of the single Sisters, and was astonished to
see their Love to each other, & some of them
shewed Love to me so that I could not forbear
loving them. Some time after 2 Single Sisters
came to visit me and received them with
much Joy and our Discourse together caused
my Eyes to run over with Tears and Love shame
to think that our Sav.^r should send them to
visit such a poor sinfull Worm as me. In

In August 1767 I was recieved into the Society
which provid a real Blessing to my Heart. I
found I was a poor sinfull Wretch who had No-
thing to rely on but his dear Blood and when
B.^r & Sis.^r Greening visited me twas a real
Delight to me to speak of our Saviour with
them. In Febr. 1769 Our Sav.^r gave me a little
Girl. I thought then I should go soon home
but I grew better and my Sav.^r still led me his poor
Blood-bought Child, and my Desire was to be an obe-
dient Child and to be made conformable to his Death
In October I became so sickly that I perceived I should
go into my Sav.^r's Arms. So far her own account
She was beloved by her Neighbours as a quiet & friend-
or derly Person and they shew'd her much kind-
ness in her long Sickness. Soon after her grow-
ing worse in October she testified to her Brother
in Law and to others her Thought and Desire
of going into her Sav.^r's arms, expressing thereby
her Gratitude ^{Love} towards her Redeemer with Tears
of Abasement. amidst her Weakness & Poverty
in outward Matters, she often said to her Husband
We two poor vile Sinners have it much better
than our dear Sav.^r had it in this World. He
had not where to lay his Head. Altho she lived
in agreeable Harmony with her Husband yet
her Desire was as she often said to go home to her
eternal Husband where would be Nothing but
Joy Praise & singing Hallelujah to the Lamb
that

that was slain. According to her earnest
Longing our Sav^r granted her to be received
into the Congregation in her Sick Room; ^{on Febr. 16th} and she
declared afterwards that she had never before
experienced such a Day of Grace, and testified
her Joy over our dear Saviour and his Blood
to the Single Sist^{rs} and others who visited her,
that He was very gracious & faithful to her, that
she felt him often near. She was often heard to
say "my dearest Sav^r come soon and make no
"long Tarrying! how happy shall I be when I
"sit at thy Feet! Oh! I shall be happy in kissing
"thy dear Wounds! She uttered an ardent Longing
to enjoy the Holy Communion, and this was also
granted to her & she enjoyed it twice during
her Sickness with a longing and thankful
Heart. Once, when she had been conversing with
her Husband about our Sav^r coming to fetch her,
she said: O Dearest Sav^r! do thou come & see what is
between Thee & me, and do Thou wash me in thy own Blood
from all what is disagreeable to thy Heart! She was
for the most part still; yet sometimes said to her Sist^{rs}
ah! when will my Sav^r come for me! and towards the last
she said with much Joy: Ah! now I am washing up my
last, I shall soon kiss his Hands & Feet. In this happy
Expectation her redeemed & reconciled Soul went to
Him whom she loved on May 23 at Night in the 44th
Year of her Age while her Husband sung for her.
Thy Broken Eyes appear in hers, & Pale Lips kiss
her on the Heart, with a very good Feeling of our
dear Lords gracious Nearness.