

Memorie of the late happily departed Sister
Sister Clarke who on the 2^yth of May 1791
at Antwerp entered into the joy of her Lord
In the 46th year of her age.

She has left the following account concerning
her Pilgrimage here below.

I think my dear Brethren & Sisters will
like to hear something of my Course through
this time which I will gladly relate to the
honour of my dearest Saviour. I was Born at
Horton in Lincolnshire, ^{July 17th 1745} my Parents died when
I was very young, was therefore left an Orphan
to Providence, or to my dear Creator & Saviour
for whom I was born & destined eternally.

To tell my dear Brethren & Sisters of the
goodness, the mercy & kindness, the love & faithfulness
of my dear Lord & Saviour to me a poor Child,
my weak words fall very short to express the
praise that is due to him, from me, for his mercies
have been without end, Thanks, thank and thanks
be to the Lamb forever & ever. I will now relate
some of the particulars of the tender dealings of
my gracious & most faithful Lord. The first
impression of grace I remember, was when I was
about four years old. When one day kneeling by
a chair with a book in my hand, in which was these
words, Seek and ye shall find, knock & it shall

shall be offered unto You, I felt something
particular at the time, I had a very quick under-
standing for my years, and a very forcible feeling
of what was right, and wrong, I wanted to be a good
child that I might go to Heaven, on that account
I was much pained, which would have been more
hurtfull to me, but the dear Holy Spirit who had
begun his work in my heart, showed me continually my
wicked and unprofitable nature, which kept me low &
conscious that I did not deserve that promise, which
was a grace to me at that time, as it checked my
satanick pride, which I felt very forcible. Yet
from many circumstances I thought God must
love me, but how it was I could not tell, I knew
I was a sinner. In my 11th Year I was very thought-
full and distressed, felt guilt with the impression
that I did not love God, nor could I praise him,
which one day a little bird was made use of to
show me that I could not praise my Creator even
as a bird can, I had also strange ideas about
him, what kind of a form he had, and was much
perplexed about it, at this time I had a dream where
in I thought God Almighty was in a parlour in
the house where I was, and that he was a Man of
which I was very glad, & thought then one could be
familiar with him. I did not understand the
gracious leading of my dear Saviour, I continued
extremely

extremely distressed I thought I committed sin
every moment by the strange thoughts I had, &
they was of such a nature, I could not tell them
to any body, nor would they have understood me,
but I was indeed with trying to help myself,
a thought came in my mind, as I can not help
these thoughts God Almighty has nothing
against me. In that moment my Merciful
and compassionate Saviour drew near with his
love and gave me peace, it was as if he said to
me, I have nothing against thee, I was amazed
but did not know how to account for it, to be
loved by God in such a manner, from that time
when these thoughts came again, I could believe
he had nothing against me for it, but not under-
standing the right poor sinners path, I came into
an extreme wickedness course, striving with
all my might to be good, by other means than
Jesus blood, I fasted & prayed wanting to be as
good as the Primitive Christians, but liking any
one to be better than myself, here my satanick
pride showed itself to a great degree, All how
unwilling, was I to be saved by grace I went on
for some time in manner, My Aunt dying who
brought me up, I became a second time an Orphan
where she treated me as if she had known my
disposition, All the wonders of my dear Saviours
love which I did not then understand, through
His

23. Mar. 1791
This kind providence in my 19th Year I went
to London into Lady Scarborough's Family,
who had sent for me to assist on her little Niece
and my dear Saviour put it into her heart from the first
moment to be remarkable kind to me, and the whole
family who I a great regard & respect for my religion
turn of mind, which they found was sincere.
(Not on account of outward gifts or qualifications)
but the dear Holy Ghost in whose school I then
was gave me a constant sense of my depraved
nature in all its shapes, and finding I fell far
short of what I thought I should be, this kept
me low and in some sense humble and kept the
ballance against that hurtfull prais which is
often given. I served also in several other families
namely Lord Curzon, Lady Charlott Erskine, &
the Duke of Devonshire, my dear Saviour
and most faithful Shepherd helped me through
with all my imperfections so wonderfully
that if I may humbly say so, I found favour
with God, & man, but I had no body else I thought
what was preparing for me. In my 20th Year I
returned to Lady Scarborough who always treated
me with the greatest kindness. At this time I fell
again into well working fasts & prayed much, till I
was quite wearied finding it did me no good. Once in
the Year 19 while at prayer I felt something very
blessed it was quick like the shooting of a star

but it seemed to me all that was good, it was
Light Peace, Joy, all happiness in one moment
I thought it was the Holy Spirit, & I tried to
feel more of it. Soon after I received a letter
concerning the preaching of the Methodists which
I had never heard of. I was very much beggled to
the Church & thought it a shame to go any where else.
I thought however I would inquire about them, what
kind of people they were, it happened at this time a
Methodist came in my way and by his conversation
I was convinced of what I wanted, the knowledge of the
atonement of our Saviour for my sins, then all his
gracious leading was brought to my mind, so that I
knew it was a truth from God, the person lent me
a ~~small~~ book of sermons of Mr. W. Pittfields.
The more I read the more it was opened to me that
I wanted a Saviour, now my mind took a turn, and
I found some rest from my ^{former} labours, and saw that it
was Christ's righteousness that I wanted, I entered
with my whole mind into the matter, got all the
books I could of that kind & amongst the rest I got
the Methodists little Hymn book which put me
exceedingly well especially one verse, viz. If I
glance in my own breast - feel of a Christian less -
Then on the truth of it let me rest - That such a
Life there is. At length my good Lady found I had
got Methodist books, but did not think I was so deep
in the matter, for she had a better opinion of me
then that I would follow such people, but one time
being

being with her at church. She caught me reading a
letter which she took from me, wherein she found I
had been once at the Tabernacle. She was much
concern'd & took the greatest pain possible to dis-
-suade me from it, but I was Divinely convinced of
the truth of the Gospel, my Lady forbid me to go
to the Tabernacle, I told her I said I could not with-
out letting her Ladyship know. I thought I could do
with books & stay at home. At this time the family
went into the country, where was a good friend a
Minister who took great pains to prevent my
going too deep in my present Solace, he brought me
many books, but to no purpose my heart was afraid
of the truth, We returned to London, and I grew very
uneasy, found I could not be satisfied without
going to hear the preaching, I therefore desired
leave, which was not granted. My good Lady was
now very much distressed about me. She wanted
to help me, & out of love & kindness she did her
best what she could to persuade me. She wanted
me again to be advis'd by some Ministers.
I chose the Bishop of Oxford (then) for that
purpose, I was so clear in my matter I said no
-thing, my B^{ish} went with me to the Bishop and
accus'd me of leaving the Church, I told him
it was because they did not preach our Saviours
Sufferings, & I was fully assur'd nothing else
could

could satisfy me. This he approv'd of, as to good works
I said, When the tree is good, the fruit will be good.
he was very tender with me finding I was sincere.
If it was possible I was more confirm'd in my point
then before. My dear Lady was much disappointed,
but I could not help it, here she cry'd, she had
done all she could. But my matter remained to leave
her, or have leave to go to the preachings, at last
I could do no longer. Therefore went to hear the
preaching. I was wanted before I came home again.
My Lady ask'd me where I had been. I told her, she
said I had gone without leave, I said because her
Ladyship could not have given me leave. If I had
ask'd upon this she sent me out of the room
to see me no more. She was afraid to keep me on
account of the Children & Servants, lest I should
bring them into my way of thinking. & When I went
with her to court it was a shame at that time to be
a Methodist. I but my dear Saviour had prepared
my way for me, I went to bed as composed as if
nothing had happen'd. In the morning I rose with
great cheerfulness, like a Bird releas'd from a
cage, and went to the Tabernacle at Coleshill from
Cavendish Square, which was a wonder of God for I
had nothing, nor any prospect how I should get my
bread, had very little money, many hard things was
set before me, and in myself nothing to depend on, nor
had I any acquaintance here. Our dear Saviours
words

words became literally true. I seek for the
Kingdom of God & its Righteousness, and all things
shall be added unto you. I was like a child
knocked out of doors (as again in Babylon) & but
my ever faithful Lord & Life & Eye was ever
care for me in every respect. My Lady gave me
proof more of her kindness to me, finding I had
no acquaintance, sent me word that I should lodge
there till I could find a home. The servants was
amazed at me, because I was otherwise no person
of courage. But they did not know that I had found
the Pearl of great price. I stayed with my Brother
in the day time till the preaching time at the
Tabernacle, my Brother was very shy to me, he was
sorry for my leaving such a good place. He looked
into my books, made a good observation, & said all
professions make the Scriptures there rule, but
if this inward feeling can be true it must come from
God. It pleased me to hear him say so much.
I enquired of him for the Worthens Chapel, that I
might find the people to whom my little *Styma* Book
belong'd. This was in Feb^r 1746. He directed me
but when I came to *Hutter Lane* there was no preaching,
I enquired at the Chapel House, *P^r W. M. M.* kindly
ask'd me to come in, showed me the Chapel, and what
she told me at that time of our *Saviour* dwelling
amongst his People, made such an impression on

me that I never shall forget. It tallied with my own
experience, I enquired of the *Countess of Lincolnton*
did not want a servant, but heard she was not in England.
I went to speak with *M^r Whitfield* to advise with
him, and found him at *St John Syme's*, I told them my
case just as it was, *P^r Syme* according to her kind way
in such cases took me into her house, where I left my
good Lady & all my old Friends, with great full
thanks for all their kindness, & I heartily pray that
my dear Lady may not lose her reward. I could do no
other but follow my gracious Lord and Saviour, *P^r &*
P^r Syme showed me great kindness, *M^r Whitfield* &
his Wife was also very kind to me, but *M^r Whitfield*
going to *George* in about six weeks, this connection
was ended. *P^r & P^r Syme* being attached to the *Styma*
I often went with them to *Hutter Lane*, I had received
many blessings by going to the *Tabernacle*, at this
time *P^r & P^r Syme* moved from which time I left off
going to the *Taber*. Now my good Lord led me step
by step as it pleased him both inwardly & outwardly
in a most gracious manner, which brings the *Styma*
to my mind. With patience immense - And love so
intense - He hath led me on - I'm left in amazement
When thinking thereon. Now being come to my proper
home, the dear *Lord* & here I have enjoyed more blessings
than I am able to express, they have been so many, and so
great, and my call to the dear *Lord*, so clear and brightly
to me that I can say, next to our *Saviour*, the *Lord* is the

dearest thing to me, I am a sinner to whom belongs
nothing but shame & confusion of face, but it has
pleased him to open to me the treasure of his love
& great Salvation, which has been sealed to me by
his Spirit, by his Word, by his long as an eternal truth.
For once was my Maker that I might know it as a truth.
For myself, was truly convinced of unbelief, and my
enmity against our Saviour when this came to the
highest pitch, I thought if there was a mother in
I would have him, I felt condemned for the thought,
and in that moment I was overpowered with the
love and peace of my dear Saviour, and as if he
visited me for all this I love thee, the feeling
and impression of his heart, so, how I lie down in
the dust before my gracious Lord, with this
sensation, the poor sinners happy feeling, the holy
shame, I put my self righteousness, still
troubled me in various shapes, but in that feeling
the following verse was sealed to me as the greatest
truth, O precious precious blood - the only Holiness
that's good - still drop & flow & cover me - I
curved sinner without thee, the Scripture, the
preachings the Synns, where I spent with such
truth & life, which I can't describe,
I left W^m & S^m Synns with great full thanks for
all their care, and went to live with M^r Blamatt
at Black Heath to take care of S^m & W^m Holland
her Parents being gone to Germany, here I experienced
something

something particular, in the first place to my pleasure
I was shown much love and respect from this dear
family, but what relates particularly to the heart
was as I have said the preachings had been so blessed
to me, being now all at once taken from all meetings,
which I felt much store by, it was amazing to me
that I now enjoy'd such a Sabbath stillness & a
Sabbath of peace for that time, that I wanted
nothing, but was indeed as a child at the breast.
I was not yet in the longⁿ tho' I had desired it some
time. W^m & S^m Holland now coming from Germany
I went with their Daughter to live with them.
I now thought much about being received into the
longⁿ, but I had still to wait some time, which
was very wholesome for me, I was once much comforted
by these words, Jesus thy affairs will think on,
no thy ever loving Pleas. At length the hour which
certainly at the right moment, the Divine impression
to me was, I am now in my Father's House, this was
May 18th 1747, and the 2 of Sept^r following I had
the unspeakable grace to be a partaker of my dear
Saviours body & blood in the Holy Sacrament.
In this period, all how good & blessed was the doctrine
& all the preaching to my poor heart beyond all expres-
sion, I had the grace to feel that in myself I was
a poor creature truly convinced as one would, had a
solid feeling what sin is in all its various shapes
I am sensible that I have given the dear Holy Ghost
much trouble to

to keep me low as a sinner, my dear B^r is
will understand what that sensation is a solid
feeling that is sin but not to keep his heart
In this Year I went to live at a Mill-end with the
Children, here I had new appearances of my dear Saviour
Love and grace especially relating to my Child. I
was drawn to read the Canticles & those delights
of our Saviour's love to his Church was spread to
me with such truth & reality as I can't express.
The following verse was much impressed on my mind
at this time, O then the fairest of branchings—
Thy beauty strikes both heart & mind— I want
nothing is so fair in thee— & so thy sweet form
upon the Cross and on this his love & grace say
Nothing has so struck me. So when God's
Spirit took me, to Golgotha, O God be praised.
This was a period in the long of some extravagance
I but can say for myself I am truly convinced
by inward experience that there was a glory
from the Lord, indeed too great for earthly minds
long to bear, but I expected to see it again in
perfection without a veil between, and with
the whole sinners train surround that family
where I shall dwell eternally, at this time
that verse was realisted to my heart, To be
innum'ed I know well, To have the heart quite
overflowing— On him alone to be so glorious
Expressions only he here said. About this

the time I also had a new light for my own heart
concerning the Virgin station, and found that only
by partaking of the Nature of the only Virgin born
we can deserve that Character, this was made
very clear to me, This gift of my creation, quite
I will make me dissatisfied. In this grace, the
knowledge of myself in this particular I adore &
thank my dear Lord & his Spirit for teaching me
the way to turn to his precious blood, which alone
can change our hearts and make all good. I found
it an attitude against all those sins that stick
so close to our nature.

In the Year 1751 I was sent to care for the Single
in Cockbrook, and in Sep^r 1754 I received a call
to go to Dysterton for the same purpose, and arrived
there on the Angels Festival, this journey I shall
never forget, it was very much blessed to me through
the blessing of my gracious Lord, and the impression
I had of the aid of his dear Angels, July 14th 1754
I returned again to Cockbrook, and Dec^r 11th 1754
I arrived in London where I hope to finish my poor
& insignificant labour, In all these places my
best Friend has help'd me through in & holiness
poverty both internally & externally, and I can
say with the Disciples, I have lacked nothing, have
been rich in the midst of poverty, here I desire
to give my due thanks to my dear Brethren &

and ²^d and particularly those of my own Choir
for their love kindness & patience towards me.
But ah! how much is due to my dearest & best
Friend & lover, for his collection of grace & for the
knowledge of his dear Wounded Person, his precious
blood, and all that he is to me, I conclude with
the 30th verse of the 13^d Chapter of Ecclesiastius
which will express my mind, When You glorify the
Lord, exalt him as much as You can; for even yet
will he far exceed; and when You exalt him, put forth
all Your strength, and be not weary; for You can
never go far enough. Thus far our late Sisters account.
Having served the Single Sisters Choir with great
faithfulness, and blessing in several Cong^{regations} (had the
confidence of her Sisters who always found in her a kind
and sympathizing friend, ready to share with them in
joy & sorrow, the prosperity of every one layings very
near her heart) till her bodily infirmities won no
longer permit her to do what her heart & mind was
still willing for. June 20th 1782 She arrived here
in Dulwich to enjoy a Sabbath. During the 8 Hours
of her abode here, She often expressed her gratitude
to our Saviour for his kind leadings of her through
this vale of tears, and that She had the favour to
enjoy her time of rest in this dear long. She had the
love and respect of every one that knew her, we can with
truth give her this testimony, that She approved
herself

herself among us as a real child of peace.
At our last Choir Festival She was present at all
the meetings, which was the last time she was able
to go out after which she lost her strength very
perceptibly, but her longing to be at home with her
dearest Lord increased daily, two days before her
happy departure. She said to a S^r that was with
her with great emotion of heart, I go to our Saviour
no the greatest sinner, not one so great as I am,
but this I can tell You He has pardoned all my
transgressions & clothed me in the robe of his
righteousness, on the 2nd of May, at 11 o'clock
in the forenoon She desired to be help^d up, I see
our Saviour he is here, now he will soon fetch me,
after which she lay motionless till 7 o'clock
in the Evening, when the long night for moment
came, that She departed softly & happily into the
joy of her Lord with the blessing of her Choir
in the 76th Year of her Age.