

Fw/3/64

Our S.^r Martha Clayton was born March 10th 1716 at Holbeck near Leeds. Her Parents who were Dissenters brought her up in a religious way, & taught her when she was a child the Catechism & several, & she made such a proficiency, that a Bible was given her as a Premium & to encourage her to learn ^{still} more. She was put apprentice to a Man in Wotkey & her behaviour was such that she gained the Love & Esteem of her Master & all who lived in the House wth her. here she became uneasy & concerned abt her Salvation, & when Mr. Ingham began to preach in these parts, she went to hear him, but as her concern was not deep it wore of by degrees. - after this she married the present W.^r Joseph Clayton wth whom she has had 7 Children 3 Boys & 4 Girls. ^{one of whom} went before the Mother into Healths happy bounds. 1 Son ~~is~~ a g^t Boy in the Choir House & Daughter, & 4 Girls ^{are} in the Choir Houses in Lambos Hill, & 3 Girls & 1 Boy are at home wth their Father.

Sometime after their Marriage her husband was awakened, but she then opposed his Course & was against his going to hear Mr. Ingham, but when the B.^m came, her emotions of Grace were revived, & she went to hear them, & was soon recd in the Society at Holbeck, since which time she has had an

even & happy Track.

As her Heart was attached to the Wounds of Jesus
& to his People as a poor Sinner, she longed to be
recd into the Congⁿ wth Grace was granted to
her & her Husband Dec^r 31st O. S. 1750. which
bowed her wth gratitude on acct of electing
Grace before her gracious Lord & Sav^r: & her
thankfulness was yet raised higher on May
9th 1751, when she enjoyed the Corpse & Blood
of Jesus wth the Congⁿ sacramentally. this
proved to her such an ineffable Blessing that
she c^d never forget, & from this time she
remained in a tender & sinnerlike connec-
tion & converse wth her wounded Friend.
she & her Husband were Serv^{ts} in the Society
of Holbeck, & were beloved by their B^m & S^{rs}.
she however often complained that she did
not love her d^r & lov^d Lord sufficiently &
mourned on this acct. — in the Y^r 1759 when
the new Regulation of the Bands were made
in the married Choir, she & her Husband
were the Band Serv^{ts} of the Communicant
B^m & S^{rs} in Holbeck, in which capacity
she shewed such faithfulness & Love that
she gained still more of the Love & esteem
of all her S^{rs}; & even her worldly Neighbour
~~showed~~ the greatest respect & regard for her.
tho' she had always a low & sinnerlike

opinion of herself.

On For some time past she has been very weakly in her Tabernacle, but on Easter Sunday, she was seized with a most violent Disorder in her Bowels, like that which is called the Shivers, her Disorder was attended with every painful & afflicted circumstance & as it continued 14 Days, ^{at} length caused an opening thro' her Intestines & her Side it ~~was very~~ few could stay many minutes in the Room ~~for~~ ^{for} the Smell. amidst all this she was resigned, cheerful, patiently, yet longingly waiting for her Dissolution B^r & J. Watton & other B^r & J. who visited her, felt their Hearts happy & well, while she spoke with them of her going to her dearest Sav^r. - she was visited by her worldly Neighbours to whom she delivered such a Testimony of our Sav^r's Grace & the power of his Blood & Death, of the connection with a sinner can have with him, & her full Assurance of soon seeing him face to face that it drew many Tears from their Eyes. she once asked the Doct^r if there was any likelihood of her Recovery, he answered nothing is impossible to our Sav^r. but humanly

speaking there is no probability. This rejoiced
her, believing herself that the time was near
at hand that she should see ^{her beloved & gracious} ~~the blessed~~
^{Lord} ~~of Jesus~~ face to face. she constantly recom-
mended ^{it to} her Family & the B^m & S^m around
her to adhere to our Sav^r as their best Friend
& extolled his suffering Beauties. her D^t
revived in the midst of cruciating pain
when passion Verses were sung at her
Bed Side, & those with her felt an unspeak-
able Nearness of our d^r Sav^r. - the S^m who
waited upon her, tho' it was to nature a
hard task, found a rich compensation
thro' the blessing w^{ch} they enjoyed for their
toil. she frequently comforted her Husband
entreated him not to be too much troubled.
assured him that our Sav^r wd take good care
of him & the Child^m. - she took a tender & moving
Leave of her Child^m & after waitd. wth
tender resignation, she recd the long
wished for & last kiss w^{ch} unloosed the
Tie between her ^{happy} Soul & Body for a Season
& she flew on April the 25th abt 10 o'clock
in the morn into the Arms of her beloved