

Full 3/68

The Life of the single Sist^r Ann^e Mercer
Concerning ^{which} she has left the following,

I was Born at Hopton, in the Parish of Mirfield, Nov^r 24 1752, and Baptiz^d in the Church of England; My Mother being in Connection with the Cong^o, took me to the Meetings as soon as ^{I was} Capable of understanding, Where upon a certain time I got a particular lively Impression of Our Sav^r in His Bleeding Figure, Which captivated and ravished my Heart; So that nothing cou^d engage or draw my attention any more as formerly with my Bro^r and Sist^rs.

I was then about my ninth Year, and went to the Childrens School which the Sist^rs hold at Mirfield, which prov^d a real Blessing and Benefit to me; Their relation of the Choir House at Fullneck together with my ^{own} feeling at first Sight of the Choir, there thought in me a great desire to be in ^{that} ~~in that~~ Happy Situation also: But being so very young I was perswaded to settle with my Parents till I should be rec^d into the great Girls Choir. My reception into that Choir was a pleasure to me as I found new things opening to me; But by degrees I lost something thereby of my Childlike Joy in our Sav^r and began to seek my future Satisfaction from another Source, Having a great desire to see farther into the Course of things among other young People, and therefore purpos^d in my self going to service, in which my Fr^r Mother being appriz^d of happily prevented it. The Sist^rs who hitherto had visited me, as well by their Visits, as by other Opportunities sought to revive my now Languishing Desire after their Fellowship, which had the desir^d effect as I cou^d not ^{quite} withstand the Conviction of my own Heart, altho' the intire resolution was still wanting, By Occasion of a Choir Meeting at Fullneck to the Great Girls, Our Sav^r graciously drew near to my Heart and anew engaged me to give my self up to his Leading and Direction When my Desire after the Fellowship

of the List daily increase, till I obtained Leave to move to my
Gr Choir House at fullneck Thore to my great Joy I mov'd Oct^r 12, 1769

Here I found it at first somewhat Contrary to my Expectation, not
being thoroughly acquainted with the Source of all true Happiness.
But Our Sav^r soon led me thro His Holy Spirit to a deeper
Sense and feeling of my own depravity, which I would gladly have
conceal'd from my self as well as others, it being very painfull
to me to see my self Just in that light, by reason that I
did not know what a poor Sinner amidst ~~the~~ The feeling Sense
of his own wretchedness could enjoy in the allsufficient Merits of
J^hs, But in this case my Choir Labors^{ours} was of great Service to me
by means of several Conversations I had with Her concerning
my Situation as She directed me with all my Misery to leave
to our Sav^r with whom I found Comfort and Relief,.

About this time several of my Room Companions were rec'd
into the Congⁿ which I also ardently Desire, and which Our
Gr Sav^r also granted me to my great Joy and abasement Jan 30 1769
I soon perceiv'd that there was still something wanting and that
I had not yet attain'd the full enjoyment of true grace in the
Blood of J^hs * ^{which however put ~~Dr. how~~ ^{graces} ~~me~~} My reception into the List Choir May 4
the same Year prov'd also the means of a farther Display
of my own Poverty and I found Cause to weep before my Gr
Sav^r on account of many things in myself about which He
richly Comforted me, So I was oblig'd to wait for the H. Communion
Longer than I expect'd ^{yet it} ~~which~~ turned to my advantage June 16 1770
I was made partaker of my Lords Body & Blood in the Holy Communion
to my inexpressible Joy & Humiliation, this Inestimable Grace bestow'd
upon ^{me} led me upon serious Reflections and Conscious of my Shortness
in every Respect My Gr Sav^r Comforted & gave me freedom and
confidence to draw nigh unto Him, as a poor Sinner who had nothing

to rely on, But His all-sufficient Merits. Thus I went on my
Course chearfull tho' a sad one. My Dr Mother's happy Exit
in July 1770 kindled in me a longing Desire to go to our Sav^r
But I felt at the same time His aim with me was not yet
fulfilled. But that I should increase in the knowledge and
enjoyment of His Dr Person and a more childlike resignation
& confident reliance on Him in all circumstances, which proved
a blessed admonition to me.

Having observed a laxity in the lively feeling of our Sav^r
which hitherto had supported me. The late Visitation of C Henry
and B^r La Roche proved particularly blessed to my Heart, as by
his means our Sav^r led me more especially into the knowledge of
myself, to see many things wherein I was defective and had
deviated from His aim with me, I made more solidly acquainted
with my falling short in Love and attachment to His Dr Person,
which caused me many Sinner Tears; Which however proved most
blessed to me, feeling at the same time His Love and Faithfulness
towards poor me. The Consideration whereof filled my Heart with
and Thankfulness to my Dr Sav^r. I was the more put to shame
by His unmerited Favour, When at the Renewal of the Intere
Company, I had the Favour to be admitted thereto, I felt
and Gratitude in my Heart to my Dearest Lord for all His un-
merited grace & Favour bestowed upon me His poorest Child, who
bores me in the Dust before Him, nor can I find any Reason why
He should deal so graciously with me, I feel my Poverty and un-
ness, and my Wish is, That He may bring me still more to the
poor Sinners Happiness, and that He may reach His intire
aim with me.

Thus far Her own words

Our Late Sister was of a weakly Constitution inclinable to a Consumption
The Effects of which she felt several years before Her Dissolution
Which with Her Timorous disposition made Her sometimes Thoughtfull
But in Conversation with Her Sister it was always Evident that She
was attach'd to Our S^r Sav^r with a believing Confidence and reliance
on Him as a true Poor Sinner She had the grace to Love and be
belov'd By Her Sister

In the beginning of June 1793 she mov'd into the Sickroom, But was
able to keep up Her Fellowship with the Sister by frequent Visits
in the Rooms for a considerable time very agreeably as also to
go to the Meetings which were a great Refreshment to Her
and notwithstanding Her great weakness, was present at the Choir
Communion in the Hall Sept 4 which was the Last time of Her
going out she spent Her time in the Sickroom very agreeably
more especially after it was quite clear to Her that Our Saviour
would take Her at this time to Himself when she Childlike resign'd
Herself intirely to Him and was remarkably Cheerful and lively.
She bore Her Pain with Patience and Resignation, and spoke at
intervals to the Joy and Satisfaction of every one Present, How
ardently she Long'd to be with our Saviour desiring them to pray
our Saviour soon to come and take Her to Himself waiting in a
tender Longing for the Last Kiss from His Pale Lips which
he graciously granted Her Nov 12 about 6 in the Evening
When she departed Happily with the Blessing of Her Choir
in the 2d year of Her Age