

FBI 3/94

Some Account of the late married B.<sup>r</sup>.  
John Mason.

Our late dear Bo<sup>r</sup> John Mason was born at Evesham in Worcestershire May 25. 1712, and baptized June the 4<sup>th</sup> following in All-Saints Church. His father was a man of good moral character, a Dissenter, with whom he went to <sup>the</sup> dissenting Meeting-house and led a sober life; he served his apprenticeship with his Father who was a Baker. Having served out his time, he entered into an engagement with a young woman, unknown to his father and went to Worcester to marry her, but his father hearing of it and being persuaded it would be productive of unhappiness to his son he sent him a letter by a man and horse, which arrived on the very morning of the day, when he should have been married. This tender and moving letter of his father had such an effect upon his mind, that he went to the young Woman, told her the doubts of his mind & broke off the marriage in a proper manner. He found reason afterwards to be thankful that his aim had been frustrated. This engagement being broken off, he came to London, and got

a place as journeyman to the same business, and acted in that capacity with great faithfulness. In about 2 or 3 years he married the Niece of his Master, and became Master of the business in Angel Street. Being concerned about his salvation, he became very religious in his outward walk, and joined a religious society. One evening he was invited to spend an hour with a Neighbour where Mr. John Grace happening to come in, whom he looked upon from his former knowledge as a very profligate man, he thought, he & his friend would have little comfort together; but to his great surprise, Mr. Grace began to speak of the fall of Man by Adam, & the depravity of man, and the redemption by Jesus Christ, and the necessity of a living faith. He spoke with such an emotion of heart, that our late Brother began to ask himself, where <sup>he</sup> had been all his lifetime, and what he had been about? having been hitherto totally ignorant of these divine truths. He was so struck with what he heard that he staid thus in conversation till near 12 at night, and his Wife was in great anxiety, as he was not used to stay out late. The impression made on his mind by this conversation caused

caused him to have but very little sleep the whole night. - The Sunday following he went to hear Mr. Whitfield for the first time, and was more and more confirmed in what he had heard from Mr. Grace. He joined Mr. Whitfield's Society and remained in it until the disputes arose concerning sundry points of doctrine, which he found to be no food for his heart. He by means of B.<sup>m</sup> John Bennick then came to hear the B<sup>m</sup> — Here he found the food his heart wanted, & his call to the B<sup>m</sup>'s Cong<sup>n</sup> was soon clear to him. The B<sup>m</sup> perceived that his heart was attached to our Saviour, and according to his earnest request he was received into the Cong<sup>n</sup>. July 20. 1747. and admitted to the holy Communion Aug. 2. 1748. He continued steadfast in his heart, loved and was beloved, and his walk was pleasing to all around him. He also became useful, serving the cause of our Lord to the best of his ability. In the year 52 and 53, which were years of great distress and trial, when the gracious Hand of the Lord was upon the Unity, chastening whom He loved; the outward distresses and inward trials were felt particularly in London, and many who gloried in their

connection

connection with the Cong<sup>n</sup> in the days of  
seeming prosperity, now in the time of tri-  
al, turned back and walked back no more  
with us, our late dear Brother remained  
faithful to his call and tho' deeply engaged  
in the outward affairs which threatened  
the dissolution of the Cong<sup>n</sup> and distress  
to him, he remained steadfast; his confidence  
in our Lord as the Head and Elder of the  
Cong<sup>n</sup> was his comfort even in sleepless  
nights, and his faith & hope were not put  
to shame. He has often said it was a season  
of great blessing, tho' of great concern to  
him. He saw the difficulties surmounted,  
and many wonders of the Lord in the  
support of his people. Our Saviour blessed  
and prospered his business, so that he saw  
that God blessed him in the house and in  
the field, as well as in his soul.

In Feb. 1756 he became a Widower. He was great-  
ly distressed about his late Wife's salvation, as she  
had not attained that knowledge of our Saviour  
which could make her joyful at her end; but our  
Lord comforted him with a vision of the night,  
when he thought that she appeared before him

in white, which afforded him particular satisfaction. He entered again into the married state on June 5. 1757 with the single Sister Priscilla Cooke who bore Twins in March 1758. They lived but a short time, yet very happily together for on April the 6<sup>th</sup> the same year she departed happily to our Saviour. The two children also followed her in the year 1759. His situation in life requiring ~~an~~ a helpmate, he entered again into the married state with the Widow S<sup>rth</sup> Mary Thomas, at Bristol on Oct. 31. 1760. They lived happily together in the nearness of our Lord till his decease. He continued still in business for some time, but as his health was hurt by it and our Lord having granted them a competency for their support, they resolved to give up business, and to live retired. He put ~~his~~ B.<sup>r</sup> Dixon into his business, and enjoyed rest with thankfulness. Tho' freed from the cares of this life, yet he was not idle, but served the congregation and individuals as far as lay in his power to his happy departure. He was a useful Member of the Committee of this congregation - a guardian of the English children.

children's Orphanage - a member of the Society for the furtherance of the Gospel, and one of the Committee, Treasurer of the Brothers' Association for the benefit of Widows; and had an active share in the Ship sailing to and from Labrador; in all which offices he was active and faithful.

His love of his happy Sabbath never made him unwilling to serve, but his weakness of body, and the effect this had upon his mind, made him less able to encounter difficulties than <sup>in</sup> his more healthy days. He often spoke of the wonders of mercy he had ~~experienced~~ experienced from the hands of our Saviour, and which he had been a witness of in our Lord's leading of his people. His heart was always tender towards his dear crucified Lord; and when he spoke of his own poverty and defects, his eyes overflowed. In the latter part of his days, he often lamented with tears that he was not thankful enough, and said that this was one of his greatest crimes. As his body grew more feeble, and his me-

more, and the powers of his mind grew weaker, it was evident that our Lord prepared him for his consummation; and he often felt how much he was in debt to his bountiful Saviour; but he felt also the comforts of grace.

He related, that one night, being in his bed, he felt great darkness of soul, and was deeply distressed, but turning to his gracious Saviour, a most blessed light broke in upon his heart, darkness was dispelled and he was restored to joy and happiness. Indeed his walk with our Saviour was often visible in his countenance. He found much delight in attending the Meetings, and was attentive to the Apostles advice, by not neglecting the Assembly of our Lord's people. This was the case when in the hurry of business, and when he had leisure granted to him, by the providence of our Lord. Weakness & almost blindness, in the night, did not prevent his attending even in Winter and in bad weather, the Meetings. In this he was an edifying

example

examples; and he went out of the Chapel to his last Bed of sickness. So on Sunday Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> he went as usual to the Intercessors' Meeting and afterwards to the Preaching, during which he was taken ill and went home, where he took to his Bed.

His disorder was heavy, but his heart was clear, and those that visited him felt the peace of God about his Bed. At times he was absent in his Mind, but always returned to himself when any one spoke to him. It was soon visible that this sickness would be a means of his going to our Lord. The last afternoon his whole conversation was about his going home (his mind running on Angel Street) his wife mentioning to him that his home was the New Jerusalem, and that the Angels waited to convey him thither, his answer was, "That is not for you to know, and what if it is, have Him who has your soul with Blood redeemed."

He sung with an audible voice and clear

conscience

consternation, Heal me O my Soul's Physician  
an, the first four lines. And O to me  
how sweet it is - & Where thou dyd'st  
my soul to marry.

And then of his own accord - Ye bleeding  
gaping wounds, to me, how sweet ye are &c.  
and, for ever then remain engrav'd deep  
in my heart's receipt &c.

It being said to him, Your pulse beats very  
quick; but no matter if <sup>it</sup> beats to our Savio-  
ur. His answer was, "That it does."