

Memoir

of Mr. C. F. Ransford, Minister of
the Brethren's Congⁿ in Bristol,
who departed this life Oct. 26th 1832,
aged 52^{1/2} years: Written by himself.

If parentage and descent under
any circumstances be cause for glorying,
I think I have whereof to glory. Both
my Grandparents on the Paternal side
left home and kindred and property &
whatever was dear to them in the world
for conscience sake, my grandfather
being a Moravian Emigrant, and
my grandmother, Marchioness de
Monton being one of the French Refugees.
Of myself I will not glory, cannot
glory, save that by the Cross of Christ
the world has been crucified to me, and
I unto the world; That amidst my

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2 manifold infirmities, his power how scot-
ed upon me, and that my number left sin-
ning I believe, been blotted out with his
precious Blood. My Father was
born at Hornhut July 10th 1740, and at the
time of my birth was Accountant for the
Baronwick of Murby in Saxonie, which the
Brothers unity then held upon a long lease.
Here I first saw the light of this World
March 12th 1780, and shall ever be thankful
to my God and Redeemer, that born and
consecrated in the Bosom of the Brethren's
Church, I obtained a Birthright to this
honorable of God, and have been pre-
served from selling this Birthright.

My preservation from gross Sin,
and my early impressions of Divine
Grace, are to be solely ascribed under
Divine blessing to a careful education,
which preserved me from temptation,
and checked my evil propensities.

My dear Mother often told me that dur-
ing her pregnancy with me she had fer-
vently prayed that I might rather not
live than not become an heir of heaven,
and that I might become a Preacher

righteousness preferably among the Ste-
phen. My affectionate Father treated
me with a degree of severity and I stood
in awe of him, while my Mother found it
the most effectual method of controlling me
to remind me that by evil doing, I offended
that Saviour, whose love to me had prompt-
ed him to lay down his life for me. By
my lively and active disposition I fell into
many errors, and gave frequent uneasi-
ness to my Parents. In my 6th Year I
remember to have had the first undoubtful
impression of a spiritual nature, at the
Meeting on Good Friday in which the Lord's
Death is commemorated. Then the words
were read: "And he bowed the head, and gave
up the Ghost," and the congregation fell
on their knees in prayer, a power pervad-
ed my mind which I did not then under-
stand, but which times without number
has since then been brought to my recol-
lection, as a drawing of grace, and a divine
call to give my heart to him who died for
my sins.

After having acquired the rudiments
of learning in the Day School at Marby,
I was by my Parents and at my own desire
removed to the Boarding School at Klein-
welke in my 11th year. Though separated
thus early from home at the distance of
about 150 English miles, I was delighted
with the idea of the change, the number
of companions, & the opportunity of improve-
ment. The mode of living was poor, nor
was the method of instruction best calcu-
lated to improve the mind. After or while
I lost my virginity, and became homesick,
a dangerous illness seized me, when I
had been little more than a year at Klein-
welke. An abscess in the lungs reduced
me to a skeleton, deprived me of the power
of speech and brought me to the very
brink of the grave. My Father upon
receiving the information hastened to
see me, and resolved in reliance upon
God, to take me home in that unfeables state
altho' told by my medical attendants, that

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probably I should be a corpse, before I
could reach home, and that, if ever I should
recover, my speech would never be restored,
and consequently the idea of making a
preacher of me must be entirely given up.

The very thought of returning home cheered
me, and a commodious carriage with
a bed and a careful nurse being provided
the journey was accomplished in 5 days
in delightful weather, my arrival at home
taking place Sep. 26th 1784. On the third day
of the journey we passed a very uneven
and stony road the violent shaking of
which broke the abseets, and led to a co-
rious discharge of matter, with a dis-
tressing cough, which made my Father
momentarily apprehend my death, while
it proved thro divine mercy, that this very
circumstance laid the foundation to my
cure which was afterwards gradually pro-
moted by the use of Iceland moss and other
remedies under the faithful care of Dr
Libertinus. This I regard as the first

striking interposition of Providence in the renewed gift of life and in the redoubled obligation thereby imposed upon me to devote that life to him, to whose service I had been devoted at Baptism, and dedicated by many parental prayers.

After my recovery I again attended the Day School, where the opportunities for making progress in learning were scanty, until in my 12th Year I received private lessons by a Candidate for the Lutheran ministry preparatory to my entrance into the Pedagogium of the Community then established at Morby. I left to the pleasures of Gardening and husbandry, in which during my childhood I was delighted to share in the fertile soil of my native place. My mind was intent upon the acquirement of knowledge, and in that view readily sacrificed pleasure. Altho I cannot say that my mind was then truly spiritualized, yet my desire to devote my life to the Ministry in

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Yours Unity was then almost as strong
and distinct as at any subsequent period,
for am I aware of any peculiar motive,
gave the opportunity of study, wherein I
found my element, my religious views were
simple, and centred in the love of Christ &
the obligation of loving him in return. The
experience of the efficacy of this theme fa-
miliarly and affectionately presented to the
youthful mind, tho' not always productive
at the time of the desired benefit, has in
later years made it my pleasing duty, to
direct Children in the course of my Minis-
terial labours, to that Saviour, whose his-
tory in its important bearings they can
both understand and feel, while dry ar-
gument and doctrinal statement leave
their hearts cold and dead.

April 1st 1792 I entered the Pedagogium
as a Pupil, and during the 5th years of
my residence in it, visited my Parents'
house but once in the week, for two hours
on Sunday, altho' at the distance of but

after hundred Years. - Never the less
but lurking in my Breephore, I was made
rapid progress, and took much pleasure
in my studies, till the very close im-
minent occasionally produced lowmood
of spirits. In this period while still
strengthend with my youth, the devil
overcame its dominion; and while my
conversion to God was gradual and it is
impossible for me to point out the date
of its commencement, I will trace that
by the grace of God I became what by Nature
I neither was nor desired to be. The private
and confidential advice of the Labourer of
the Headmeicians in Marby will even
be held in grateful remembrance by me.
June 17th 1792 I was received into the Gras-
long^a and on Immunday Thursday in the
following Year partook the first time of
the H. communion; nor did I ever regret
having thus early been admitted to this great
which proved a powerful check to my sinfull
nature, and profitable season for self-

examination whenever it returned.

My Classical studies having been completed, I was in Octr 1797 transferred with 13 companions to the Theological Seminary at Vicksburg. The Lectures delivered in this institution were profitable to me, I took Notes of their contents, and devoted myself with a degree of assiduity to the study of Divinity. But the simplicity of my mind received a shock, Mental poison I swallowed mixed with Mental food, soon conceit and self dependence seized me, sceptical sentiments laid hold of me and I even contemplated the abandonment of the proposed career of my life, in which I was prevented by my judicious Uncle, whom I visited several times in Lower Lusatia. Amidst the waywardness of my mind and the awakening passions of my sinful heart, in which my superiors treated me with more harshness than wisdom, the desire of preaching the Gospel returned to my mind, and an acquaintance which I formed with a neighbouring

¹⁰ Lutheran Clergyman in the village of
Stendorf led to an invitation from him
that I would make a trial of preaching
in his Church, which I did when barely
19 years of age. (As this was done without the
previous permission of the Inspector of the
Seminary, I received a sharp rebuke, but
afterwards with the sanction of the U. C. C.
preached twice again in Churches before
I quitted the Seminary.)

In Feb^r. 1800, I returned to Barby,
the journey being performed in very se-
vere weather, and in my passage thro'
Leipsic I spent some time at the house
of a friend availing myself of the oppor-
tunity of attending various Lectures at
that University. Now I spent a few
Months very agreeably at the house of
my Parents, (and occupied myself in
part with copying Cong^r-Rec^t.) In July
of the same year I received a call to be
Schoolmaster at Neusulz in Silesia,
which was my first Station of Service,

and well calculated to try and humble
me. The Children of the Congⁿ committed
to my care, had been much neglected by
my predecessor; inexperience induced
me to adopt severe measures, and I was
employed in teaching the Alphabet and
first rudiments of learning. Yet I en-
joyed thro' Mercy the love and confidence
of the Parents, was supported by Bro^r
Nitschky, the Minister of the Congⁿ and
saw that my labour was not in vain
in the Lord. (I lodged in the S^rle Brus House,
My maintenance was very scanty and
I was obliged to copy accounts to supply my
need.) Here I had also pretty frequent op-
portunities of assisting the Minister in
the public proclamation of the Gospel,
wherein I took much pleasure. A strik-
ing preservation of my life during my
residence at Kursk strongly themed my
conviction that my God had still work
for me to do in this world, and moved me
to consecrate myself anew to my Preserver.

L and Anderson. May 19th was drawn by
the delirious and in the company of a
friend to Wethle in the river Salen, at the
distance of about 2 miles from the town.
The high winds did my companion han-
dled and encouraged me to follow him.

But suddenly he sank in an unexpect-
edly deep place of the river, and rose no
more. I stepped after him with a view to
rescue him; attempting to seize his arm
the water rose above my head, and I lost
all power of voluntary motion, consider-
ing my life as lost. By an inexplicable
Providence however I was raised &
found myself standing again on firm
ground, thankful for my deliverance,
but agonized on account of the loss of my
friend. Hastily and in an almost des-
tracted state of mind I procured a cof-
fice, removed the drowned body, and
adopted all practicable means to re-
suscitate it but in vain. Thus one
was taken and the other left.

At the conclusion of the Synod in 1801.
I received a call to be a Teacher in the Acad-
emy for Young Noblemen at Akhyst. Self-
denying as my station at Koenigsl. had
been, I left it with considerable regret, be-
cause I enjoyed the love and friendship of
many, and had not been left destitute of
the blessing of my God. In Akhyst from the
superior mode of instruction, as well as
the greater inconvenience in the mode of
life, my abode was pleasant; in addition
to our domestic circle I enjoyed confiden-
tial intercourse with the Clergyman of
the Parish, at whose house I spent many
evenings after the labours of the day for
profitable relaxation. Both at the Acad-
emy and Church I had frequent oppor-
tunities of testifying of the Grace of God
in Christ Jesus. As nearly as the country
about Akhyst is, the village standing in
the midst of extensive fir-forests, and con-
fined as my society there was, the removal
of the Academy to Great Hennersdorf near

"Hornblatt after I had been only half a year there proved painful to me. In Hennerschaff also I resided only half a year, being in the spring of 1803 called to England, to occupy the place of first Teacher in the newly founded Boarding School at Oliver-fields near Manchester.

What call which constituted a new Epoch in my life, and directed my whole official career, and moreover was very much contrary to my inclinations, and plans, and prospects, I could not accept, until it had been sanctioned by lot.

Paying a farewell visit to my parents, I took a painful leave of them, of many dear friends, and of my native land. At Hamburg, I embarked for Hull, and by contrary winds was detained three weeks at Cuxhaven as a lonely passenger in the ship's cabin. When at length having reached the open sea, an English privateer seized us, under the mistaken idea that the French had made themselves masters of Hamburg.

The privateer belonging to Colchester, we were
we were carried to the Harbour of Wivenhoe
4 miles from that town. Thus my arrival
in England seemed very inauspicious;
coming to a place to which I had no re-
commendation, where I could not be intro-
duced to a single individual; my situation
was peculiarly irksome. The English
language I had indeed learned to read, but
hearing it for the first time in common con-
versation I found it very difficult to un-
derstand it, nor could I readily express
myself in it. How to proceed, I knew not,
and therefore took my quarters at the Rose
and Crown Inn Wivenhoe, until I might
be favored with an answer from Mr. Wallin,
in London to whom I wrote. Sunk into mourn-
ful meditations, I wandered in the fertile
fields, admiring the beauty of the land-
scape, but feeling myself cut off from
all human endearments. Nothing cou'd
have cheered my mind, but the conviction
that here I was in obedience to a divine

to call, and that he who called me, would not
have ever forsake me. In all my future
situation and difficulties, it has been my
great support and consolation, that not by
my own choice, nor even by mere human
appointment, but according to the mode of
apportioning to office in our Church, I occupied
the places, which I did occupy, and was en-
gaged in the employments in which I was
engaged from time to time. The solitude
also in which I now felt myself, directed
my mind to the more frequent communion
with my Divine Friend and Saviour.

By the arrival of Mr. Wallin I was
relieved and with him proceeded to London,
from whence after a few days, I went to
Fairfield the place of my abomination.
It was consoling after so long an interval
to be again in a Born Long-n which on for-
tune occasions after journeys, I have often
experienced as a peculiar refreshment
amidst the various defects of our long-n
there is a flowing together of soul, between

their members, and a facility of becoming acquainted and even intimate with one another as belonging to one family, which I have nowhere met with out of our community. I reached Fairfield July 15th 1803, and was cordially received by Mrs. Willett the Domestic Manager, and Mrs. J. Hyland & T. Price the Assistant Teachers of the newly established Boarding School. My difficulties under God were greatly eased by the friendship of Mrs. H. Foster the Longⁿ-Helper there, also by Br. Clemens the Minister. The situation was sufficiently trying as may easily be conceived when it is considered that with my imperfect acquaintance with the language and manners of the country, it devolved principally on me to regulate the school, and to form as well as execute the best plans for its future success. Moreover it was incumbent upon me immediately and from thence for two years to live alone with 10 boys or 12 as the school rapidly increased.

¹⁸ Indeed the success with which the Lord
blessed us, was far beyond expectation, so
that in a year's time it became necessary
to add a story to the house, which then was
immediately filled with between 50 & 60 Board-
ers, and continued to contain that number
besides Day-Scholars, while I was em-
ployed in it. It is not in the spirit of vain
glorying when I say that my whole strength
was assiduously devoted to my Official
Duties, and that my Zeal in endeavouring
to aid the improvement of my Scholars,
was fervent and sincere. My mistakes were
numerous, and my hasty and passionate
temper in particular, led me into many
errors in word and action, not in this
situation only but in future employments
also. It is my shame that Nature was
not more decorated by and entirely mortified
by Grace, and that the meek and patient
mind of Christ was not reflected on me, as
it might have been, had I with closer Com-
munion with him by faith and in prayer,

combined more watchfulness & circumspection.
The well-meant but often ill directed fervor
with which I was apt to act at the impulse
of the moment, and the unpremeditated man-
ner with which on those occasions I was ac-
customed to express my sentiments and feelings
not unfrequently harsh, gave offence and
wounded the feelings of those whom I affec-
tionately loved, and whose welfare it was
my sincere desire to promote. So dear
plainly and uprightly was my design,
but in so doing I sometimes neglected a
kind and courteous deportment. That
less injury was occasioned thereby than
might have been expected, is to be attri-
buted to the everlasting mercy of my
Saviour, whereby the friendships of most
with whom I was connected was preser-
ved to me, and their apology for my hasty
manner was readily made, in the con-
viction of my good intention. The chas-
tening of my own mind by the Spirit of
God was often painful and severe after

my warm temper had misled me to an
inconsiderate mode of proceeding.

After those months residence in Eng-
land I began to address discourses to the chil-
dren, and on the Sunday before Christmas
preached my first sermon in the English
language at Duxfield. On Christmas day
I was favored to deliver my first public tes-
timony at Fairfield. The Lord supported &
granted me acceptance. I accustomed my-
self to take great pains in writing and
committing to memory the discourses which
from that time I was frequently called to
deliver; and altho' that degree of prepara-
tion was not continued when I obtained
more practice and fluency, yet I never re-
gretted having submitted to that labor, nor
ever without necessity addressed a long ^m-
until having premeditated the subject of
the address, being persuaded that diligent
effort in every, and more especially in Pas-
cal and ministerial employment, is an
ered duty, and that the erection of the

Holy Spirit is not only given in answer to prayer at the time when a discourse is delivered, but also in the study or closet when it is prepared.

In June 1805 I received the painful intelligence of the decease of my dear Mother, which affected me more than words can express. About the same time I received the appointment to be Assistant of the St. James Labourer, still retaining my former situation in the School. Subsequently the office of Co. Labourer with his farm, on account of the infirmities of the latter, was committed to me and I obtained a private residence in the St. James house, altho' spending the greater part of the day in the school. In the beginning of the year 1809 my strength seemed exhausted by continual exertion, my health appeared to decline, and some relaxation was thought necessary. A strong desire which I had once more to visit my aged Father and my native country induced

me
22 ~~the resolution~~ to set out for Germany,
notwithstanding the war which was then
carried on, and the rigid exclusion of Eng-
land from all communication with the
European Continent by the system of Na-
poleon. In reliance upon divine protection,
I proceeded in May by way of London
and Harwich to the Island of Heligoland
near the mouth of the Elbe, which was then
the depot of English merchandise. From
thence I was with some other passengers
conveyed about 60 miles across the ocean
to a lonely part of the Westphalian coast
in a small boat, in which during a
whole night we were exposed to the most
imminent danger. When landing on
the next evening and delivered into the
hands of people who made exorbitant
gains by the necessities of travellers,
whom they might deliver to the French
for military execution, I was by them
forwarded in an open vehicle on bye-
roads and thro' forests during a beau-

tight moonlight night, in constant dread
of being seized. The Lord however was my
protector and after various adventures I
arrived safely in the city of Bremen
where Adelmann Stoleman whose sons
I had educated at Hennersdorf gave me
a kind and hospitable reception. Among
the Born's Society in this city I spent a
few edifying days, holding some meetings
with them. By way of Brunswick, where
I enjoyed much friendship at Mr Stobwafier's
house, I proceeded to Graudau where my
dear Father met me with whom I then
walked to Warby.

Scarcely had I spent a week under
the Paternal roof, during which I became
acquainted with my step mother also,
when on Sunday after I had preached in
the Born's Chapel ^{Halle} intimation was given
that the Mayor of the Town, by order of
the High honouring Perfect intended to ar-
rest me as an English Spy. Immedi-
ately therefore I was obliged to decamp

across the river Elbe; and now proceed-
ed to Hamburg and other places in Lusatia
to visit the members of the A. C. C.,
whose names I mentioned for our home
and to enjoy intercourse with many friends.
On my return I spent some days with
my Father in secret, seeing also my
only Mother and sister and then went again
by way of Bremen and Bovet, to embark
for Heligoland which was done during
the night at a lonely part of the coast.
For Heligoland I waited 2 days in a crowded
and uncomfortable lodging for the
sailing of the English Packet which took
me to Harwich after a three days sail,
during the night. My only couch was
the hard floor of the cabin, with my
portmanteau for a pillow. The hardships
of this journey did not injure but man-
terially invigorate my health, so that
after my return to Fairfield in the month
of Sept., I was again ready to resume my
active and laborious duty. My

Scholaristic employments however were on
the point of terminating, for I soon recd.
a call to be Minister and Labourer of
the Gangⁿ at Bedford. (Before entering on
that office my marriage became neceſſ-
ary, and with respect to the choice of
a partner for life, I was happily enabled
to leave myself implicitly to the direction
of my divine Lord. After much considera-
tion on my part and that of my eccl-
esiastical superiors, the Revd Dr. Clegg-Groves
of Bristol was fixed upon, and after my
arrival in that city was accepted by me;
the proposal being made to her, she ac-
cepted it, as coming from the hands of
the Lord. In Bristol I enjoyed so much
friendship and kindness, that the place
ever since has been peculiarly dear to
me. From thence I also paid a visit to
my venerable friend and Mr. Clemens
in North, and in both places Preached
several times with freedom.)

Dec^r-14th-1809 our Marriage took

place, being performed at St James's Church
by the Rev^d T. T. Middleton. My wife
had the affliction on the very day of
her marriage to be informed of the depar-
ture of her Father, whose funeral I
attended before we left Bristol. In her
I had precisely such a Partner as was
good for me, altho' her difficulty of
hearing impeded conversation, and
was on many accounts afflictive to
her, my manner towards her altho'
I always esteemed her was not as
kind and affectionate as she deserved.
Spirituality and humility of mind,
prudence and circumspection of
conduct, and an affectionate faithful-
ness of disposition together with domes-
tic habits and love of retirement were
the distinguishing features of her
character. She was given me in mar-
ry, put up with my failings, and at-
tended with watchful assiduity to my
wants. In office also she was useful

and by conversations with the Drs in those
days, I have served, was a blessed help-mate
to me. Another mercy of the Lord was the
gift of a faithful servant whom we obtained
immediately upon our arrival at Bedford,
and who, while I write this, has continued
for 21 years with us, acquitting herself
with exemplary faithfulness, and making
our interest and pleasure her own. But
while I write, she as well as I is with-
drawn from activity. Domestic affliction,
such as we had not hitherto experienced,
is sent, and doubtless sent in mercy &
compassion that we be condemned with the
world.

But to return to my narrative: soon after our marriage we proceeded from
Bristol to Querfield, when at the house of
Bro & Sr Foster we experienced much kind-
ness. On Christmas day our expectation
being entertained that I was to preach a
farewell sermon, the concourse in the
Chapel was such that a second service

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after the first became necessary to accommodate the multitude. Jan^u 1st 1810 Bro
W. Moore ordained me a Deacon of the
Baptist Church, my wife being at the same
time accepted an Acolath. The 11th of the
same month we arrived at Medford, &
were on the 14th when the Anniversary
of that Cong^r was celebrated introduced
by my Predecessor Mr. S. Church as its
future Labourers. Goodness and Mercy
appointed me to this post, at which I
laboured 3 years with delight, and which
with the late Revd J. Hartley I may call
my halcyon Station. With zeal I entered
upon my office and with forbearance &
affection was I received and treated by
the Cong^r. Uniform peace and brother-
ly union distinguished the course of this
dear flock and few occurrences of a dis-
tressing nature marred my happiness.
In addition to my ministerial duties
which were laborious but pleasing to me,
I had the inspection of the Girls Boarding

school, which added to my comfort, and at
which it was occupied 3 hours daily in the work
of instruction. It was likewise an addition to
my opportunities of deriving my Saviour to
breach regularly in several neighbouring
villages. In how far my activity was promot-
ed by a single view to the Glory of God, and the
salvation of sinners, I do not venture to pro-
nounce; difficult as I find it positively to
ascertain my own motives for acting, I ap-
prehend that a constitutional and restless
impulsion, finding personal gratification
in being constantly employed, had a share
in it. The Lord however blessed my endeavour,
and covered my sins, which were greater
and more numerous than I can describe.
My reproofs of others were often severe, and
not couched at all times in the language
of composure; and alas! how apt are we
to forget our own blemishes in attempting
to rectify those of others.

To my great surprise I received to-
wards the end of the year 1812 a call to be

Long^r helper and Minister of Fulneck,
and the neighbouring Country long^{no}, and
with my wife to be Subburer of the Main
Choir there. It was a hard stroke, and while
feeling the pangs of separation from a
most beloved flock, I fore saw the difficul-
ties of the extensive sphere of labour which
awaited me, and the numerous perplexi-
ties connected with my new appointment.
However having the conviction that the sum-
mons came from the Lord, obedience was
my only and immediate choice. The
farewell at Steelford was mutually
affecting and painful.

Feb 23. 1813

We arrived at Fulneck, and after I had
been by Mr. T. Moore ordained a Presby-
ter of the Moravians Church, entered upon my
labours with alacrity. The Presidency
of the C. C. and the general oversight of
the Moravians in Yorkshire, added to
my responsibilities, and I required more
humility than I possessed. A place longⁿ
had peculiar advantages and excellencies

if the inhabitants have been spiritual
indeed; otherwise it is right to afford oppor-
tunities for exhortation and rebuking.—
among the widely scattered people
in the country I found much scope for
exhortation, and perceived that my labours
were set in bone in the Lord. The atten-
dance at the public services at Fulneck
was generally unanimous, and instances
of converted and converted sinners were
not wanting when I hope to meet in Thom-
asine nothing but mud brought rejoicing;
while on the other hand many diligent
hope of their born babies in Christ were
disappointed, and many tender plants
seemed to be trodden in the dust by the
blast of the world. I had cause both for
weeping and rejoicing.

A year after my removal at Fulneck
experienced another remarkable pre-
servation of my life. I had occasion to
visit an aged sister 5 miles from home
to administer the communion to her. On

On my return the horse on which I rode threw
me in hard frozen and stony ground, I re-
mained with my temples bleeding and my
shoulder injured, so as to oblige me to car-
ry my arm some time in a sling, with-
out receiving any permanent hurt; &
providentially our Medical Man rode
past at the very moment, and lent me
his immediate assistance. Another call
was this for gratitude, and a few sur-
pension of my all to my Saviour's service.

In the year 1818 I was invited by the
A.C.C. to attend the Synod of the Presbytery
and proceeded to Herkunft accompanied
by my wife & infant daughter Elizabeth
Groves, who had been born to us Oct 2 - 1815
this dear and only child was an object
of my tenderest solicitude. I baptized her
the Sunday succeeding her birth into the
death of Jesus with inexpressible feelings,
the responsibility of training an immortal
soul with parental fidelity for the Kingdom
of heaven lay with all its weight upon my

mind: but many are the mistakes, ommissions
and neglects of which I stand convicted before
my God in this sacred duty. Indeed my offi-
cial duties left me little leisure to devote to
the personal instruction of my own child.
In her unfolding faculties I had, combined
with much gratification also a practical
exemplification of the depravity of hu-
man nature from earliest youth. The
affectionate disposition and facility in ac-
quiring knowledge, which we discerned in
our dear daughter gave us much pleasure
and compensated for the pains which the
correction of her evil temper, gave us. That
the grace of Christ our Saviour might migh-
tily lay hold of her, and direct her whole heart
and soul into the path of peace and holiness,
continues to be my hearty prayer.

On the journey thither and from Fernbank
I had a last opportunity of visiting my
faithful and aged Father, who soon after fell
asleep in Jesus. At the Synod, besides at-
tending in the capacity of Deputry for all

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the Yorkshire Congⁿg, I acted as Secretary,
and also superintended the copying of the
Synodal minutes. On that occasion I became
more intimately acquainted with, and
more firmly attached to the principles
of the Non-Uniting, being also more clearly
convinced that she carries on the cause of
God, and has a worth far beyond what her
small numbers and unobtrusive habits
had given generally to conceive. In Sept. the
same year I returned to my former situa-
tion in Finchley. Here I also availed my-
self of many opportunities of co-operating
with children of God in other denominations,
considering it to be a peculiar calling of
our Church, to help in uniting the scat-
tered children of God. In Bedford already
it was a pleasing duty to me, in concert
with the Rev^d Mess^rs. Leigh Richmond and
Sam^t Hilyard to aid in the establishment
of Bible Associations in every part of the
Country; and now I preached and discoursed at
Public religious meetings in different

parts of Yorkshire as far as appeared to me
unconsistent with my more immediate charge.
My design was to combine with concien-
tious attachment to our division of the fold
of Jesus, a charitable union with all other
children of God, and without compromise
of principle to aid in proving that we are
our Master even Christ, and that we all
are Brethren.

Various sorrowful occurrences during
the latter part of my residence in Falmer
materially diminished my comforts and
impeached my usefulness; I neither can
nor will exculpate myself, (The Morgan
"woid all appearance of evil," I had not
by any means learned and reduced to
practice;) nor can the searcher of hearts
pronounce me guiltless; My own consci-
ence charges me with unfaithfulness in
secret and private duties; and while I was
always active in whatever was committed
to me, my activity was not always
directed by the genuine spirit of humility

weakness and love. (In the beginning of
1824 a visitation from the N. E. C. being held
at Tunbridge, the want of a judicious &
impartial investigation of affairs made
me long for my release from the arduous
and difficult station, which I held for
nearly 12 years, more especially as I could
no longer act in concert with my dear
old fellow Labourer.)

During the Provincial Conference
which in July of the year just mentioned,
was held at Fairfield, a call arrived
from the N.C.C. for me, proposing to
my consideration the office of Minister
and Cong^r Labourer at Bristol. This
for once was an appointment which
conveyed with my wishes, and which
I should ^{have felt} inclined to have chosen for my-
self. Deeply affecting was my farewell
of Yorkshire, where I had both laboured
and suffered ^{for nearly 12 yrs.} during the most active
period of my life; a great number of
precious souls to whom the Lord and

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The Spirit blessed my feeble labours, will
be held in remembrance by me while I
live, and to their continued prayers on my
behalf I dedicate the enjoyment of manni-
fold benefits. "During 7 years," said the Head
of a family to me, "Your Name has not for
a single day been omitted in our prayers."
My Valedictory sermon was preached
at Sudbury on Sept. 12th 1824 to a very large
concourse of people, and on the same day
I introduced Mr. J. Holmes as my succe-
~~ssor in my pastorate at Sudbury~~

Sept. 16th I arrived with my dear
wife and daughter at Bristol, B.^r & S.^m
Ochly our predecessors, having previously
left that place for Dublin. Wide as the
field for active labour was in this new
station, I felt it as repose after toil, the
mental trials connected with it being
much smaller than those in my former
office. The previous acquaintance
which at several former visits I had
made with many members of the

Congⁿ at Bristol, greatly facilitated my speedy familiarity with my encumbrances, and with the souls committed to my care. I do not know that I have enjoyed life during any preceding period more than during my residence at Bristol, which while I write has continued for 65 years. The Lord dealt very mercifully with me, gave me favor in the hearts of many not only of our own communion but of servants and children of God in various Churches, whose friendship was宝贵的 and profitable to me. The Congⁿ increased considerably, and many truly devoted souls were added to it. My Saviour owned and blessed me beyond my utmost expectations.

In 1825 I attended the second time at a Synod of our Church, being deputed by Bristol and several other Congⁿs. My stay at Hernhut was agreeable & busy; close confinement not only during the synodal sessions but during the

remaining hours of the day, when much writing and translating devolved upon me made me long to return to my less sedentary employment at home, where after a very rapid journey of only 10 days from Liverpool I arrived again Aug. 28th Mr. Wilson Matthew was my pleasant companion in going, and Mr. Blumer that fun in returning.)

In addition to the ordinary labours of my ministry, I was in various ways occupied with endeavours to promote our missionary cause both in and out of Bristol, it being perhaps part of the accomplishment of my Mothers prayer, that I took peculiar pleasure in advocating the extension of our Saviors Kingdom among the heathen, and had many doors for so doing opened to me by Providence. In 1829 I undertook 2 extensive journeys by commission from the London Association in aid of the African Missions, and was both delighted and edified by finding open doors

and open hearts, and unfeigned cordiality
and cooperation in all places and among
all communities and their Ministers whom
I visited. The latter part of these 2 journeys
was however rendered peculiarly trou-
ble and distressing to me by the intelli-
gence which I received at the close of a
day of anxious duty, that my dear child
had been seized with a dangerous illness
at Finsbury, where for 3 years she had
been separated from us at school, and
that her Mother during my absence had
gone to see and nurse her, the account
being very alarming none probably can
conceive what I felt, except a parent of
an only child, just on the point of finish-
ing her education, and of whom pleasing ex-
pectations of fruit from the seed carefully
sown are entertained; such a child I ap-
prehended might have been called into
eternity at a distance of 400 miles from
me, the anxious suspense in which I
was held for several days was the more

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painful as my appointed duty required that
in this state of mind I should travel and preach
among strangers day by day.

On my return home the intelligence
received was still more alarming, and
I was constrained with the utmost speed
to proceed to Falneck, where thro' mercy
I found the child somewhat better under
her mother's care, and the faithful atten-
dance on the part of the school. During
this trial I found it difficult to pray
with that submission, which I had often
urged upon others; I did pray fervently
for the child, and consider her gradual
recovery as an express answer to prayer.
Next to the consoling effect of communion
with my Lord, and the powerful relief
obtained by speaking to him as a friend,
the sympathy of my Brethren was truly
soothing to me. I had received many good
things at the hand of the Lord, it was time
that I should submissively receive evil,
or rather what at the time appears to

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be evil, being painful to flesh and blood.
before which I had long exercised, his pain
doubtless rendered it much more difficult to
him. Trials were needed to teach me
patience and confidence, to preserve me
from presumption and undue earthly
attachment, to fit me for bearing with
the infirmities and sharing in the suf-
ferings of others, in fine, to fit me both
for my Ministry and for entrance in-
to the everlasting Kingdom of Christ.
In Oct. 1829 our child was so far restored
as to come home with her Mother, and
since then has continued with us, be-
ing chiefly instructed by me.

Thus far our late Mr.
Wrote in the beginning of the year 1831.
It is to be regretted that he did not bring
his Memoir down to a later period, but
this he was probably prevented from doing
by the increased deficiency in his sight.
The following information has been princi-
pally furnished by his afflicted Widow.

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My late dear Master ^{you} had enjoyed
an uninterrupted state of health until the
month of May 1820 when having set out
on horseback to visit a member of the Cong.
he recided at a distance of some miles
he was overtaken by heavy rain, and
not having an opportunity of procuring
a change of clothes, thus laid the foundation
of a dangerous disease. This continued
for some months gradually to gain ground,
though without causing any intermission
in his labours, until the autumn of that
year, when a very laborious Missionary
tour in which he engaged added so alarm-
ingly to its progress as to make it needful
for him to yield to the advice of his Medi-
cal attendants, and abstain for the pre-
sent from engaging in his ministerial
functions.

This was to him a severe stroke; for
labour was his enjoyment, and his rest
was in activity. The separation was felt
by his flock not less than by himself,

and it was one great source of consolation to his mind, to know that for his work's sake, he had so large an interest in their love & in their prayers.

He thus writes in his Diary, Janst. 26. 1831
 "The various means and medical re-
 medies hitherto used for the recovery of
 my impaired health, having proved in-
 effectual, my faithful and able attendants,
 Dr Pritchard and Mr Form^d. M'Leod di-
 rected me to proceed to Bath, shortly with
 a view to use warm bathing, but chief-
 ly for the purpose of repose and reha-
 bilitation. Having therefore yesterday at the
 celebration of the 26th Anniversary of
 the Bristol Congⁿ which is so dear to
 me, and has loaded me with marks of
 kindness, taken a temporary leave of
 the same, and having committed the
 ministrations in the Chapel to the
 Revd Seiffert & T. West, in expectation
 of Dr Jonⁿ Smith of Bethbrook soon arri-
 ving for the present supply of my office;

being also assured of the fervent prayers
of many in thy behalf, I set out this morn-
ing at 10 o'clock in a Chaise, accompanied
by my wife and Daughter. The D.T. for the
day was: "If thou canst believe, all things
are possible to him that believeth." May my
faith be strengthened, and these words of my
Saviour be verified in me! He mercifully
granted me an easy mind, and a simple
reliance upon him who will do all things
well. The D.H. was: "Unto you that fear
my name, the Sun of Righteousness shall
arise with healing in his wings."

At the end of six weeks we re-
turned from Booth, my dear Husband gra-
dually improving in health from that
time, and (with the exception of reading,
which the still remaining dimness of
his sight prevented) being able to re-
sume his ministerial duties with ease.

March 12th the day after our re-
turn was his Birthday, on which occa-
sion he had the following remarks in his

D. W. from Prov. 3. 11-12:

Diary." The D. W. from Prov. 3. 11-12:
My son despise not thou chastening of the
Lord; neither be weary of his correction;
for whom the Lord loveth he correcteth;
even as a Father the Son in Whom he
delighteth," is strikingly appropriate
for this completion of the 51st Year of my
life. O Lord, my God and Redeemer, thou
hast chastened me, but not in anger.
Thou hast wounded me in the tenderest
part, but it is with a view to heal
my sinsick soul. Horrid that I shou'd
despise thy correction, or be weary
of it! Accomplish thy design with me
in this infliction of thy rod! I can
distinctly trace abundant and very
undeserved mercies mingled with thy
judgments. Did I place culpable depen-
dence on bodily health and earthly en-
joyments, shew me my impotence, and
wean me from things visible. Were
my eyes improperly fixed on external
objects and on other mens characters,

and did I ever attempting to be faithful
in office, forget faithfulness to my own
soul, touch me by the privation of clear
light, to look more carefully within, &
search in the light of thy spirit! Help me
to comfort others with the comfort where-
with thou comforted me! Give me an in-
crease of humility, sympathy, and an
affectionate demeanor! Let the bright
dawn of this morning be a pledge of a
return of brighter days, and still per-
mit me to serve thee on earth, if con-
sistent with thy good and perfect will;
if not prepare me for thyself. Be thy
presence and death my only hope in life,
and when walking through the valley
of the shadow of death."

His health continued in apparently
the same state till about two months pre-
vious to his decease, when his appetite
began to fail, and he was unable to take
solid food. His strength was now visibly
declining from day to day, and although

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still continuing in the discharge of laborious ministerial duties, it was evident that unless a material improvement soon took place, we could not expect to see him much longer among us.

On the 15th Oct.^r. he went to Brockwear near Tintern, to lay the foundation of a Chapel there, a cause in which he felt warmly interested, as he hoped it would be the means under the divine blessing, of conveying the saving knowledge of Christ to a very destitute and degraded population.

Though suffering under great weakness of body, he was enabled to go thro' the duty, and in the evening addressed a Sermon to a very crowded auditory. The exertion however was too great for his strength, and in his return next day he appeared to suffer under great exhaustion, sleeping in the Corbin during the whole of the voyage.

On Sunday the 21st in a state of extreme
weakness he entered upon his duties as
usual. At the Cong^r Meeting at 10 he spoke
on the S. A. for the day, "The Memory of the
just is blessed;" a subject the more touching,
because while he treated of it, every mind
was impressed with the belief that the truth
would be soon applicable to himself. He
afterwards preached with great clearness
and warmth on the words of our Saviour
to the Paralytic Man, | Matt. 11. 21st Son,
be of good cheer thy sins be forgiven thee.
This occasion was one of a most affecting
nature, and few of those who were present,
will easily forget it. The discourse was
listened to as the words of a dying man,
the Cong^r felt as if he was taking his
public leave of them, and participated in
the feelings of the Elders of the Church of
Ephesus, "Sorrowing most of all that they
should see his face no more. In the after-
noon he made an attempt to keep the Widows
Choir Meeting, but was obliged by weakness

to bring them after a short prayer.
In vain he went to the house of a friend
found in Plymton, as it was hoped that
shunes of air and stone might be of some
service now to him, but the bow knot the
power of his strength rapidly declined, and
a darkness came on him, so that near
by the whole of that day and Tuesday he
lived a dimm state. On Tuesday a friend
called, and found him on the bed, it was
remarked, "Dear you feel very weak."
"Ach, weak, weak," was his reply. In
a somewhat lower tone: "How very weak
I am, my favour well can see". Then
looking round, "I long to be delivered from
the body." You never felt so before, did you?
it has not had. — Oh no! it seems strange—
but me is do useles lying here!"

An affectionate message was delivered
from Mr. L. Webster, adding that he would
gladly come down to assist him, had not
preaching missionary business prevented.
These words seemed to revive his fainting

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worship, and he said with earnestness, "I
will be bound to come and preach on Missionary
Serm'on here," - give my best love to them
all, and tell him I have a Missionary Ser-
mon to preach on Sunday week, and if he
happ'ly come would take it, that would indeed
be a good thing." - While promising to de-
liver the message, it was asked, - "But do
you look forward to that?" - as if recol-
lecting his state, he calmly said, "I look
forward to nothing."

On Wednesday he expressed his desire
to return home, having prepared his
sermon for that evening, and being parti-
cular desirous to Preach as he said he
had some delightful meditations on the
subject during the morning. He was con-
ducted down stairs and into the car with
difficulty; on our arrival at home all
his strength seemed to be gone, and after
being supported into his study he fainted
away. By the application of suitable means
he revived, and being asked how he felt,

replied, "I am in very blessed meditation." In the afternoon he was not quite himself, but spoke rather incoherently, and repeated, by accident if it was not time for the evening service, being afraid lest we should deceive him. About 5 o'clock he became quite sensible, said he was very weak, and asked who was going to preach: and when I said Mr. Clafferty he seemed quite contented.

I asked him if he felt our Saviour's presence: he said, "I feel very happy and long to go." I said I thought it would not be long. He said, "Do you think so?" catching at my words as if quite delighted with the idea.

With the assistance of a Mr. Lee got him up stairs to bed, and called in Dr. Proctor and, who prescribed for him, but without affording relief. During the whole of the evening he had a troublesome rattle in his throat; he enquired if we heard it and made the remark: "That will carry me a good way to night." About nine o'clock he fell into a deep sleep from which he

never awoke, but peacefully and hap-
pily breathed his last about 2 o'clock in
the Morning of Thursday the 25th Oct. 1832.
after a pilgrimage of 52 Years & 9 Months.

Thus has this faithful Servant called
home by his gracious Master into his eternal
rest, - a rest, into which, more especially
during the latter period of his illness, he
expressed his most ardent desire soon to en-
ter. When his health was suffering under
the first attack, and his speedy dissolution
was by some apprehended, and by himself
thought not improbable, he expressed his
perfect resignation to the will of God, whe-
ther for life or for death: but now he longed
for repose, his all-absorbing desire
was, "to depart, and to be with Christ."
He said not much in his latter days relo-
tive to his departure, but what he did say
shewed that his mind was in a state of
heavenly peace, "looking for and hastening
to the coming of the Son of Man." That Ch-
rist whom it had been his delight to

recommend to others as the only Refuge in
the day of trouble comforted him with his
rod and his staff when passing thro' the
shadowy vale of death.

Yet while we cannot but rejoice in the
blessedness that is now his eternal portion,
and glorify God in his behalf, this poor
sleeky feels its loss in being deprived of
a faithful and affectionate Master. Great
was the love and esteem in which they held
him. It is in moments of difficulty that
the genuine feelings are elicited, and never
perhaps would the strength of the bond that
united them with him have been fully
understood, had it not pleased the Lord to
lay his afflicting hand upon our late dear
Brother's health. Then it was evinced how
near their interest lay at his heart, and
how sympathetic or share they took in his
afflictions. His temporary restoration -
in which his people received him as one
sent to them from the dead, - he ever con-
sidered to be in answer to the faithful prayer

which there is reason to believe were continually presented to the throne of grace in his behalf; and thus was this dispensation rendered by the grace of the Lord, a means of spiritual blessing to his flock as well as to himself.

Endowed by him from whom every good gift proceedeth, with strong mental powers, and great energy and decision of character, these endowments — which when misdirected, prove but a snare to the possessor and an injury to others, — being in him sanctified by the grace of God, were devoted to the welfare of his fellow creature, and the extention of his Saviour's Kingdom. — In whatever sphere of life he had been thrown, he would have been an active and enterprising man. But his heart having been won by a Saviour's love, and his mind taught the vast superiority of eternal over temporal and visible things, he saw that to be made the humble instrument of saving souls was an honor above every other, and to this point he directed all his energies of mind & body.

It was constantly apparent that he had one great object in view - the service of his Lord; nor was he ready to allow mere consideration of difficulty or labour for a moment to intercept any plan that seemed likely to advance it. This singleness of view could not but win the respect even of those to whom his uncompromising and (as he has himself with humility acknowledged) occasionally harsh manner might have given offence.

In the discharge of his pastoral duties, he was unwearied, regularly visiting every member of his flock, and attending at the bed of the sick.

As a Minister, he was a sorthe well instructed unto the Kingdom of Heaven. His naturally strong talents were furnished with materials by copious Study. The Word of God was the Mine in which he continually delved; and having in his own heart felt the vitality of its truths, he was enabled to place them before his hearers with the clearness of spiritual discernment, and

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that freedom which self-experience alone
can impart. His discourses were distin-
guished by great perspicuity and power;
his mind readily grasped the bearings of
his subject, and he had the faculty of
placing it in a strong light before his
hearers. But above all there was a warmth
of heart and an earnestness for the sal-
vation of souls, which under the operation
of the Holy Spirit brought home the truth
to the heart:— And we have with humility
to thank the Lord that his Ministry here,
as well as in former stations, has been
attended by his distinguished blessing; that
many souls have through him been
brought to a knowledge of their lost state
by nature, and been led to the cross of
Christ, and found pardon and peace thro'
Him; and that the weak believer has been
strengthened, the desponding encouraged,
the mourner comforted, and many, we
trust, established and built up in the
Truth.

...was his delight to present to his fel-
low sinners that salvation, which was pro-
mised by the sufferings and death of the
innocent Son of God, in all its fulness
and power; and to point him to the Lamb
of God as taking away the sins of the world.
yet he withheld no part of the counsel of
God. He insisted upon the vital nature
of true faith in Christ, and the conse-
quent necessity of its purifying the heart
and manifesting itself in works of love.
His sermons had therefore always a
practical character, evangelical prin-
ciples being traced to their legitimate
operations in the mind and their effect
upon the life. He was well acquainted
with the deceitful workings of the human
heart, and with unsparring hand would
tear away the disguises under which
they were concealed. No hearer was allowed
to forget himself and his own cause under
the consideration of bare generalities, but
the Preacher by making not indeed personal,

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Worl'dly affliction of the body,
Determined to transfigur it up, and to turn
and himself to every honest commerce
in the sight of God.

May the bright forth of active oper-
ation which he had in the Lord's service
and for which we ascribe not the glory
to him, but to the grace of God that lives
in him) serve as an example to all
mankind no all. His defects let us know
they were to him a cause of painful
humiliation; but let us recognize the
virtue of a devoted disciple of Christ so
conspicuous in this his stewardship,
and pray that we may have grace
to follow him in as far as he followed
his Divine Master! May the Lord be
graciously pleased to pour down a double
portion of his Spirit on those who are still
privileged to labour in his vineyard! And
may he call forth and duly qualify many
others, who may be willing to spend themselves
and be spent in His Service!