

# Memoir

of Mr. C. F. Ransford, Minister of  
 the Brethren's Cong.<sup>n</sup> in Bristol,  
 who departed this life Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> 1832,  
 aged 52<sup>1/2</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 temptations  
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 promis-  
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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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. 26<sup>th</sup> 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.  
Libertinhus. 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 the former delights. Altho I cannot say that my mind was then truly spiritualized, yet my desire to devote my life to the Ministry in

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

after hundred Years. - Besides the ex-  
tent taken of my Recreations, I was inde-  
nitely progresed, and took much interest  
in my Studies, with the very close em-  
ployment occasionally produced however  
of spirits. In this period while still  
engaged 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 Headmicians in Marby will even  
be held in grateful remembrance by me.  
June 17<sup>th</sup> 1792 I was received into the Gras-  
long<sup>th</sup> 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 sinful  
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

<sup>10</sup> Lutheran Clergyman in the village of  
Stordorf 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<sup>r</sup>. 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<sup>r</sup>-Rec<sup>t</sup>.) 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 Cong<sup>n</sup> 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<sup>r</sup>  
Nitschky, the Minister of the Cong<sup>n</sup> and  
saw that my labour was not in vain  
in the Lord. (I lodged in the S<sup>r</sup>le 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 Nizhny Strenghened 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.

I and Anderson. May 19<sup>th</sup> was drawn by  
the delirium and in the company of a  
friend to Wethers 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

"Hernburgh, after I had been only half a year there proved painful to me. In Hennersburg 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 Parent, 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 Volunteer seized me, 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 mood 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Long<sup>n</sup>-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 several 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.

<sup>18</sup> 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 decoratedly 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 <sup>one</sup>-  
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 con-  
sidered 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 Stolzenau 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 <sup>Halle</sup> 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

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across the river Elbe; and now proceed-  
ed to Hamburg and other places in Luzech,  
to visit the members of the A. C. C.,  
whose deacons gathered for an hour  
and to enjoy intercourse with many friends.  
On my return I spent some days with  
my Father in secret, seeing also my  
only brother and sister and then went again  
by way of Bremen and Barel, to embark  
for Heligoland which was done during  
the night at a lonely part of the coast.

In 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 Gang<sup>n</sup> 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 S<sup>r</sup> & 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<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1809 our Marriage took

place, being performed at St James Church  
by the Rev<sup>d</sup> T. T. Brodribble. 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 we an 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<sup>u</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1810 Bro  
W. Moore ordained me a Deacon of the  
Baptist Church, my wife being at the same  
time accepted an Acolath. The 11<sup>th</sup> of the  
same month we arrived at Medford, &  
were on the 14<sup>th</sup> when the Anniversary  
of that Cong<sup>n</sup> 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<sup>n</sup>. Uniform peace and brother-  
ly union distinguished the course of this  
near 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

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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<sup>r</sup> helper and Minister of Fulneck,  
and the neighbouring Country long<sup>no</sup>, 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 13. 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 long<sup>n</sup>  
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 you could boast of 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 es-  
caped 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 new sur-  
render 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 to 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 Cong<sup>n</sup>g was elected as Secretary, and also superintended the copying of the synodal bounds. On that occasion I became more intimately acquainted with, and more firmly attached to the principles of the Non<sup>n</sup> Unity, 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 lead men generally to conceive. In Sept. the same year I returned to my former situation in Finchley. Here I also availed myself 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 scattered children of God. In Bedford already it was a pleasing duty to me, in concert with the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mess<sup>r</sup>s. Leigh Richmond and Sam<sup>t</sup> Hilyard to aid in the establishment of Bible Associations in every part of the County; 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  
not 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<sup>r</sup> Labourer at Bristol. This  
for once was an appointment which  
conveyed with my wishes, and which  
I should <sup>have felt</sup> inclined to have chosen for my-  
self. Deeply affecting was my farewell  
of Yorkshire, where I had both laboured  
and suffered <sup>for nearly 12 yrs</sup> 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 Fubneck on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 1824 to a very large  
concourse of people, and on the same day  
I introduced Mr. J. Holmes as my succe-  
~~sor in my former pastorate~~

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> I arrived with my dear  
wife and daughter at Bristol, B.<sup>r</sup> & S.<sup>m</sup>  
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

Cong<sup>n</sup> 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, you see 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 Cong<sup>n</sup> 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 Cong<sup>n</sup>s. My stay at Fernhill 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. 28<sup>th</sup> 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 Fulneck, 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

be evil, being purified to flesh and blood.  
before which I had long exercised, his grace  
softened 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  
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 <sup>you</sup> had enjoyed  
an uninterrupted state of health until the  
month of May 1830 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,

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 51<sup>st</sup> 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, Show me thy 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 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.<sup>r</sup>. 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 21<sup>st</sup> in a state of extreme  
weakness he entered upon his duties as  
usual. At the Cong<sup>r</sup> 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. 21 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<sup>r</sup> 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 among them after a short prayer.  
In summer he went to the house of a friend  
found in Plymton, as it was hoped that  
change of air and scene might be of some  
service now to him, but this however  
caused his strength rapidly declined, and  
a depression came on him, so that near  
by the whole of that day and Tuesday he  
was in a dozing 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 one is so useless lying here!"

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

way, 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  
hans 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 repeatedly asked 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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

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 aforsome 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-  
vided 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 unsparing hand would  
tear away the disguises under which  
they were concealed. No hearer was allowed  
to forget himself and his own case under  
the consideration of bare generalities, but  
the Preacher by making not indeed personal,

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Worlwide application of the truth  
Demanding to manifest it up, we have  
and himself to every sound conscience  
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 that 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!