

Memoir of the Widow Sister Elisabeth Johnson, m.m.
Halliday, who departed this life, at Culnecke
on Tuesday, November the 6th, 1866.

Our late Sister Elisabeth Johnson, m.m. Halliday,
was born (in Pudsey) on August the 1st, 1796^(x)) where also
she spent her childhood and early youth, in connection
with the Independents. She attended the S. School and
the public Services in the Independent Chapel very re-
gularly; but we have no evidence of any very decided
or abiding impressions of a spiritual nature having
been made upon her young heart beyond the fact, in
itself a privilege and a blessing, ^{her having} ~~of~~ brought up in
the nurture and admonition of the Lord. When only ~~between~~
~~the~~ 18 years old, she received & accepted in the year 1813
an offer of marriage from her late husband ^{Anthony Johnson, whose parents were} members of the
~~had been at school at Culnecke, where he occasionally attended the public services. His union~~ Brethren's Church
~~was not quite 18 years old at the time.~~ extending over a period of ^{rather more than 23} ~~about 4~~ years, from the
end of 1813 to April 1837, was blessed by the birth of ^{two} several
sons and daughters, to all and each of whom our late Sister
proved a very tender and affectionate mother. From
the memory of her late husband we learn, that their mar-
ried life, especially when the cares of a family increased, was
not without its troubles and occasional struggles for
their honest maintenance. The husband, during the
early years of their union, attended the services in our
Chapel here, whenever he did go to any place of worship; which however
while the young wife and mother for some time continued ^{at that time, on} ~~not a regular~~ ^{practiced with} him
used to frequent, as often as her circumstances permitted
the Independent Chapel. After some time, however, they
jointly began to go to Culnecke more regularly, and not
without real spiritual benefit. The death of a near relative
proved the immediate cause of their own real awakening
to feel a spiritual things, and led them, in due time, to
apply for Society-fellowship with the Brethren. For some

S^r Johnson was born in
Pudsey Augⁿ 1796

Married to M^r Johnson 1815
his father & mother were members
of Fulneck long² - She was
brought up among the Dissenters.

M^r & S^r Johnson were both
awakened under the cottage
lectures which Mr Pamflett
held in Pudsey. They attended
our chapel in Fulneck but did
not at first feel freedom to
join our Church - but after
a sermon of Mr Pamflett's on
the text "Because thou art
lukewarm & neither cold nor
hot I will spue thee out of my
mouth" - on going home
Mr Johnson said to his wife

"Now my mind is made up,
& we will go tomorrow, & express
our wish to be closely joined to
the Wm & give ourselves up to
the Lord.

While it was deeply impressed,
& anxious to feel greater
cleanness in her mind of
her acceptance with our Saviour,
she lay one night awake
in earnest prayer, - when,
all at once, that text "Arise
shine for thy light is come
& the glory of the Lord is risen
upon thee" - was so vividly
presented to her mind, that
it was as if she heard a
voice repeating them. - She
immediately arose & cast
herself upon her knees, &
felt assured that the Lord
had heard her prayer &

accepted her as his property.
They came to live in Fulneck
in 1836 or 7 for Mr Johnson
to have the management of
the cloth business belonging to
the Pynhouse -

Mr Johnson departed in 1836

They had four children
two sons & two daughters
three of whom are still
living

One son departed soon after
his father - He was still very
young but had been a
great comfort to his mother
by his simple childlike
manners & little sayings
concerning his love to our
Saviour

Sr Johnson was seized with
her last illness on Wednesday

the 31st Oct - Her extreme weakness
prevented her saying much, but
she assured those around her
that she felt her Savior was
with her & would receive her.
She departed on tuesday the
7th Nov -

time they now had a Prayer Meeting in their house every fortnight, on Sunday Evening, which proved a great blessing to their souls and increased their attachment to the Brethren's Church; & the Rev. Mr. Culneck conducted these meetings with great punctuality and earnestness. The discourses of Dr. Rammfller were especially brought home with benefit to their hearts! In the year 1824, on Palm Sunday, both were confirmed, and became Communicants of the Culneck Congregation. ~~and~~ ¹⁸²⁴ ~~two~~ ^{one} ~~after~~ ^{after} associated ~~Captain Libbey~~ ^{as} In 1826 they removed from Culver to Culneck, as Dr. Johnson undertook, at Dr. Libbey's request, the management of the Cloth business ~~business~~ ^{business} in connection with the Brethren's house. In this office Dr. Johnson continued to labour diligently and faithfully until his death, in the year 1836. — Dr. Dr. Johnson removed to Culneck on November the 5th 1826, and

* A sermon which Dr. Rammfller preached at Culneck on the text: "Because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth"; was so powerfully convincing and reprobating to Dr. Johnson's mind that on returning home he said to his wife, "Now my mind is fully made up, and we will go to-morrow and express our wish to give ourselves wholly to the Lord, and confess him openly as our Saviour by becoming members of the Brethren's Church." This late sister desired to have for herself a greater clearness of her acceptance with our Saviour, and was very anxious and perplexed about this matter, making it a subject of repeated earnest prayer. While thus wrestling one night in her prayers with the Lord as she lay & sleepless on her bed the text: "Arise, shine for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee" was so vividly presented to her mind, that it was, as though she ^{had} heard a voice repeating these words to her. She immediately arose, and cast herself upon her knees, and

she can feel the comforting assurance that
sheark her petitions, and that she was accepted of him, as
his own blood bought property. This cheered her
greatly, and ever after she was enabled to see in
him and his finished work the foundation of her hope
and the ground of her acceptance with God.

So that our late Sister resided in the midst of this congre-
gation for exactly 30 years, so as a married sister
had 30 years as a widow. She was soon after their settling
inconce in conjunction with her husband appointed a
Chapel servant - and in the discharge of the duties of this
office invariably took a great delight, esteeming it a privilege
to be a doorkeeper in the Lord's house. After the departure
of Sarah Lee, our late S^r. was appointed to this Chapel
servant on her Sister's side. She continued faithfully at her
post until the very day before her last illness, and her
honest, cheerful manner on the very last evening she kept
the door of sanctuary here was remarked by several who
conversed with her on that occasion. Her services in this
office will long be remembered by us with gratitude. She
was beloved and esteemed by all with whom in the discharge
of her duties she came into more immediate contact.
Her firmness of character and fearless impartiality
coupled with kindness of manner and pleasant good
nature secured for her the esteem of all.

The death of her dear husband in 1836, in the prime of
his life, was indeed a heavy blow to her, and her troubles
at that time were greatly increased by sickness amongst
her children - and the embarrassments occasioned by her
business. She had to wade through a deep sea of trouble
which seemed to reach its greatest depth when it
pleased the Lord to deprive her of her second son William
a boy of uncommon grace and ability, who departed this life
the year after her husband's death. Had it not been for
the all-sufficient grace of Jesus, and had not His strength
been made perfect in her weakness she must have
been overwhelmed during those years with the accumu-
lated weight of sorrow, bereavement & domestic trouble.

But the Lord appeared himself in her experience also to be a husband & a judge of the widow. We have often heard her advert to those dark & gloomy days, with heartfelt gratitude to the Lord, while she never failed on these occasions to remember the comfort she derived from the brotherly counsels and words of sympathy of dear Christian friends, more especially of Mr. Libby at Wickland.

Two many years past she undertook to board a lodger amongst some of the pupils from a distance, whose parents were desirous of preparing their children for the advantages of Br. Edw. Sewell's Day School. The summer, in which she dis-
covered a very
respectable
culture, for
my time she
had
been
able to
accept other
but
not
in
the
time
of
her
home.
found a very
respectable
culture, for
my time she
had
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charged her duties in this respect, may be best learned from the grateful affection of both parents & pupils, with whom she thus has come into connection, & had the spirit, in which she looked upon the boys under her care, we gather from a few lines in her own handwriting found among her papers, and entitled : To my School Boys & their friends / My dear, let me earnestly entreat you, to make the very best use of your time in any way you can. Be diligent in your books, upright in all your conduct, and seek the Lord's blessing, then you will fit yourself for becoming a useful and a good man, a comfort to your parents, who have been and ever will be a dear father & a dear mother to you - and a credit to your home.

Our late Sister was not one of those, who spoke much of their religious feelings & experiences, though when asked by her Minister, she was ever ready, freely to enter upon a statement of her views & sentiments regarding spiritual experiences in general, & the state of her own soul in particular. She knew, in whom she believed, her trust was in Jesus, and her hope in God. Truly convinced of her sinfulness and unrighteousness, she had & sought a friend in Christ, her Saviour & her only Refuge. As an indication of the bent of her mind & to feelings of her heart we can mention the fact, however trifling it may appear to some, that among her papers in a drawer to her, she had almost daily access, we have found several packages of choice hymns on flyleafs or leaflet-

carefully pinned together and containing such little hymns
as the following: "Rest for the Weary" - "The exile" - "Never Home
to Return with" - "Speak gently" - "But another: Behold
the Lamb of God" - "The Crossed Cross" - and some lines of poems
on "Searching the scriptures." — No careless
attention may be given to collecting these precious gems;—
no thoughtful believer will ever trouble himself or herself with
laying by such choice treasures for occasional private in-
spection & comfort.

We neither need nor will say much about our late sister
now; she has gone in and out among us for many
many years, & we have loved & respected her as a
follower of the Lamb, a consistent & attached member of
our church, a peaceful & kind neighbour - a sincere friend -
a faithful mother, and a tried Christian, who has borne
in many and varied afflictions with much patience
and resignation.

On Wednesday the 31st of Oct. she was suddenly taken unwell.
And though she felt considerably better for a day or two after,
it soon became apparent, that she had ~~said~~ ^{been attacked by} more than mere
ordinary cold. On Saturday & Sunday she grew weaker
and weaker, and her dear friends justly became alarmed
about her. Her daughter, Mrs Baillie, arrived on Saturday
and her granddaughter, Mrs Gomersal, whom she had ever
loved and cared for with more than a mother's love, had
previously come over once more to see her. Throughout her
last illness she remained perfectly calm & resigned to the
Lord's will. When asked whether she thought, that she would
have to leave her friends and go to the Saviour she
answered unhesitatingly & with a firm voice: "Yes." and
being further asked, whether she felt ~~that Jesus was near~~
she answered: "Yes - very near." On the verse - Jesus loves
my soul let me to thy bosom fly - being repeated by one of
her daughters - she took up the words herself and with
much feeling repeated the latter part - "Hide me - my Savio-
ur" and at ~~the~~ ^{after} little pause proceeded: Other
people have none st. On being pointedly asked,
she with emphasis said - Yes, it is, I have no other refuge

On Tuesday Morning, when she was still conscious of all that was going on around her, and had given several very satisfactory answers to the enquiries made by her Minister about her hope of glory, she was solemnly blessed for her departure ⁱⁿ the presence of all her surviving children and some of her grandchildren and other friends & relatives, (with prayer and the singing of a few verses.) About an hour before her departure we once again kneeled down around her bedside, and in earnest prayer recommended her departing spirit into the hands of ~~the Lord her~~ ^{the} Saviour, and shortly after soon after three o'clock, she gently fell asleep in Jesus. — Her age was 70 years 3 months & 6 days.

However unexpected her removal from amongst us after so short ~~a~~ illness, however painful to her sorrowing children & grand children, we cannot but see and acknowledge, that in her last illness a peaceful end the Lord has devised & exemplified the tenth of the Daily Word for the day of her departure: "The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works."

Then murmur not, but be resigned

To his most holy will

Peace rest, a comfort thou will find

My soul in being still