

+ regd. Ed 13187

Life of our late B.^r. William Jones,
who departed at London Sept^r. 3^d.

1792 A

He was born at Dublin July 20th 1736.
When he was about 10 or 12 years old, being
sent out upon an errand, he happened to
pass by the meeting house in Shireness
Alley at a time when ^{in 1746} Mr. Connick ^{was}
_{on his first visit in Ireland.} preaching there. Seeing the people crowding
in, he enquired, what was the matter, &
was told, that the false prophet was
preaching, which excited his curiosity to
hear him. When he came home, his father
asked him, why he had staid out so long?
He answered, that he had been hearing the
false prophet. And how did you like him,
replied his father? Answer: to me he ap-
peared like an Angel. This induced his
father, to go with him the following morning,
to hear Mr. Connick, and he immediately re-
ceived such an impression, that from that
time he followed the Brethren, and when
a long^m was settled at Dublin, he was one
of the first, that composed it & continued

a respectable member of the same to his end.
Our late Brother being likewise awakened
thro' the preaching of W^m. Pennick, was taken
into the Society. But afterwards thinking,
his father was too strict with him in keeping
him as much as possible from company,
he left his father's house and was bound
Apprentice to a Spectemaker. There he lived
in a place noted for the practice of all man
ners of wickedness and profligacy, so that
our late P^m. used to say, he could not ad
mire and praise sufficiently the faithful
ness of our Savior in preserving him from
utter ruin and saving him as a brand
plucked from the burning.

Having served his time, he went to Eng
land, in order to try his fortune, and got
on board of a man of war. The English
being then engaged in a war with the
French, he had not been long on board, be
fore an engagement happened, in which
however he received no hurt, & soon after
he was fortunate enough, to get his discharge.
On his return to Ireland, the vessel he was in
was

tions in his life, which are here omitted for brevity's sake.— Some time after a reinforcement going out to Belliste, which had been taken from the French, he was ordered on board the fleet, which was ready to sail. But the wind proving contrary for several days, he was countermanded to Bristol, to raise more recruits for the regiment; which being done, he marched with a detachment to Yarmouth for embarkation. But at that very juncture a peace took place & thus he remained in England. Having got his discharge, he at settled at Norwich, and there indulged as much as ever his inclination for drinking and dancing. Being invited to a wedding, he spent the whole night in this sinful diversion, and went to bed in the morning; but behold, when he wanted to get up again, he found himself totally blind. Under this awful dispensation he was brought to reflect upon his deplorable condition and the dreadful consequences of his sinful course, & having

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after 3 weeks recovered the sight of one eye,
he was determined, to break off his preni-
cious connexions and went to London,
where he was visited by the Brethren and
especially by our late W^r. Gambold, till
he recovered his health. After some relapses
into his former ways, he came to a fixed
determination, to join the Brethren and
frequented their preachings diligently.
One day as our late W^r. Abraham Taylor
was preaching on the words: I am poor
and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon
me. Ps. 40. 17. the word spoken came
home to his heart with the demonstration
of the Spirit and of power. He was deep-
ly convinced of his wretched state, and
yet under all the sense of his guilt he
could believe, that the Lord was thinking
upon him. He sought the Lord as a re-
penting sinner and returning prodi-
gal, and obtained the forgiveness of his
Sins. Soon after he was readmitted to
the Brethren's Society & Sept. 20th 1767
he and his wife were received into the
Congⁿ

Long^r and the year following admitted to
the Lord's Supper. Both he and his wife be-
ing called upon, to serve the Long^r, were ap-
pointed Hall Servants and have continued 455
in this office ever since with much faith
fulness and fidelity.

His course among us was not without
changes and vicissitudes, as he himself
acknowledged with contrition of heart.
But he never failed, to take refuge to him,
who had wrought so many & such striking
deliverances in his behalf; nor did he ever
lose again his attachment to the Brethren.
Long^r De missions among the Heathen
were a particular object of his attention,
and when he was chosen a member of
the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel,
he esteemed it a favor and privilege, to
take a more effectual share in this im-
portant work.

For several years past our late Brother
enjoyed but a poor state of health & neither
he nor others thought, his broken consti-
tution would have held out so long.

At the beginning of this year his health began to decline very rapidly, w^{ch} made it necessary for him, to go now and then a little out of town for the benefit of his health and he generally returned to his business with some appearance of new strength. But one day, as he was going out upon business, he was taken in the street with such a violent vomiting of blood, that his speedy dissolution was expected. However he recovered from this and several other fits of the same kind, to the astonishment of every body, till his nature was so exhausted, that it could bear up no longer under such repeated attacks and fell into a gradual decay. Under all these circumstances he showed great patience and resignation, yea frequently expressed his gratitude that he felt so little bodily pain.

At the same time a great & blessed work was carried on in his soul by the holy Ghost. Several things now appeared unto him in a different light from what

was nearly wrecked and he had a very narrow escape with his life. Being come home, he was reconciled to his parents and in 1755 married to his present wife, after which he carried on his business for about 6 Years. But being of a roving disposition he went again to England and arrived in London in 1761, whether his wife followed him soon after. Before he was rightly settled, he changed his mind again and enlisted in the army. Showing himself clever in his profession, he was soon made a Corporal and sent out with a recruiting party to Bristol. Here it happened, that as he was one day standing at a corner of the street, making his speech to the people for enlisting, turning about he suddenly spied Mr. Newberg standing in a shop, who had been his Laborer at Dublin. He was so struck, that he dropt his sword and said to the Drummer; let us go home, there is nothing to be done for us here. He was so ill, that he was obliged, to take to his bed, as soon as he came home.

His Officer, who had much regard for him, charged the Doctor, not to spare any pains for his recovery; but the latter declared, there was something in his illness, which he could not account for; he judged, that it originated in his mind. As soon as he had recovered a little, he went to Mr. Newberg, confessed to him his backslidings and fell about his neck weeping; but told him at the same time, that for the present it was impossible for him, to break off his engagements — While he was at Bristol, he experienced a very remarkable preservation of his life. Being in pursuit of a deserter, he with some of his men followed him into a glass house, where he had taken refuge. The workmen taking part with the deserter, pelted his pursuers with bits of broken glass and even with the melting substance out of the furnace. He saved himself by falling flat on the ground, and when the workmen had left the place in pursuit of the party, he escaped out of it. He had several other remarkable preserva-

tions

what they did formerly and various de-
viations occurred to his mind, which he
confessed with contrition, & was anxious
to have them forgiven. He complained
much about dryness of heart and once
earnestly desired, that a prayer might
be made in his behalf ^{at} his bedside;
which being readily complied with, he
joined in it with such fervency of spi-
rit, and with such hunger & thirst after
consolation, that all present were deeply
affected thereby. From thence he lived
from day to day upon that spiritual
comfort and nourishment, that was
administered unto him from the fulness
of Jesus, and which alone supported
him under his last trials & afflictions,
consisting chiefly in this, that some-
^{Cloud of}
times a ~~extre~~ darkness would over-
spread his soul and hide from him
the benign countenance of his Redeemer
and Savior. In his last days light &
peace filled his heart, and he frequently

called out with a longing desire: come
Lord Jesus, come! When he was blessed
for his departure, he declared once more
I am confident, that our Savior will
receive me in mercy. He departed Sept
9th in the evening, aged 56 Years and
2 months. At his funeral the above
mentioned text: I am poor and need
yet the Lord himself upon me, which
had proved the occasion of his conver-
sion, was the subject of the discourse,
as our late Brother had requested -

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