

Memoirs of the late Rev. Dr. Griswold.

I have very thought of writing anything like a memoir of myself the poorest among the Lord's poor ones has produced a thrilling sensation, so that after its completion, I have more than once consigned it to the fire. But as my high calling of God in Christ Jesus, & the events previous to my fellowship with the Brethren Church are strikingly marked with the divine finger, I do not refuse to render to the glory of God a brief narration of the special circumstances that principally bear on these two points.

I pleased God that I should draw my first breath in the house of my parents at Salisbury April 2. 1748. Much as I wish to honor the memory of my dear father & brother, yet from the most credible information, they cannot be considered in any other view than as refined devotee. Moral as was their character before men, they were immediately called to divine revelation & its doctrines; as a consequence, at times & joined their aversion to all but every denomination who professed the simple doctrines of

The question may now
be asked, how could the children of parents
thus disposed expect to be brought up in
the fear & reverence of the Lord? Much as they
might wish honest morality on their
infant minds, their general education
would have been according to the prevailing
political opinions so prevalent at that period.
I was the youngest of three brothers; the
eldest went early to Winchester school, be-
ing designed for the Bar. The second to
Westminster for the army. From seven
years old I was a day scholar at the Ca-
thedral grammar school, & had my
father lived till I had reached twelve years
was to go to Winchester College.

I must now revert to the awful
events which under Providence, led to the
separation of the Sav - gracious purpose
with me. In 1759 it pleased God to re-
move both my honoured parents with
a few weeks of each other, my mother of
consumption in July; my father in
Octr of a gouty affection on the heart,
while conversing with me after dinner
on my going to Winchester next Easter.

Sue B

Such awful bereavements are frequently
attended with incalculable loss to minors,
but my all merciful God, caused them in
the sequel to work for my eternal gain.
For He who knows the end from the begin-
ning, saw me (a poor orphan) lying in
my blood, (spiritual death) without any
to pity my forlorn case. Thank God, I am
now in my 76th year, enabled to believe
that my time of love was come. These
thoughts of peace concerning me were gra-
dually to be fulfilled, that my lost &
dead soul should live by faith to Him on
the earth, & when His good works in me
should be finished, live with Christ in
His glorious Kingdom. O most immor-
tal and blessed ever blessed prospects!
Since the call of an immortal soul from
death to life, & from darkness to light is
the most important of all events, no
incident combined with its spiritual
progress, trivial as it may appear to
carnal wisdom, will be deemed so by
him, who has cause to have degree to
see, with a heart to understand the mys-
teries of the Kingdom of God.

In my father's will two guardians were appointed, his only brother & one of my uncles, Brothers. The first immediately entered on the charge. The whole landed property was left to our eldest brother, with small fortunes to the younger children. My uncle aware that mine was by no means sufficient to pursue my honoured father's intention for the church, determined to take me to one of the most respectable schools at Bristol. His friends in this city mentioned the late Rev. Mr. Foote, who taught Latin & Greek lessons in the mornings. After dinner Writing, Arithmetic, & the rudiments of Geometry were taught by the Soher. Here I was entered about Michaelmas following. The leading reason of my being settled here instead of London, was that my excellent & truly pious Aunt Anne, residing in Bristol, was on the point of joining the Moravians. In this event the divine finger is most evident. In sterility I shall have abundant cause to thank & praise my faithful Shepherd for having brought me his poor straying lamb

and under the following care of their worthy

Sister. The Sunday & half yearly vacations were generally spent under her roof. My Aunt occasionally touched in a very delicate manner, suited to my capacity, on divine and various subjects, particularly of the history of Joseph Glanuel. My ears were too quick to hear the words, even as they seemed, yet the dulness of hardness of my heart prevented me from comprehending their spiritual import.

After many months she proposed to accompany her to the Chapel. Unpleasant reports of the Moravians had been instilled into my ears by the elder boys of the school. These added to the natural aversion of my heart to serious subjects urged me to refuse to go anywhere except to the parish church. Two years had elapsed before my Aunt, having some ladies belonging to the poor, in her house, requested me to attend her now & then to Chancery Lane. The gratitude felt by me for her constant kind attentions pre-

vails over all antipathies. The sermon
was preached by the late Rev. Mr. Nyberg.
The evangelical style was new to my
ears, & the place of people was contrary to church
regulations. That I scarcely understood the
 drift of the sermon, nor was I pleased with
the mode of worship. My guardian even
only thought of my learning the Italian
method of Book Keeping to prepare me
for a merchant's Compting house. In
1763 he placed me with an excellent mas-
ter, who was to devote 2 or 3 hours a day in
having me read the Classics in which
I had made good proficiency. This gentle-
man's academy was near the Chapel. I
began to attend very frequently with the
children of the principal members here. In
a few months I had leave to attend the Soci-
ety meetings on Monday's & Friday's, on the
latter courses of Divinity were generally read,
concluding with the beautiful old hymn
I had so full of bruises & sorrow from
the Organ gallery. One evening the organ
native of a boy older than me, was read.
Previous to his being dead, he had been
deeply exercised with the fear of death.

chiefly

now
by caused by his inattention to the warn-
ings of the Holy Spirit, & from a desire to
live in the world, deferring the salvation
of his soul to a future period, ignorant
whether now hidden by the thine of mortal life
and who may be snapp'd by God in whose hand
were the timer. His tears & heart rendings
accompanied with the deep sense of be-
ing forever lost, caused him to be hum-
bled before God, & in real earnest to call
upon the Saviour for the remission of
all his sins & follies in his all cleansing
& purifying blood. A short time before his
departure, the good & faithful Shepherd,
graciously assured him of an interest
in the great mediatorial sacrifice. By
this manifestation his spirit became
comforted & he resigned his redeemed soul
into the hands of his creator & Sav-

The deep impression made by the spi-
rit of truth on my poor cold heart beg-
gars all description. It was as though
an arrow from the Lord had entered
into my soul's sounding me to the
quick. The meeting was no sooner
ended than I hastened to my chamber

Opening the door knelled down by the
bedside, with incestant tears, I tam-
mered forth my first prayer from the
heart, bneching the compassionate God
to show mercy to me a poor orphan wan-
dering in the wilderness; that when my
time should come, I might be prepared
to go in peace to my eternal home.
(was my petition) That I might
live the life, & die the death of the right
course.

Have I not just cause for considering
this important event as my first
conviction of sin? His insight into the
precious doctrine of the atonement.
But like the blind man in consequence
of the spittle's first touch, I saw men
like trees walking. These glimmerings
of spiritual light came gradually to the
Sav^r the fountain of every blessing, & to
be more cordially attached the the Bon
I would now have been an hour to have
sacrificed every earthly advantage rather
than deny the Lord who first shone his
compassion, or quit the fellowship of those
dear people, whom I despised.

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