

Memoir
of the Rev. James Baathroyd,
who departed in Rastrick, on Sunday Dec 1st

I was born on the 6th Sept 1773. My father was a teacher of Music, & as soon as I was able, he expected me to assist him in that line, & especially by leading the boys in Singing at the Chapel which we attended. Almost immediately after his death, I sold my bags (two linsets) & all the Music which I possessed, because I had reason to think, that Music had often led my father to public houses. I now left the place of worship, which I had attended with him, & went regularly to a Dissenting Chapel, & though it was really laughable I thought myself a very good man. After some time the Minister of the place joined with another person in the purchase of the lease of a farm. But as he could not have it all himself, he divided his share of it into smaller lots & sold me one of them. In settling the money part of the transaction, I thought he cheated me, & I discontinued attending on his ministry. Now I thought, though I had lost the idea of my goodness, I went to no place of worship, I am however a more honest man than the Minister. In a little time I became a member of a Reading Society formed in Rastrick. In our Library we had Tom. Paine's Volney's & other Infidel Works, which I read, & I soon became a bold Deist.

I endeavoured to persuade others to come over to my views; but I failed & it did not succeed. I now fell ill & was in imminent danger. My neighbour Mr. Thornton heard of it & came to see me. I used to laugh at this good man for his religion, & on seeing him pass our house on his way to the Brethren Chapel at Wyke, I often said to myself, "Well if I went to a place of worship, I would go to one nearer home." That began to talk to me; but I replied "I believe the danger is now over I laughed at him. Turning away from me with a manner that bespoke deep regret, he observed "James, it is however well to be prepared" I left me. The Holy Spirit applied that simple word to my heart, & I could do nothing but think of it. - On my recovery, as soon as I was able, through under the immediate observation of my devotional companions, & my head was still bound up, I accompanied Charles to Lower Wyke Chapel, & the gospel truths which I heard there deeply affected me. I was fond of the bushy boughs for ~~can~~^{the} Christians with the Brethren Church; but Doctor Oakley, then the Minister, one Sunday after the service, came to me into the gallery & said, "I have observed, that you have attended here regularly for some time, & have often been much affected. I suppose you would like to join us & go into the house with me." He took me

into the parlour, & abounding me quite overcome,
he covered himself & left me for a little
time. I now gave vent to my fears
& recovered. On his return I could
converse with him & soon obtained
all my privileges in the congregation.
My wife joined & attended her at
the same time. Far, though on my
becoming a believer; I do not believe
that she experienced a similar change,
yet she did not oppose my attending
our Chapel, but soon came along
with me, & the means of grace
were much blessed to her also.

It was about this time that I
moved to a farm in Braddy land, where
I resided twenty one years. I was very
well off when I went to it, but farming
reduced me to poverty. From thence
I came hither to Pastwick, & the Lord
has indeed for these nine years been
very, very merciful to me. At last a
thunderburst before I came hither, I lost
a son who died in prison, where he was
confined for preaching. I ^{now} returned
over his transgressions; but on his
corpse being brought home, I would
& his countenance appeared so
sweet & with such a smile that
I said to myself "this cannot be
the corpse of one in misery."
Being quite alone, I knelt down
by the side of the coffin & prayed

to the Lord, that if he had taken his
soul to himself he would give me
a token of it, & to let that token be the
falling of same rain about the time of
his interment, & it was in ~~that~~^{the} very hot
of my summer, ~~which we had~~^{had} yet an
old remains being taken out of the hearse,
where had appeared no previous indication
of rain, a most gentle & ~~general~~^{general}
shower, & I felt assured that the Lord
had thus answered my prayer
of that my son was safe in heaven
with him. About two years since my
late wife departed, & I had every satisfaction
regarding her spiritual state.

She gave a good testimony of her
faith & hope before her disease,
I feel assured, that both she & our
son are in heavenly glory.

If it is nearly two years since I
was first affected with the disease
with which I have ever since been
troubled, & which seems likely to
be the means of my going hence.
When I was able to come to the
Chapel, I was regular in my attendance
& O I have felt it often good to be
there I have the Congr. & pray for the
Brs. & Mrs. I wish I had told my Brs.
more of my experience, it might
have done them good.

Since I have been confined by
this illness, about a twelvemonth ago
I made my first experience, it appears
to me that the Lord had forsaken me.
Oh! how distressed no one knows what
these ^{feelings} were, but such as have had them. Bitter
indeed is it to feel forsaken of the Lord.
I prayed fervently to him to let me
see in what I had grieved him. The
Holy Spirit shewed that I had offended
him in a money - affair. It was
a book-debt upon which I had promised
to pay interest: but a friend advised
me not to pay it. I had had an acquittance
and was therefore in the eyes of men clear.
But the Holy Ghost shewed me that
I was guilty in the business, & I said
"I will pay it, if I part with every
thing to do so." My sons, on my men-
tioning it to them, quite concurred
with me & I have paid a good part
of it, & have the means of liquidating
the remainder. As soon as I had
determined to pay it, I felt such peace
& satisfaction as I cannot describe.
& I continue to enjoy the peace of my
Saviour. He has assured me of his
protection & I rejoice in the experience
of his favours. The more I think
of his dealings with me, the more
I must say he has had great mercy upon
me, who was once a bold atheist. Some
time after I became a believer, I met
a man in Huddersfield, who addressed
me, & asked what I was then at at the

subject of religion I did not know him; but he said, that he had some time before in a public house in that town heard me hold a ^{argument} against them. "I was then" said he in doubt about them but since that time, I have been convinced of their truth. I have heard that you are a believer now." We rejoiced together in our mutual faith, & strengthened each other in the Lord. Though my children, except one, do not go with me to Lower Wyke, I rejoice to say that they feel pleased to join in prayer, either when anyone comes to visit me, or when we appear before the Lord at the family altar. Before the decease of my dear wife, I did not pray with my family, I was too timid, but since her departure, I have ventured to have found that the Lord hears very simple prayers. He knows, hears & answers what comes from the heart, & that alone is prayer, such as pleases him. I think I shall not be here many days longer, & I know that the Lord will take me to himself. I long to go to him & I have nothing now upon my mind to make me uneasy. He is truly precious to me, & I shall live with him in glory. Thus far our late Brother dictated on the 26th of March 1830.

Hearing ~~on~~ ~~one~~ of his visitors in conversation
with the doctor to whom he dictated
the above, during one of his intervals
spoken of his freedom from temptation,
at their next interview he
said "When I told you the other day
I fear I went too far: for since you were
here many things have perplexed my
mind; & I have felt ^{sore} ~~sore~~ ^{I say} that ^{I was not}
tempted man. But I believe the Lord
has heard my prayer & given me his
pardon & his peace." In addition to his
distressing & painful disease, he was when
visited on April 15th dreadfully afflicted
with hiccoughs, & observed in a low whisper
"I have had these fits time almost un-
interruptedly for six days; but the Lord
enabled me to bear them without re-
fining, He does all things well." will
with the trial make a way to es-
cape." In after visits about the
time his remarks were all of aggra-
vated nature, & though still much dis-
tressed by his hiccoughs, he testified
that the Lord had done much ^{for} him
& that he had great reason to praise
him. Once in particular he seemed
almost exhausted with this distressing
affection, & said "O pray the Lord to
forgive me & cleanse me from all my
sins & end this distressing complaint."
But he does all things well &

His patience was quite exemplary & persevering, & his whole behaviour under his severe bodily trials through the lengthened period of his enduring them, was truly edifying.

On Mar 4th he said "I am very weak & suffer a good deal; but my Saviour does not leave me. He is still precious & have every thing I can want." Being told he was much inquired after in the congregation, he replied, "I am glad that I have the esteem of my Brethren. I used to enjoy myself much among them & pray the Lord to bless them all. I am wasting his time & shall rejoice to go to him."

Mar 16th he remarked, in ^a ~~the visit~~ ^{in which he} paid him by a brother ^{an older brother} ~~had~~ expressed the hope that ~~he~~ ^{we} would find the Lord kind & gracious to the end. "I replied" said he "I have not a doubt of it." After a doubt! doubt! I do not doubt it at all. He will keep me to the end."

I suffer much at present but
the Lord will depart & comfort
me. He is mine & I am his -
joined with him in sweet communion
and his bitter physician is
the foundation of this union.

He appeared on the 24th to be at
the point of departure & lonely
whispered "I'm favoured with
the same enjoyments as yet the
Lord is still good to me" And just
when on the 30th he appeared so
exhausted with pain as to be unable
to speak, he said "I am not penitent
enough." Supposing that by this
he estimated he had not as clear
& satisfactory a view of his interest
in Christ as he was wont to enjoy,
his sister asked him, if he still
felt the Lord near & precious? With
an emphasis, of which he was thought
to be altogether incapable, he
replied, "O ye, I do" He named
much but still signified his
resignation to the Lord will

From this time he said but little
except in his delirium, which was
now much pain in this head. For
this he often called upon ~~God~~ the
Lord, knowing that even when he
was not fully conscious of his
state, the bent of his mind was
the inclination of his ^{heart} ~~but~~ were toward
his God & Saviour: On the 2nd Dec.
he became insensible & lay in this
state till the 2nd Abund, moon
this day his enlarged spirit went
to gain the blessed abode, & praise
him whom he loved while here
Kenshaw he now behold ^{in glory}

The age was 63 $\frac{1}{4}$ years.