

Feb 13/112

Memoir

of the M^r W^s Tom Johnson, who departed
at Fulneck April 12. 1837, aged 41 years.

Our late Brother was born at Purley Feby 1. 1796.
It was the constant endeavor of his parents
to instill into the minds of their children principles
of the strictest uprightness and rectitude of mo-
ral conduct. Our late Brother experienced the
beneficial influence of this training even be-
fore he became a subject of saving grace.

A malignant fever, with which five of the family
were affected at the same time, was the means
used by the Lord to awake the conversion of
his parents. During this season of affliction
they were faithfully visited by our late Br. Rauppel,
whose instructions were by the blessing of God made
effectual in convincing them of sin and their con-
sequent need of salvation, and imparting unto
them true peace of mind by faith in the blood of
Christ. They had the joy to see two of their children
leave this world in confident assurance
of eternal life. They themselves soon after joined
our Church.

When a boy our late Brother attended our
Sunday school, and after leaving it continued his

attendance at our chapel. At the early age
of eighteen years he married his now widow,
partnered, Elizabeth Halliday. Her reverent care
after the uses of life and the difficulties which
connected with the maintenance of a family, w^d
seemed to have checked the ardour of his love,
which had been sown in his heart in early life.
However, during the state of spiritual decay
he attended any place of worship it was stated at
Pulmuck; and when after his marriage he became
more regular in his attendance, his fond dilation
for our mode of worship was so great, that while
his wife continued to go to the Independent meet-
ing-house in Pudsey, he came to our chapel.

The happy death of his brother, John, made a
deep impression on his mind, and it overthrew his
previous resolution of joining the people of God.
His wife having likewise begun regularly to
attend our chapel, they were both admitted to
our society. At this time a Prayer-meeting was
held once a fortnight at his house, in which he
took great delight at an interval of his busi-
ness, finding like a weary traveler, who longs
for rest & refreshment to revive his drooping spirits
and recruit his strength for continuing his journey.

Soon after his becoming a member of our
Church his consistency in a following of Jesus
was put to a severe test. One Sabbath evening,
his master requested him to assist ^{his} the other work-
men in tenting a piece of cloth on Sunday
morning. He felt the difficulty into which
he was placed when in his master had al-
ways been very kind to him, and who, he feared,
would be so much offended by a refusal, as to
take the work from him. After a little care-
ful consideration he said to his master employed,
"Master, I will willing work for you six days in
the week; but on the seventh I cannot." The
consequence was such as had been expected;
for his master was highly offended and dismis-
sed him from his employ. Being thus depriv-
ed of the means of earning a livelihood our
late brother was thrown into no small perplexity.
Mr. Remond, who just then paid him a visit, being
informed of the cause of his distress, commended
his conduct and encouraged him to put his trust
in the Lord, who, when one door was shut, could
easily open another. A few days after his master took him
again to him into his employ. When made the
work of out labours verified in the expression of
our late brother, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

and his eighteenth, and eleventh day, shall
be added unto you." It devolves to me to say, that
that several years after, when this writer lay in
his death-bed, his conduct toward, and late brother
caused him so much uneasiness, that he could not
be satisfied till he had disturbed from his mind to him
peculiar trouble. He frankly acknowledged,
that it lay with great weight on his mind, that he had
tried to compel his late brother to sin against
God, and that he could not be pacified till he had
rest for him and asked his forgiveness.

Regarding the work of the Holy Ghost in the
heart of our late brother, when he became seriously
concerned for the salvation of his soul, Mr. Tilby,
who enjoyed his unintermitting confidence, has furnished
the following account:

"My acquaintance with our late Br. W. Johnson
commenced April 18 of 14 years ago, about which
time the Lord was enlightening his mind and lead-
ing him to attend to the things, which made for our
everlasting peace. The ministry of the late Br.
Rampfle was the means used by our Saviour
for awakening serious impressions in his mind
and deepening his convictions of sin. He often
referred to the dark and gloomy state of his
mind at this period, and to the joy he experienced

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in the light of the gospel brought back in upon his soul.
In one of which he attended the hymn, "Howbeit was
my condition like unto unto made in whch de. which was say
when meeting he attended, apostled him much encouragement.
He was enabled to believe, that the blood of atone-
ment had been shed also for him, and that the good
physician would still look upon him in mercy, and
heal all his disease. The joy in the Lord, he then ex-
perienced, was not altogether from doubt and fear,
and from the spirit of legal self-working, which caused
him to look more at himself, and his vileness, than
at the great object set before him in the gospel, the
Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.

"While in bondage to the legal spirit, he had been
reluctant to accept the invitation of the church, and feared
to obey the command of our Saviour, to communicate
his death in the Holy Supper. I thought myself too bad, nay,
too unworthy and wished to feel myself better before
I presumed to sit down at the Lord's Table. He was
delivered from this unhappy state of mind by means
of a sermon on the word, addressed to the church of
the Laodiceans, Because thou art lukewarm and neither
cold nor hot I will spue thee out of my mouth. When
describing his feelings under the sermon, he said; I
thought Mr. Daingerfield looked at me and said addressed
me thou art neither cold nor hot. I felt the justice
of the rebuke - my heart trembled - it burned - I
resolved no longer to hesitate - I consented with

with the Friend of my soul, that I would be His unto
perpetuity, and would seek to enjoy all the privileges
of His house." He did not content himself with
having formed the resolution, and then wait for an
convenient season for executing it; but immediately
after the service went to the Minister, making the
request, to be admitted among the communicants
of the members of the Church.

"How greatly he prized this ordinance of the
Lord's House is best known to those of his friends, who
witnessed his emotion whenever the Lord's Supper
was the subject of discourse. His religion, his faith,
was not of the propagative kind, with which some
ratify themselves. It was the earnest desire of his soul
that by the grace of God he might be kept from every
thing, which would hinder his enjoyment of the love
of the Christ, or bring reproach on his profession.
The grace of God, by which he had led him to the knowledge
of the way of salvation, had taught him, that denying
an adulterous and worldly lusts, he should live soberly,
righteously and godly in this present world, looking
for that blessed hope and the ^{glorious} appearing of the great
God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. He was also
in fearfulness lest he should be led into temptation
and act unfaithfully to the trust reposed in him;
but, for he experienced it by heart that he had taken the
memorials of our Saviour's love, should take the

warn of dishonesty, or fraud? Hence at on his
earliest desire, but what he was apt to do might
proceed from the open repeated wish, that his con-
duct might not treat his children ill, by saying,
possible that all the blessing and success, which may
^{com promis'd} attend his labours & his evident has thankfulness for
whenever he found that his honest and devout in-
dustry had been unprofitable, by saying, 'It is the
Lord's doing; it is not man's.'

On Tuesday Evening 18th he and his wife were ad-
mitted to the S.C. after their previous confirmation, when
required to recite his baptismal covenant by a solemn
act of self-dedication to the Lord, he repeated the order;

Will you to thee now engage
To be throughout my pilgrimage,
Except my life and soul, my King,
My life to thy service then I bring.

From what has been stated above, or rather from the
general tenor of ton of his life, ^{it is evident} that he felt
the importance of the step he had taken. The earnest-
ness and deliberate consideration marked his con-
duct at the time of his reception into the church of
himself and his wife in 1827. There was no im-
mobil ^{by} his grace of God to stand firm to the promise
covenant with our Saviour and His chosen family,
of which this solemn rite in our Church was the
pledge.

In 1826 he moved with his family into our settlement, and undertook the management of the cloth-business, which was then being established in the B. & M. Young, as a branch of the Diocony. In this situation he showed a much concern for the prosperity of the business and labored with great diligence, as if it had been his own. It may with truth be affirmed of him that a steward he was found faithful in all things. It was given to him to act in accordance with the apostolic injunction, "Be not slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." The Lord did not withhold His blessing; but prospered the work of his hands.

As regards his general character it may be mentioned, that he was a man of retired habits and rather reserved in his disposition. Hence he rarely entered into ~~too~~ religious conversation in reference to his own feelings and heart's expression. But, while his lips were apparently sealed on these subjects, his conduct spoke for him, and spoke in a language, that could not be misunderstood. No observer of his acts dealing, in any manner, and of his walk and conversation among his brethren and sisters or with an army man of the world, could doubt that he was sincere in his desire and profession to be not in appearance but in reality an humble follower of Jesus.

Jesus. He was very much averse to anything like show, or excitement in religion, and used to say, "Let us have my religious enjoyments in a quiet way." He was not one of them who, having itching ears, did give their profession by forsaking their own plain worship, and running and going to gratify an idle curiosity. In the chapel, and among the people, where the Lord had first met him, he lived at home. These be found that spiritual food, which his soul needed, and the joy visible in his countenance, proved that his inner man was strengthened in faith, hope and love. Hence he took great pleasure in the office of Chapel-visitor. Of this he gave a striking proof a short time before his death. Being indisposed he repeatedly expressed an earnest wish, that he might be sufficiently recovered by the time when his cousin Miss Vine commenced. But the Lord had determined, otherwise. For ever his weak Vine could not be permitted to exchange her attendance in the earthly sanctuary for a place in the celestial temple, where those who "have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night."

Our late Brother had enjoyed uninterrupted health till the middle of January ¹⁸³⁷, when he was seized with an attack of the prevailing Influenza, which chiefly affected his head, ^{and} produced acute pain in the ears, accompanied with much difficulty of hearing.

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The war, however, still able in some measure to attest to his improvement, which encouraged the hope, that the complaint would gradually be subdued. But, whatever might be the hope of his friends, the few remarks, which occasionally dropped from his lips, showed, that he concluded it not improbable, that the time of his departure was at hand. Then, on our occasion, when his wife was speaking with him about a room, that was being fitted up for their accommodation, he said, "I shall not live to enjoy it." In this opinion he was fully confirmed, when on April the 7th, he was seized with great dizziness in the head. During the evening of that day he had much pleasure in conversation with a friend on various spiritual subjects. Being reminded of the love your gracious Saviour, who had done all sufficient for us, he said, "Amen," and then repeated the Hymn which, as mentioned before, had conveyed much comfort to his mind at the time of his first awakening, "How long was my condemnation? till Jesus made me whole." In the prayer he offered up at their family devotion that evening, he in a very impressive manner supplicated the Lord, to give grace to them all to run with patience their Christian course, and ever aim at the mark, which is above every mark. The following day, being communion Sabbath, he felt better and got up in the morning. Some extracts from Deodatus Rinus Prog. & spiritual
of religion

in the soul, creating of the daughters of Christians on
 the west, and like a win some power of ~~the~~^{the} last
 few days' last discourse ~~were~~^{was} sent to him.
 dimmed and made never all its light seemed to be on the
 happiness of a child of God; and exclaimed in a tone of
 evident joy, "The Lord is with me; I have flame now,"
 Alluding to the celebration of the Lord's supper he
 added, "I can have Him here as well as you in the
 chapel." — On Sunday he seemed to be much better
 and was very cheerful. The widow of his brother John
 calling to say him, he said; "Last Wednesday, when
~~was~~ passing by the ^{was} ~~was~~ sound of the Independent
 Chapel, and looking where my brother's remains were
 interred, I could not help exclaiming aloud, Oh!
John, thou hast a glorious crown on thy head." — On
 Monday he was much troubled with sickness. Be-
 tween the fits of vomiting, he often ejaculated, "Sweet
 Jesus! the Lord is al-sufficient!" — On Tuesday he took
 no notice of any thing, and in the evening became
 very sickly. Once he began to repeat the hymn,
 previous visit thy plantation in but could proceed
 no further than the first line. The last sensible
 word he uttered was in answer to the question,
 whether he felt happy, when he replied and could say
 that Jesus was his Saviour, when he replied, "I hope
 Jesus; the Lord is al-sufficient." After this his

recollecton began to fail, and he continued in an insensible state till about 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning, when his blessed spirit entered into the tomb, which remained for the people of God.

Sketch of the character and last days of
Wm. Johnson, who departed at Putney on
April 8, 1838; aged 6 years, and 8 months.

Compiled by his Schoolmaster.

The friends of the departed child, while musing the loss of one, who was greatly endeared to them by his interesting manners and good conduct and, above all, by his ^{peculiar} character and deportment, feel a pleasure in recollecting various little occurrences, which afford evidence that the heart of this dear child was impressed with the importance of religion, and that the Holy Spirit was carrying on a work of grace in his soul, and preparing him for that inheritance to which he has been so early translated.

As his pilgrimage here was short, it was a trying one. For the last three years he suffered greatly from a spinal complaint. From the first attack in February 1835, when he had not completed his fourth year, he was for five months confined to his couch, and practically lost the use of his limbs. During that time

it gave him much pleasure when the history of the Old Testament saints was either read or related to him, especially the history of Abraham, Joseph & Moses.

In July of the just mentioned year his health was partially restored, and his friends indulged the hope of his complete recovery; but in November the malady returned with increased force, and from that time to the day of his death he continued to suffer in a greater or less degree. His patience under the severe medical treatment, which his complaint demanded necessarily, was truly astonishing; so much so, that his medical attendants declared they had seldom seen such patience and firmness even in adults.

Between the several attacks of illness he attended school, where he was remarkable for diligence and good behaviour. Possessed of good natural ability and a great degree of application, his progress in learning, notwithstanding frequent interruption, was considerable, more so than that of many much older boys. His good conduct appeared to proceed from principle and not, as is the case with many children, from fear of punishment. He was much distressed when any circumstance caused him to be late at school, and he made a point of being clean and neat in his person and dress.

From his infancy he regarded the Lord's Day with feelings of reverence and delight. It was to him

the most happy day of the seven; and great was his
grief when prevented from attending the services in the
chapel. When about three old, having a man/pine
transported/declara, that he had not been in a place
of worship for eight years, little William exclaimed,
"Not go to chapel? Then, I am sure God will not for-
give you, for God is there." He gave proofs also that
he was an attentive hearer, for it was ^a question
when he did not ask for an explanation of some
part of the sermon, which he had not understood.

The departure of his father in the spring of
last year did not make that impression on him,
which might have been expected in a child of his charac-
ter. He seemed to grieve much more at the removal
of Mr. Kirkland to Leominster, a few months after.
His mother inquiring the reason of this, he replied,
"Brother, father must go, for our Services catch him,
but Mr. Kirkland might have stayed."

Sometime after he said there was a petition in
the Litany, which he did not remember to have noti-
ced previously to his father's death, viz. "Depend on
and provide for fatherless children and widows." He
knew all the preceding part of the Litany; but the
petition always affected him so much, that he could
not remember what followed, or as he expressed it,
"his eyes did not get right till the sermon began."

Another pleasing feature in his character was his strict regard to truth in himself and others. Accustomed to speak the truth himself he never failed to reprove them, whom he heard repeat a falsehood. If he heard any of his friends relate a circumstance a recent time, he always corrected them if they did not tell it exactly in the same manner as before.

In the autumn of last year he was able to attend school pretty regularly, and with great pleasure looking forward to the examination at Christmas. Those who were present on that occasion, must recollect the propriety, with which he recited a piece, the last stanza of which, containing a prayer, now happily granted, is so beautifully affecting, that to justify its insertion in this sketch of his character:

Art Thou my Father? Then at last,
When all my days on earth are past,
Send down to take me in thy love,
Be my beloved child above.

After this holiday, he for a short time returned to school; but to his great grief was forced to discontinue his attendance, as his complaint increased in violence. His immediate danger, however, was apprehended till about a month ago, when topical symptoms manifested themselves, and it became apparent that his days on earth were numbered.

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A friend one day read to him the 21st. Chapter
of Revelations. He felt so much interested in the descrip-
tion of the New Jerusalem given in that chapter, that
a few days after he asked his sister to read it again to
him. As he did not immediately recollect what chapter
it was, she repeated its principal contents, which enabled
her to find it. She delighted also in reading the ac-
count of our Saviour's Miracles, and one day, speaking
of His having turned water into wine, he said, "The
Jew might have known that He was God, or He
could not have done so."

A friend asking him one day whether he still
prayed, as he had not heard him lately, he answered,
"Oh, yes; I still say my usual prayer." His friend
inquiring what he prayed for after that, he replied,
"You know the Litany - well, there is a prayer in
that, it is a very short one, only a few syllables, it is,
Lord, have mercy upon us! - Is not that a right
prayer?" At another time he told his mother that
he used different prayers; for sometimes he said,
"Lord, open my eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death." Being
asked, if he understood the meaning of that Text, he
replied; "Yes; sleeping the sleep of death means going
to the bad place, and having my eyes opened means
going to heaven".

Speaking of Christ dying for sinners, he said,

he could not tell how Christ could die for the unoffending, who were not born, since they could not have sinned. His mother having explained it to him he said; "I know (that) I know that I am a sinner, and that you are a sinner, and that Jesus Christ died for me, but I cannot understand how it was."

The Hymn, "Jesus, Lover of my soul, - let me to thy bosom fly," was a great favorite of his. After him once day, after reading it, he said; "Whosoever knows any thing must know that Jesus loves our souls, or He would not have died for us." He was also very fond of the Hymn, "When piping sickly under the frame," while his mother was reading it to him, only three days before his departure, he lifted up his eyes and said; "My frame is wasted, Mother." And when she read the lines, "To make thy bed He'll consider," he looked up and sweetly smiled. Many were the conversations, which he had during his last illness with several kind friends, in which he expressed his desire to depart and be with Christ.

He was confined to his bed for ten days, and during that time, as in the former part of his illness, silence answered except his lips. Seeing he had not long to live he gave directions for the dividing of his savings and other things among his companions.

Early on Sunday morning, April the 8th, he prayed

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for every member of the family repeatedly and, with childlike simplicity, said to his mother, "I always pray for my father. I know he is in heaven, but I cannot help praying for him. I shall soon be with him."

During the day a great alteration was observable in him, and it became evident that he would soon be released from all his suffering. He spoke very little and became gradually weaker till shortly before 10 o'clock in the evening, when he fell gently asleep in company of his wife & son the 28th day of January, aged 6 years 8 months and 28 days.

Rest now in peace,
Behold the Lord's face,
Thou happy spirit thou early hast gone.