

f. 1352

Personalia of our late d^r B^r James Charlswoorth
who enter'd into the Joy of his Lord July 30th 1770.

Our late Dr^r W^r Charlswoorth has left the following short account
of some of the most remarkable particulars Circumstances of his life till
to the year 1753.

I was born at Little Gummervale in the parish of Birskel in the
County of York on the 16th Dec^r 1721. And was educated by my Parents in
the principles of the Church of England, in a strict & careful manner, & preserved
from the seductions w^{ch} many ^{youths} people are expos'd to. When at the age of
12 to 14 years I began to keep Company & frequent some of the places
of Diversion in the World; I never did do it with the same ease &
satisfaction w^{ch} I saw other people did; but always felt Remorse of
Conscience, & when I was alone often pray'd to our Sav^r to have Mercy
upon me & keep & preserve me from all Sin. At about the age of 15, I
left of all Pleasures & became acquainted with a small Company of Methodists
to whom I join'd my self, Read their Books & became very sober &
Religious, but found my poor heart wanted something w^{ch} I had not.

When I was about 17 years of age (in the year 1739) I became
acquainted with the Br^m at their first coming to Yorkshire, & my dear
Sav^r made me sensible of my lost state & condition, & the misery & someth^r
of my Nature, & that it was his Blood alone w^{ch} co^d make one happy,
As such a poor sinner I fled for Refuge to his Wounds & found peace
thro the Virtue & power of his merits & Death. In the year 1740 I went
to London & staid some time wth the Br^m there, & return'd again to
Yorkshire the same year. I was Rec'd into the Cong^r Dec^r 8. 1742
soon after the Cong^r was establish'd here, & was admitted to be a
Partaker of the Body & Blood of my crucified Sav^r wth the Cong^r July
6th 1743. I was confirm'd as a witness of the sufferings & atonement
of the Lamb of God by Br^r Spangenberg the 21st Dec^r the same year
before w^{ch} I had left my Busyness & Relations & went to live at the

first S. W^m - Economy at Holbeck where I continued till the 20th
July 1741, when I was bles'd by Imposition of hands to the Office of
Vorsteher of the S. W^m. after w^t I was mostly employ'd in Preaching &
visiting the young men in the different Societies, which I continued till 1758.
about 18th time I was oblig'd to engage so deeply in the Manufactories and
other outward affairs that I declin'd preaching, & for sever^l years together
went thro' a scene of Distress in my own Mind with the external affairs
in w^t I was engag'd; however I continued therein to assist therein, & went
several times to Holland on that Acct^r & bore a part in most of the Transac-
tions till the year 1753, when Ruin seem'd to threaten our whole Constitution
if our S^r Sav^r had not miraculously interpos'd & inspir'd the Dr^r Disciple
w^t Courage & Generosity more than Human, whereby he was enabled to
satisfy all the Creditors, being willing to take all the Debt upon himself
w^t had been Contracted without his knowledge & consent. 'Tis true Jindas
would to hinder his engaging himself for such vast Sums of Money
w^t he had no visible Fund to discharge withal, & wo^r rather have
sufford any hardships myself, than be the occasion of Involving his
Dr^r Person; but he was resolv'd to do it, & did it I don't doubt at the
Command of his Lord & Master, who has indeed has miraculously
help'd him thro' to the wonder & astonishmt. of all Men both Friends
& Enemies, & w^t certainly among the surprizing Transactions of
his Life in the Kingdom of our Sav^r, ^{will} be transmitted down to the
latest posterity as an unparalleled act of His Love & faithfulness &
Generosity to his People. with the conclusion of these dangerous
& troublesome Affairs of the Congⁿ, I reckon I may also conclude
one period of my Life w^t probably contains pretty near the whole
of the mortal part, & when I look back how I have spent it and
consider that I have been almost twice seven years in the Kingdom
of our Sav^r; I really Blush & my heart is ashamed before my
faithful Creator & Redeemer, that I have been so little Joy to him.

Him in this world, for all the smart & pain w^{ch} He has suffer'd on
my acct, & can only entreat Him that He wo: forgive the best
actions of my life, & entirely obliterate the worst & greatest part,
for when I reflect upon the whole, my poor heart sincerely grieves

Hyrie Eleison!

On his Birth Day Decr 16th 1753. He wrote the following.

My ever dearest Lamb! my only Saviour & Redemer, my heart adores
thee in thy crucified form, and with a sinners like heart
imploring thy Pardon & Absolution for every thing in my whole life,
but particularly for every thing in the year past, Thou know'st o
my God that it has been a year of Trial & Temptations to thy
People in general & to my poor heart in particular. O forgive I pray
thee my dearest Lamb! O forgive all my unfaithfulness, all my unbelief,
all my disharmony wth my son & let every thing that is past be
Buried in thy Wounds & Remembred no more, & help thy People thro
all Difficulties in w^{ch} they are involv'd to the Honour of thy Name
& Gospel, & particularly I entreat thee O my dearest Sav^r to Bless & preserve
me in this my 33rd year of my life in w^{ch} I am now enter'd, & is the more
important to me, as it is the year of Life in w^{ch} thou didst finish the
work of our Eternal Redemption, & didst seal my salvation with thy
most precious blood; Oh let it be an ever memorable year to my heart,
O my Lamb let it be the year in w^{ch} my whole Being shall be made
like unto thee, & wherein every thing unlamblike shall be Interned
for ever; The year wherein I may receive an everlasting impression of
thy whole martyred Body, that thy dear amiable wounded person may
become the Object of all my wishes & desires, & if thou shouldest permit
me also to finish my course this year, Oh prepare my heart for the
enjoyment & possession of thy self, & receive me as a poor sinner into
thy bleeding arms; or if thou wouldest have me stay still a little longer
& help me to act my part faithfully to thy Honour, & to the joy

of thy People, & so impregnate my Tabernacle wth thy holy Humanity,
That all the Seeds of Corruption may be destroy'd in me, & helps me thro'
this World wth an unspotted Garment, wth a robe wthds & kept clean in
thy precious Blood."

The Office w^{ch} he had in the Congⁿ at Falneck requiring that he
shd: have a Helper, He enter'd Nov^r 19th 1704 into the M^t State with the
S. S. Eleonora Guttier his present Widow, to whom he has approvd himself
a faithful tender Husband, & they have liv'd near 16 years together in
Grace & Blessing).

In the year 1753. when the place Congⁿ was settled, He was
appointed to be the Vorsteher (or Warden) of the Congⁿ, at the same time ^{that} he
had the direction of the Manufacture, & in this Office He continued till
it pleased our Lord to call him to his Eternal Rest.

From the very beginning of the Settlement here, He was particularly
engag'd in every undertaking & till the year 1763, all the external
affairs of this Congⁿ relating to the Settlement viz- The Administration
of the Estate & Buildings were in his hands. In this situation
he had many difficulties to struggle with, & felt often the Load that
was upon him with much concern. From the year 1755, He was
not only employ'd in the External affairs, but He & his dear wife
assisted in the Internal Labour. In 1754 He was Ordain'd a
Deacon of the Pym's Church

In June 1756. He with his wife went to the Synod at Bertholdorf.
Th^e he was chiefly to the Service of the Congns in Yorkshire, yet he was
also engag'd in the Affairs of Ockbrook, Duchenfield, & in sundry Concerns
of the Unity, & our Lord having bestow'd upon him particular Gifts & Grace
to his service, He remains active in all those matters.

In the Year 1757. He was appointed to be one of the Board of
Administration of the Affairs of the Unity in England, & was ausefull
therin, & when the Economates Conf^r was settled, He was appointed a

a Member thereof & continued as such till that Conf^c ceas'd in the
year 1769. Tho' his Talents in the Conducting the external affairs
known & priz'd by his P^r & on that account he was constantly
employ'd in that way, yet he also wished to be rather employ'd in
the Internal Labour, & often express'd his desire to be freed from all
his External engagements. In consequence of this his repeated
Request, He was Reliev'd in 1763 from being immediately active
in the Manufacture, tho' he remain'd the Counsellor on it till the
year 1766. when it came into another Channel.

Being Proprietor of the Estate, He frequently attended the Meetings
of the Parish, for conducting the Town's Business, & by his prudent
Advice he gain'd the esteem of the acting Persons in the Parish, &
was of Service on this point of View to the Settlement.

He went as Deputy of this Congⁿ to the Gen^l Synods at Marienton
in 1764, & last year, & return'd from the last very Suf^rim, tho' his disorder
w^o: not permit him to go much about, yet he assist'd in the Labour
in the Congⁿ. & from this time, the publick Testimony of our S^rdⁿ: & his
Suffrings & the Discourses w^{ch} he Deliv'red to the Congⁿ & Choir were
particularly Anointed, & being Deliv'red with Warmth of heart were
attended with Blessing; So that some P^rmⁿ made from thence the
Remark, that they believed He w^o: not stay long in the Church below
for He was preparing for the Church above. It was also observ'd
in his Discourses & Conuersation, the apprehensions He had of the
dangerous principle of Free thinking & acting w^{ch} had crept in
amongst us, w^{ch} might be more hurtful to our Constitution, than
any other difficulty we were sensible of.

He had for many years past frequent Sicknesses, & having a
great portion of Sensibility, when matters did not go well & contrary
to his hopes, his Body felt the effects thereof. He was of a
Thinking disposition, & when he was shut up in himself, his

inward grief press'd upon him, of wh^{ch} he was sensible & wo^d speak
of at times with concern. All this seem'd to impair his body,
~~& the often said death~~, that he often said & wrote that his chief
Business & concern was now to be prepar'd to leave this body, &
to enter into the presence of his Lord.

Last spring he had a very severe attack of the stone Cholick
of w^{ch} he recover'd so as to be active in his office; yet the effects
were visible. He had a second fit of sickness with an inflammation
in his face & a violent pain in his Head, by w^{ch} he was confin'd
to his room abt a fortnight, but was again so well recover'd
as to go about, but his constitution was apparently weaken'd w^{ch}
rais'd the apprehensions of his going home of w^{ch} he spoke frequent
ly with desire. He preaches on the 15th to a very large auditory
with life & energy, of the efficacious power in Jesus's Blood &
Death to make us New Creatures, and his last meeting kept in
the Hall was a Discourse to the Cong^{re} on the 16th for the conclusion
of the Cong^{re} Day on the W^{ch} "Shew forth his salvation from Day
to Day." which he earnestly recommended to the Cong^{re} & sp^r to put
in practice in Life & conversation, & entreated our d^r Lord humbly
to happily effect it with each & the whole; this has prov'd his
Valedictory Discourse & prayer for this Cong^{re} & the work of the
Lord in general. He soon after had a Boil w^{ch} gather'd on his
Shoulder & was attended with much pain & inflam'd his Back
w^{ch} threw him into a Bilious Fever. Even during his sickness
he shew'd his wonted paternal heart in Counsel & Friendship to
those who came to him, as long as he had strength to speak.
He was tender & loving to all, saying once "I have nothing against
any one, & hope no one has anything against me."

we were still in hopes that by the discharge of the Aboofs in
his Back (w^{ch} was pretty large) his Constitution might have been
reliev'd & he restor'd to Health, but on the 29th abt 2 in the Morning
we observ'd an Alteration & that the Weight of his disorder was
fallen upon his Lungs, then it became evident that our gracious
Lord intended to take him soon into his Joy, w^{ch} he himself expect-
ed wo: be accomplished by the same time next morning, amidst
his pain & weakness he spent his time in such a tender loving
& Paternal manner towards all & especially towards his dear
wife & Niece, & those Orphans to whom he had been Guardian,
& in looking ardently to his faithful Lord in expectation of the
happy moments quick approach; that it was truly edifying
to all who came near him.

After 12 o'clock in the Night he ask'd what were the Texts
for the Day, w^{ch} being Read as follows, the W.C. "My Soul
breatheth for longing that it hath unto thy Judgments at all
times." Feelest thou the Blood Churches ardent Longings
Cheek bedew'd with million Tears forth thronging from th'
enamour'd Churches Face? and the Text, "Righteousness
shall be the girdle of his Loins & faithfulness the Girdle
of his Reins." with the whole Merit of thy Life, Bless
us O J^r. Lord & God," of which He took great notice saying,
how comfortable & pretty they were, believing confidently
the time drew near when Faith sh^d be turnd into Vision.
when the Clock struck two, he seem'd something disappointed that he
was yet here, & when another hour was elaps'd, He looked up in
an earnest manner, & express'd in his great weakness & pain

his Desire to his d^r Lord to take him to himself complaining
that this hour had been very long. Thus he continued looking
for the happy moment being quite sensible, & when He co. speaks
no more, his Looks & Gestures discover'd the Object his Soul
was engaged with, & about half past Six his Lips turn'd pale
in Jesus' Arms & bosom with the Blessing of the Congⁿ during
a blessed Liturgy. A very happy Sensation of our d^r Lord's presence
was felt during this Night by the 10^m & 8^{mo} present, & many
Tears accompanied his precious Soul to its eternal home.

He has finished his course in a very blessed manner in
the 49th year of his age.

