



The Journal
of
Mrs Elizabeth Hall
of
Harpsden Court

1st May 1800 ~ 29 January 1804

The Family of Elizabeth Hall (née Halifax)

Thomas HALL
 b. 22 Feb 1752, Harpsden
 d. 10 Jan 1824, Harpsden
 & Elizabeth HALIFAX
 b. 6 April
 d. 1843, Harpsden
 mp. Reading

Elizabeth HALL
 b. Jul 1785, Harpsden Court
 d. 18 Dec 1788, Harpsden

Captain Henry Gallopine HALL
 b. Jan 1787, Harpsden Court
 d. 21 Jun 1813, Battle of Vittoria

Margaret New HALL
 b. 2 Mar 1788, Harpsden Court
 d. 16 Jan 1847

Frances HALL
 b. 30 Apr 1790, Harpsden Court
 & The Rev James KNOLLYS
 m. 23 Jun 1814

Thomas HALL
 b. 10 Feb 1792, Harpsden Court
 d. 1 Nov 1867, Harpsden
 & Elizabeth BLACKDEN
 m. 16 Oct 1818, Hughenden, Bucks

The Rev Thomas Owen HALL
 b. 4 May 1830, Hughenden, Bucks
 d. 25 Jul 1910, St Osyth Oundle
 & Eliza Etheldreda Beharrell SEWELL
 b. abt 1831
 d. 9 Mar 1920
 m. 30 Jul 1856

Juliana HALL
 b. 1794, Harpsden Court

Owen HALL
 b. 1795, Harpsden Court
 d. 1855

Jane Anne HALL
 b. 23 July 1799, Harpsden Court
 & The Rev Michael WYATT
 m. 10 Dec 1822

The Rev Cecil Gallopine HALL
 b. 13 May 1868, East Carlton
 d. 29 Oct 1939, Penzance
 & Constance Gertrude UPCHER
 b. 25 Aug 1868, Barningham
 d. 1 Sep 1936, Lincoln
 m. 18 Apr 1893, Ventnor

Transcribed by Viviane Hall from Elizabeth's manuscript in two volumes. The first volume is missing.

Elizabeth Hall

May 1st 1800 Our whole party except the two youngest children went this day to the Fair at Reading. Margaret and Frances dined with my Aunt Hallifax, Mrs H. - Miss Fox Tho. & myself at Mrs Ryder's. Margaret was too indifferent with her head-ach to allow of any feeling much pleasure (connected as it was with some past recollections on this day) but I hope the rest of the Party enjoyed themselves. Mr Hall bought a little Horse at the Fair for his own riding.

Friday Miss Fox & myself walked this morning to Henley, where we had a great deal of conversation with Mr May respecting a very singular Character who has lately shown himself in this neighbourhood. His name nobody knows, as he takes pains to conceal it. He calls himself Farmer near Kingscliff in Northamptonshire. He visits the different towns on the Market Days, where he erects a Stall & sells wooden ware & a variety of other articles. He is accompanied by a woman whom he calls his sister, and a little boy, and the articles in which he deals are carried from place to place on asses. He never sleeps in a bed, but has a tent pitched in a wood, or some other sheltered place where he passes his nights. His beard reaches to his breast and his countenance is of a very peculiar cast, but his chief singularity consists in distributing very large sums of money among the lowest order of the People without choice or discrimination. The first time he was at Henley he was known to distribute more than 60 guineas and at Reading he gave upwards of 170. He goes to those parts of the town where the most wretched of the Poor live, and judging merely by external appearances gives in proportion to the degree of wretchedness he conceives existing among them, from half a guinea to five guineas. I have not heard of his giving less than the one or more than the other. Many of course have been the conjectures to which such extraordinary conduct has given rise, and these have been the more encouraged from his appearing to withdraw himself from those enquiries which many very respectable people have made of him. To some, he has given abrupt and hasty replies, such as marked a degree of displeasure, to others he has returned civil but pointed answers, such as, when a clergyman expressed his wish that he would visit his Parish where he would find a number of distressed Poor, he replied "No, I will not take the blessing from you". Some thought him an agent of Government to put the People in good humour, and a larger number as absurd as the last considered him as employed by the Republican Party, & persuaded themselves to believe that he was sent abroad to excite sedition, & that he was exchanging Gold for Treason. The latter opinion still prevails in the minds of many. For my own part, the abundance of the money he distributes, & the open manner in which it is done, sets such an opinion aside at once. This Party (tho' still strong in point of numbers) have not money to distribute so freely, and if they had, there are too many clear heads among them to allow of its being so indiscriminately squandered - again, This Party, like the mole, works in the dark, & it is ill suited with its nature or designs to call the attention of the magistracy & principal Inhabitants of every Town to their agent while he is disseminating principles obnoxious to the government they are pledged to support, not to mention the strict watch which this government keeps on all Persons at all suspected of designs inimical to its well-being or continuance. The conversation just alluded to with Mr May confirms me in these ideas. Mr May asked this extraordinary

man to his House - an invitation he readily accepted - and after apologising to him for the freedom he used with him, he made many enquiries as to the motives of his conduct, & of his sentiments in general. To these enquiries he replied with the most perfect openness, assuring Mr M that he was incapable of taking offence at anything, but that he was nevertheless so perfectly satisfied with the rectitude of his own conduct that nothing would induce him to change it, & indeed that he was under the immediate direction of the Almighty by whom he was delegated not only to relieve the wants of mankind, but that he was in reality to be the Finisher of all Things. Mr M. to this replied he supposed he must then consider himself as of a superior order of beings; but he answered "By no means, I am of the lowest order of mankind - "a worm & no man" - but I am nevertheless the instrument in God's hand to accomplish all his purposes". Mr May then said, you can perhaps tell me the time when the final consummation of things is to take place. He said "No, this is known only to God himself". Mr May then objected to its being contrary to the declaration in the Bible, which says that "in that day the Son of Man shall appear etc. - This seemed to agitate him and he started from his seat, and said "Am not I big enough to be the Son of Man?" Mr M. saw by this time the disordering of his intellects but he nevertheless asked him a variety of other questions, to all of which he gave pertinent answers, but on those points which interfered with the notion he had invited of himself as possessing authority from Heaven, he was clear in language, but contradictory & irrational in sentiment. He gave as a reason for distributing his money among People so undeserving as most of those whom he relieved were, that his endeavour was to follow literally the injunctions of Scripture & the example of Christ, & that as in one he was told that "God made his Sun to rise on the just and on the unjust" & that Christ visited & relieved all descriptions of People, so this was the principle he acted upon, & that as he gave most to those who seemed to want most, he hoped he was adding to the general stock of Happiness. To this Mr May objected, that many of those who did not betray so much want, were in reality as indigent, & much more deserving, than those among whom he distributed his money. That those were made wretched by their own vices & misconduct, while the others probably worked hard & tried hard to maintain that show of decency & cleanliness which among the Poor is always respectable. He got rid of this by replying that he was under the immediate direction of Heaven & therefore he was sure he was right. He mentioned having the disposal of his sister's fortune, & that all the produce of his farm was thus distributed. He said that this was the fourth time he had been thus impelled by an order from Heaven to go about doing good, & that it was uncertain when he might receive an order to return, but that he had left his Farm in a very flourishing state, & hoped to find it so when he went back. He is not a man of Education, but of good natural Parts, used to labour, & regardless of his own appearance, or of the opinion which may be entertained of him. This is all the account which can at present be obtained of him. I may, however, add to it, that on his first arrival at Henley he asked Charity of a Lady there, saying he had no breakfast, and exciting her compassion.

Saturday All the morning at Home, walked in the afternoon to see James Lovegrove's wife who is very ill.

Sunday May 4th Mr & Mrs T. Powys staid here till after

the evening service. A most extraordinary Sermon this morning, widely differing from those sentiments we have been accustomed to hear from this pulpit.

Monday A thorough wet day, employed at Home.

Tuesday Mr Davisons & Mr & Mrs R. Butler came to dine with us, the latter staid to make us a longer visit. Mr J Ord & Miss Ward called in the morning.

Wednesday Mrs B & Miss Fox accompanied me this morning to Fawley & to make a visit to Mrs Powys & her elegant museum. Called also on Mrs Allnutt.

Thursday Walked over Park Place in the morning, were caught in a violent storm of rain just as we reached the terrace, in which we walked to the cottage, having waited for half an hour in vain in the Grotto for its ceasing.

Friday Carried Mr & Mrs Butler to Reading in the morning, from whence they took a Post Chaise to their own Home. Mr R. Butler a worthy sensible man. Mrs B. fond enough of her husband and of learned pursuits to have engaged in learning Greek (after having made herself sufficiently acquainted with Latin) in order that she may read it to Mr Butler whose unfortunate defect in sight has obliged him to give up an employment in which he before so much delighted. It is feared a cataract is forming over one of his eyes & the other is very weak. Called on Mrs Jubb & the Miss Hills.

Saturday At Home all another wet day very busy with the Children. The preceding six days have been like the hottest days in Summer, all our winter clothing has been laid aside, & we now wish to take to it again it is become this day so suddenly cold. Thunder three days in the course of the week. The Hedges began to come into leaf this year the beginning of April which was not the case the last years till the latter end of May, or beginning of June.

Sunday May 11th Mr & Mrs T. Powys & Mr P. Powys's eldest Son dined with us to day. In the evening our little Jane was taken suddenly ill with violent pain in her Bowels from which she was not relieved till about 3 in the morning keeping us all up with her till that time from the distress & pain she appeared in. I gave her extract of Castor oil but she threw it all back again. An injection however had the desired effect & she became soon easier.

Monday At Home all day with the child who tho' better is not well.

Tuesday The Child continues mending. Mr Joe Butler called this morning. Mr H. and Frances rode to Wargrave. We heard from Mrs Davisons some additional anecdotes of the extraordinary man mentioned before, & also his name which is All that is said of him confirms his insane state, but yet exhibits him in an amiable and interesting point of view. A Gentleman (as many did) remarked to him that the objects whom he principally relieved were of the least deserving kind for that their wretched appearance was often the consequence of their vices & always the result of indolence or idleness. And therefore the money he gave them was only spent in the indulgence of those wrong propensities to which they were most addicted. He replied that he could only judge of them by their appearance. He saw them as

the most wretched, & of course requiring the most help, & this was all he had to do with. God saw their hearts, & it was to Him they must give an account of the use or abuse of what they received. This was one among many of those answers which he gave to the enquiries that were made of him. They were usually grave and dignified but sometimes sharp and pointed, always laconic, & connected with a sense of his own importance as delegated from on High. He has since visited several other places, but maintains always the same character & conduct. Since writing the above, a paragraph has appeared in the 'County Chronicle' which if authentic elucidates the old man's character in a manner not very favourable. I shall, however, copy it. 'The man with the black beard who has lately been noticed in this and other Papers as bestowing money in great profusion at Witney Reading etc. is a native of Kings Cliffe in the County of Northampton. His name is Dakin or Deacon & his occupation a Pedlar in Wooden ware, the manufacturing of which is the chief employment of the labouring Poor in that Parish, which being situate in the confines of Rockingham Forest, its inhabitants have an opportunity of obtaining the raw materials at an easy rate. Dakin's motto is 'Buy cheap & sell dear'. And by advancing money to the poor people beforehand, & then buying at his own price, & afterwards hawking the goods about the Kingdom, he & a sister of his saved a considerable property. This sister lately died & left him about two thousand pounds in hard cash, and it is supposed that this sudden accession of fortune has had a violent effect on his mind, which before was not of the most rational cast, for he has been in the habit of fancying himself a Jew, & to be the real Messiah. & hence the singularity of his beard, & his attention to the wants of the poor, whom however he treated, before his departure from Cliffe with so much eccentricity, that they were in a great measure deterred at last from making application. To some he gave five or ten guineas a-piece & others five shillings or half a guinea & others nothing, & some he beat severely, with a cudgel, for troubling him with their petitions. The woman who was accompanying him is another man's wife with whom and a Boy he quitted Cliffe a few months ago & took with him three asses laden with woodenware. He has a landed Estate in Cliffe which he has left entirely uncultivated. The writer of the above article adds, as the poor man may probably live & want the means of subsistence, it would be an act of Charity if some Magistrate were to interpose & send him back to his habitation before his money is all lavished away. On our part tho' we hope the man will never come to want, yet we trust the mad fit of doing good will continue a little longer for the sake of the Poor.'

Sunday May 18th Nothing to note during the last week but the little girl's amendment, & time passed in the usual manner. Winter seems now come again - after a few days of summer heat it is now cold enough for fires, & we sit over them as in winter while it is pouring with rain out of doors.

Wednesday Miss Fox left us this morning. The two girls and myself went to Crowsley & spent a very pleasant two hours in going to the Lodge, the Dairy & other parts of the premises. Called afterwards at Banbury. Mrs Jackson not at Home.

Tuesday Mr & Mrs Wm. Tomkins & Miss I. came this day to dinner.

Wednesday & Thursday Spent in visiting Park Place, & the Island, with walks reading and conversation, of the pleasantest kind. Then

Friday morning This amiable family left us, & we regret their absence as much as we enjoyed their company.

Saturday Called this morning on Mrs Ryder (who is very indifferent) Mrs Merlott & Miss Crosse. Brought home Mr & Mrs I. Butler & the Miss Davisons.

Sunday Went to Church both parts of the day, walked to see Mrs I. Lovegrove who is still very ill.

Monday Spent at home, except a walk to Henley in the morning.

Tuesday 27th Mr Hall went with Mr Wright to Oxford & meet the Gentlemen of the County in regard to addressing the King on his providential escape from a Pistol Shot which was levelled at him from the Playhouse at Drury Lane by a man named Hatfield, a Soldier in the 15th Light Dragoons. The man appears to be insane, or rendered so by drinking too much. While in the Army he distinguished himself by an uncommon ardour & enthusiastic bravery, & it is supposed to be in consequence of the severe wounds he rec'd in his head when fighting under the Duke of York on the Continent, that his deranged State is to be attributed. The address was of course voted unanimously.

Wednesday Went in the morning to Danesfield in the Coach. Walked from thence to Medenham Abbey where the carriage again met us. In the afternoon Mr Hall & myself went to the Cottage to meet Mrs Ryder & Mrs Merlott & Mrs R. Much better.

Thursday In the afternoon drank Tea at the Island where we were met by Mr & Mrs I. Powys & Mrs Grant.

Friday The Miss Davisons & Mr & Mrs Butler left us this afternoon. I shall now therefore return to my usual occupations, & quiet, after a fortnight of something like dissipation, from its causing a neglect of what are the immediate & indispensable duties of my situation. But Society has its claims, & the interest & pleasure of the individual must often yield to them. I yield in most cases with pleasure, & have done so in the late instances.

Saturday A thorough wet day spent usefully at home.

Sunday June 1st (Whitsunday) At Harpsden Church in the morning, at Henley Church in the Afternoon on account of Mr Townshend's doing the Duty. His Sermon on the same Text as when he last preached at Henley, but having at that time preached only of one of the Christian Graces, on this occasion he described another of them, namely Faith, & explained the nature of a saving Faith, how it is to be discerned, & and what are its fruits, a very good sermon & delivered in the same energetic & impressive manner as is usual from Mr Townshend.

Monday All the morning wet & so very cold as to make it seem more like January than June. We contrived however in the afternoon to get a walk to Henley, where having occasion to go to Mrs May's, I had some further conversation

about the extraordinary Character so often mentioned by me. This was partly occasioned by my noticing to Mr May that in a letter from a friend it was told me that Mr Parkins in travelling one Sunday met with the whole party, (asses & all) except the principal Person who was probably absent at Church. Mr P asked many questions of the woman, & she in return reproved him for travelling with his Wife & Child on the Sabbath Day. I remarked on this to Mr May, that if the account given in "The Henley Chronicle" was true it did not entirely become her to be a Preacher on the Commandments, one of which at least she seems so flagrantly to have broken in her own conduct. Mr May replied that indeed he feared there was not any great consistency of conduct in either the Man or the Woman, that it was one of those observations he had even made to the man himself in their Conversation at his House, alluding to his filthy appearance & to some indecent expressions which he occasionally let fall when speaking to some of those who surrounded him at his Stall. Mr M. told him how necessary he thought it for those who preached to others that they should themselves be strict in the observance of all moral & religious duties, that otherwise they throw a stumbling block in the way of ignorant & even well-meaning persons whom might be looking to them for an example of what they taught. He made but little reply to this observation, only saying that our Saviour desired the inside of the Cup & Platter might be made clean giving this decidedly the preference over outward cleanliness or external manners. Mr May then just reminded him of the concluding part of the Verse to which he alluded; but viewing him as in a state of derangement thought it more prudent not to urge the argument further. Mr M. also told me that his wife had asked the Woman how she was related to Mr Dakin, & she replied that she was no Relation only a particular Friend. This seems to corroborate what was said of her in the Newspaper. There is now a Print of him publishing by Subscription from a Drawing lately made of him & which is a very good likeness. It is given under the title of "The Celebrated Philanthropist" - a title which, tho' Mr Howard might well deserve, is yet sadly degraded by being attached to the name of a Madman, who acts from no uniform motive, no steady principle, & the right & wrong of whose actions is wholly independent of himself, & can only be denominated the one or the other as the objects are deserving or otherwise & whom his Liberality is extended.

Wednesday Dined at Mr Ryder's to meet Mrs Merlott & Miss Crope. Called in the morning on Mrs Deane, not having before seen her since the death of her Husband, found her very low, & looking very ill. Mrs Ryder not indifferent.

Thursday Sent the Children to see Mrs Lovegrove while I walked to Henley to surprize them by the purchase of a tame Squirrel. My errand occasioned me some reflections as I walked & furnished me with a subject for my imagination to work on. I wanted an excuse for encouraging by my example a species of Slavery, that of keeping in confinement a little animal whose nature leads it to a life full of exercise & rambling. I tried a great many arguments but none answered my purpose till I stumbled up the analogy which I fancied there might be in savage & civilized life of animals of a higher description. I fancied that the Squirrel, like Man, might be only changing one set of enjoyments for another, and that in giving up his liberty, the free exercise of his limbs, & some other enjoyments peculiar to a state of nature, he would now have other capacities called into

exercise, & be awakened to new pleasures which before must be totally unknown. He would first enjoy the society of a superior order of beings, his very playfellows would be fo this description, & he would be taught to understand the value of their kind of affectionate actions, he would have the choicest food provided him & he wd be exposed to no inclemencies of weather, or accidents resulting thereupon. The question was therefore, by this mode of reasoning soon reduced to a short issue in my mind, namely, whether a state of nature or a state of civilisation was the happiest either for Man or Squirrels? But this question I leave to wiser heads to answer, it is sufficient for my purpose that I can satisfy myself our little Squirrel enjoys some social advantages while he is deprived of some natural enjoyments. The joy of my children on seeing him added another argument to this side of the question.

Friday Dined at Fawley, to meet the Wrights.

Saturday At home all day, except a walk to Bolney farm to enquire after Mr Green whose eyes are much inflamed.

Sunday June 8th Trinity Sunday At meeting in the morning, in the afternoon at Church, where the Dean of Canterbury gave us a very good cautionary Discourse on not prying into the mysteries of Salvation, or considering points which are above (tho' not contrary to) our reason as argument sufficient to induce us to deny the divine authority of Scripture. He advised our studying more the Will than the nature of God, & to be satisfied with the knowledge of our Duty, which was everywhere so clearly taught.

Monday Called on Mrs Norman, Mrs Hunter, Mrs Fanshawe & Mrs Jackson.

Thursday Walked in the afternoon to Henley (it being Fair day) that I might obtain a second sight of the old man with the Beard who had a stall in the Fair. This sight was very favourable to him as on a nearer inspection of his countenance it had a commanding and fine expression. His eyes are very dark and full of a spirited yet mild expression, & his whole countenance has much beauty. He does not appear above fifty years old, and was now become very easy of access to people of any credit or decent appearance. Several People questioned him in regard to his conduct & principles. He answered them all with great temper of openness, but dwelt chiefly on that "great errand" on which he supposes himself to be sent, & gave as before the strongest marks of a deranged intellect, tho' upon every other subject he was clear & sensible. He was attended the whole time of his stay by a vast concourse of people, but he gave away very little, & shewed marks of displeasure at the solicitations he received, & the impertinence & vulgarity with which they were often urged. He has of course lost much of his popularity, & it is to be hoped, this conduct of the persons whom he so liberally relieved may have taught him a useful lesson.

Sunday Mr & Mrs J. Powys dined with us, Mary Allnutt here on account of her & Mrs A's being on a visit at Newbury.

Tuesday At Ascot Heath Races, a great deal of company, Marg't. Frances & Tom with us.

Wednesday Dined at Mrs Ryder's & brought home Miss

Stow in the evening.

Thursday & Friday Spent at home, Owen very indifferent the last evening, but better Saturday from using a little of the usual discipline. Miss Stow left me again to day.

Sunday June 22nd Mr C. Manesby did the Duty here this morning, & gave us a very good sermon. He afterwards dined with us, & we left him to go to the meeting in the afternoon.

Monday A day spent in the Hayfield, Mr A having cut the grass in his Homefield on Friday last.

Tuesday & Wednesday Nothing but Haymaking, fine weather at last, after shivering over a fire till this time.

Thursday Mr & Mrs Allnutt, their two sons, Mary A. & Master Randall dined with us.

Friday Mr Vansittart came here expectedly top breakfast with us, & staid till near 7 o'clock in the evening.

Saturday Mr Townshend called this morning, & Mrs Jackson. Mrs Ryder came to dinner.

Sunday Mr Boucher did the Duty here to day, & gave us a very good Sermon on Prayer. We went in the afternoon to the meeting.

Monday Mrs Nicholl & her daughter dined with us. Mrs Wright called in the morning & took Owen with her to Henley.

Tuesday Mrs Wright & the Miss Walls spent a couple of hours with me in the morning. In the afternoon I drank Tea at the Miss Davisons where I met (besides Mrs Benwell) Mrs Mitchell, Miss Blackall & Master Annesley. Brought Mrs Benwell home with me in the evening.

Wednesday Spent the morning in walking, reading and conversation. In the afternoon went to Danesfield where we walked over the ground to meet the Carriage at the bottom of the Hill.

Thursday The morning spent as yesterday. Went in the afternoon by water to the Island. Henry came home this day.

Friday Took Mrs Benwell to Sonning this morning. Sat half an hour with the Miss Rich's. In the evening walked with the children to Henley.

Saturday At Home all day, engaged in sending off a packet to Mr Cooper by the Powys's who set off for Staffordshire on Monday.

Sunday Margaret (who has for some weeks past been remarkably well) got up this day a good deal indisposed, having had also a bad night. She was better towards the afternoon, & continued so this evening. Mr Chas. Manesty did the Duty, & repeated a very good sermon, which he gave us once before, on Prayer. Mr H. & myself rather prepossessed in his favour, from his general manners.

Sunday 13th July A week spent solely in nursing. On Monday I sent Jane's nurse away (to return again in the capacity of cook) & some trouble has attended the weaning her, especially of nights, for having been accustomed to sleep with her nurse the difficulty of weaning her has been much increased. Margaret is this day well enough to propose going tomorrow with her Father to Walthamstow intending to spend a couple of days at Clapham.

Monday Parted with Mr Hall & Margaret this morning, they went off in good spirits, & we have passed the day tolerably without them.

Tuesday Dined with T. T. & O. at Mr Allnut's farm. Henry spent the day with Mr & Mrs T. Powys. On our return home we found little Jane much indisposed with a cold.

Wednesday Jane's cold much worse, & a bad cough also, with other symptoms indicative of measles.

Thursday Jane still ill. Henry went with Mr Allnut to see a grand review of the Troops encamped near Windsor.

Friday A melancholy letter from Margaret expressive of her uncomfortable situation at Clapham, & complaining of being also unwell. Jane very indifferent, feverish & very fretful.

Saturday A better account from Margaret who is returned to her Father at Walthamstow. Jane rather better which leads me now to suppose that her complaint is one of those infectious colds which many of the children in the village have had, this added to cutting Teeth (3 having appeared within the week) I now conclude causes her indisposition & fretfulness. Had the pleasure of receiving Mr H. & Marg't safe and well a little after 8 o'clock. Charlotte Wells came about half an hour before by the Henley coach. Mr H. brought with him little Jem Hall a fine boy of 7 years old, as tall as Tom and so much younger.

Sunday July 20th Mr J. Powys did the Duty at church. We went in the afternoon to the meeting.

Thursday On this day Mr & Mrs Purkins with their three children came to us.

Friday The day spent at Home, with much noise & enjoyment among the children (now 10 in number) ourselves in a more quiet way, reading & conversing by turns, with only a walk in the evening, the weather being so extremely hot.

Saturday Spent on the waters. Little J. Hall left us this morning. Owen caught a cold and had the ear ach in consequence the whole night but

Sunday morning 27th waked tolerably well, & so remained. Mr & Mrs Purkins etc. left us this morning time enough to allow of our going to the meeting. In the afternoon we went to Church. My mother has been very indifferent again for some days with loss of appetite & other complaints. She appears in a very declining state of health.

Sunday August 3rd Except a dining visit at Mr T. Powys on Tuesday to meet Mr & Miss Palgrave the whole week has

been spent at Home, & thankfully so, as, from the extreme heat of the weather every House but our own was like an oven. Here however (especially in the Hall) we suffered but little inconvenience, & could freely rejoice in such a providential interference in our favour, by which the harvest is brought forward, & the avaricious farmer is tempted to bring to market his hoards of wheat, which he was scarcely suspected to have, while every description of people were lamenting the supposed scarcity, & could scarcely imagine that any motive wd. be sufficient in the mind of a human being to overbalance those loud calls which the want of head makes on the feeling of common humanity.

My mother continues much indisposed.

Thursday August 7th Frances requiring Mr Bulley's advice I sent to him this morning; my Mother, too, seemed to me to be so rapidly declining that I wished Mr B. to visit her. After seeing her he told me she appeared to him so much altered, that he should not be surprized at any change which might take place, not how soon. I wrote immediately to my Brother, & to Miss Fox. She was very indifferent the whole day, I went to bed early. She complained of no pain, but that which extreme weakness produced. Friday she became worse. Saturday Morning Mr Bulley called again, but seeing her in bed only, did not observe any change in her from Thursday. She was taken out of bed about 2 o'clock, when cold chills & sweat came upon her, & a visible alteration both in speech & strength took place. We sent to Mr Coulson who pronounced her in a dying state. I sent again to my Brother. She fell into a kind of dosing about 7 o'clock in which state she lay till about the same hour the following evening when she breathed her last! My mind was prepared for the event! It had been long anticipated, for I saw her health & strength gradually declining. I considered that such, for many years had been the state of her animal spirits that she had had little enjoyment of life. That her Death was as easy & free from both mental & bodily pain as possible, all circumstances considered. That she had little to lose, but I hoped much to gain! It was an event, therefore, little to be regretted & I could not lament it, but there is yet a strong tie of natural affection which when broken thro' causes a concussion which must for a time be painfully felt. And such is just now the state of my mind the force of habit too is strong. I have been long used to see & converse with her. I cannot but recollect her tender care of me in early life, and I have besides to lament over some failures in the duty of attention to which she had so strong a claim. But while my feelings are thus embittered, reflection speaks to me better things, & I offer praise to god for all his dispensations, & especially for his aid & support on the present occasion.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday Spent in preparations for mourning, & in expectation of my Brother's arrival. Miss Fox came this way from Frome in hope of seeing my poor Mother once more. She was much agitated & regrets that she was not here to attend her in her dying moments.

Thursday A letter from my Brother excusing himself from attending the Funeral.

Saturday 16th The remains of my dear Mother were this day taken to Reading to be interred with those of my Father. Mr H. & Henry attended the Funeral & Mr Bulley met them at the outside of the Town. All was managed with proper decency & solemnity. We went into the wood during the

preparations.

Sunday I did not myself go out to day as I wished to avoid Visitors during the week. The Family went as usual.

Wednesday 20th Henry went this day to School in the Tetbury Coach.

Thursday Mr Hall went to London, accompanied by Charlotte Wells. Mrs Powys breakfasted here, in order to give us some account of our friends at Hampstead from whom they are just returned. She brought with her also some Presents for the Children & myself & a valuable Packet from Mr Cooper. Mrs P. describes their situation as exactly such as could be wished for them by their Friends - a fine Country, good neighbours, happy in their Children, & themselves & prospering in all which they undertake, both civil & religious. "Happy are the People who are in such a case, yea blessed are the People who have the Lord for their God." Mrs P. has recovered both health & spirits by the Visit.

Sunday Went to Church in the morning & meeting in the afternoon. Margaret confined at home by a boil on her foot.

Tuesday August 26th Spent the day at Remenham with Mrs T. Powys who about 2 o'clock presented her Husband with a little girl & the interesting Title of father. She had a painful Time, but recovered bearably well before I left her.

Sunday 31st The last few days spent in nursing a bad cold, by which I have been more than usually disordered. Margaret's foot still painful. This evening Mr Knight & Mr Brown came to be in readiness for tomorrow's sport. Got Mr K to look at M's foot, and he prescribed Poultrices made with the goulard (?) instead of milk & water.

Monday & Tuesday - The Gentlemen out till 7 o'clock each day, killed the first day 4 brace of birds, the last 8 brace. I became Mr K's patient this evening from the violent irritation caused by a blister I had put on & which from some accidental cause became very painful, & occasioned a swelling of some of the glands in the neck, particularly under the Collar Bone, which I name, that it may be a caution not to use blisters (tho' called such safe things) without some real & apparent necessity, which was not the case in my late indisposition. Margaret's foot better & dressed this evening with Soap Cerate.

Sunday 7th September Mr Knight & Mr Brown left us on Thursday, Miss Fox on Friday & the same day came Mr & Mrs T. Hall & their 3 eldest children. Mrs T. Hall in very indifferent health & seems almost miraculously supported for the food she takes in is so little as to seem quite inadequate for the preservation of the strength she has, which tho' not a great deal is yet sufficient to enable her to walk a mile at a time without much fatigue, with other exertions equal to this. Mr T. Hall seems oppressed in his spirits, & capable of but little enjoyment from his field sports of which he was formerly so very fond. The Children, as far as we saw of them, very pleasant & well-behaved.

Monday Mrs T Hall, Miss Allnutt, Owen & myself went this day to Wokingham, where we dined with Mrs Lea, &

went over the Nursery Ground. Mrs T Hall seemed tired with the ride.

Sunday 14th A week passed at Home not very comfortably, as, added to the melancholy of seeing Mrs T Hall so indifferent, my dear Margaret has been still in pain & confined with her foot, which shows no sign of healing. Owen, too, has a disagreeable swelling in his neck, caused by an obstructed gland, which of course alarms my fears & throws a gloom over all my feelings. Mr Bulley thinks it will disperse & I trust he may be right.

Tuesday Mr & Mrs T Hall etc. left us to day.

Saturday Mr & Mrs H Hall with 2 of their Children called unexpectedly upon us this afternoon from Whites, where they have been staying the last fortnight. My uneasiness still continues about Margaret & Owen who are neither of them better. My days of darkness are many, but I trust they are meant by a kind Providence to wean my heart from an attachment to this life which might impede my progress to a better. They will at least usher in with more effect that bright & everlasting Day which I trust awaits me, when clouds & darkness & sorrow will intervene no more!

Sunday 21st Mr Townshend drank Tea with us this afternoon, supped & slept here. He also took Mr Hall's place & read us a Sermon & Prayers as usual. His Sermon one which he preached at Henley in the morning, very much approved there, & by us equally. It was on the characters of Martha & Mary, but chiefly on the choice of "the one thing needful" which Mary had made her own. Mr Townshend's serious principles, with his gentlemanly & cheerful manners make him a most interesting & pleasing companion. He seems of a most open & unreserved temper, of an enlightened mind, liberal sentiments, & unaffected piety. And I view our acquaintance with him as a most valuable acquisition.

Monday 22nd This being the Cheese Fair at Reading, we all went to dine with my Aunt. Poor Margaret was not able to walk about, but quietly amused herself with looking at the numerous people out of window.

Friday Mr Vansittart came to dine with us unexpectedly, & he accepted our invitation to spend the evening & sleep here.

Saturday Mr H & myself went in the Whiskey to Whites to see Mr Stevenson & Mr & Mrs H. Hall.

Sunday 28th Went to Church both parts of the Day. My dear Owen's Birthday! I welcome these periods with a sort of chastised joy which shrinks from the common forms of congratulation. It is a pure & perfect love I bear my children, but I dare not wish year after year to be added to their lives. Many are the interruptions to their well-being & happiness, many the temptations, frequent the anxieties which must necessarily await them here, when therefore we pray or wish for lengthened existence for them we do it ignorantly, since it is more than probable that an early termination of life is the greatest of all blessings. Our great aim should therefore be, to bring our minds to such a state of acquiescence in the wise Providence of God, as that we may look on life or death as giving to ourselves or our children the possession of our truest felicity, such as our heavenly Father has seen

best for us, thro' Time & thro' Eternity.

Tuesday October 7th We went this day to Remenham to partake of the Christening dinner. Mrs Powys not well tho' 6 weeks from the time of her Lying-in. Our two girls were of the party and enjoyed the day as they are very partial to Mrs T Powys who does indeed seem to be an amiable sensible and unaffected woman.

Sunday 12th Went to church in the morning & to meeting in the afternoon. Mr & Mrs Goss & Miss G - now at Henley - our dear Margaret's foot now so well, as to have allowed of her walking with us this afternoon for more than an hour. Owen, too, a good deal better, tho' the swelling is still considerable. Mr Manesty did the Duty at Church to day on acct. of Mr T.P.'s being on a visit at Hamstall. In going by recollection over the last fortnight I sh'd not omit to note that on Monday the 6th Mr Hardwick (brought here by Mr Purkis) went over the premises in order to make an estimate for building a back front to our House, which Mr H. wishes to do the next spring if the expence can be brought within the compass of a thousand pounds. We of course wait with impatience for the result of Mr Hardwick's opinion & the amount of his estimate.

Tuesday Called on Mr Powys at Fawley where also I met Mrs T. Powys & Miss Palgrove.

Wednesday Dined with Mrs Ryder. Mrs Davison called on me there, & presented me with a Pineapple.

Saturday Heard from Mr Purkis giving me an acct of Mrs P's illness who is however now better. Charles much the same, in a doubtful & precarious state. People seem much alarmed from the prospect of the ensuing winter - Grain & Provisions of every kind still continuing so dear, that a real scarcity is apprehended. Butcher's meat is now from 8d to 9d a Pd. Bacon 1/3d Butter from 16d to 18d. Cheese from 10d to a shilling Wheat 5£ a quarter & everything else in proportion. Yet the crops seemed very abundant, of every kind, & all well got in with an exception of some of the Barley. The Season is now uncommonly favourable for sowing the Wheat, and in the gardens there are Spring Flowers & Summer Fruit. The Violets are again in bloom, & Mr H. gathered to day 2 Hautboy Strawberries & many more are set, from a second blossoming since the gathering of the fruit. In a Garden at Reading there is an apple Tree again in blossom from which it would be very desirable were fruit to be produced, as the crops of apples have so generally failed - we have not a twentieth part of our usual quantity.

Sunday (October 19th) Mr P. returned from Hamstall yesterday & to day did the Duty as usual. He left the Coopers all well & happy.

Tuesday Mrs Ryder spent the morning here. Mrs Norman very ill again with the complaint in her mouth. Strong measures are adopted, or adopting, in every County in the Kingdom, to reduce the high price of Provisions, & the King has convened Parliament that something effectual may be done by its authority to the same purpose. It is ordered to sit a fortnight & with this sole view & the members I find are endeavouring to get all possible information that they may be the better enabled to propose measures suitable to the exigencies they have to seek to redress.

Thursday Mr Schofield & Mr Macalester dined here. Mr M. told me of Mr Freeman's having left Mr Allnutt's Farm.

Sunday At Church in the morning & at meeting in the afternoon. On account of the increase of the congregation at the latter place, some Pews are to be added, towards the expence of which Mr H. has given five guineas.

Sunday November 2nd Called on Thursday on Mrs Hunter & Mrs Hill at Wargrave. The week spent chiefly in visiting the Poor of the Parish to enquire into their various wants in order to settle some plan for their regular & permanent relief now that every article of life bears so high a price. At this time Bread is 2/9 the gallon loaf. Meat from 8d to 9d a Pd, Bacon 1/3 Cheese 11d & everything else in proportion. The weather uncommonly fine & particularly favourable for sowing the Wheat. At Church this morning, & at Henley in the afternoon as usual. Margaret a good deal indisposed with head ach etc.

Monday 3rd Went in the Coach with M. & T. to call on Mrs T. Powys whose infant is under inoculation & found her & the child well; engaged to let Mt. go on Wednesday to assist in nursing. The morning of this day Mr T. Powys with Mr H. & the three principal Farmers (Mr Green & the Mr Piercys) came to an agreement to make an allowance to the poor of 10d a head over & above what is allowed for Bread, and the Overseer Mr D.P. at the same time consented that the Poor should have such Linen & Clothes as I thought they really wanted. I have accordingly determined to ascertain this matter compleatly, & take so favourable an opportunity of getting them well supplied.

Tuesday & Wednesday Spent to this effect, & the amount of their real wants sent in to Mr Piercy. This morning Mt. walked to Remenham.

Thursday So wet a day that we could none of us get out. F & myself amused ourselves this afternoon with a new Mill for grinding Peas which Mr H. has just put up in the Granary.

Friday Frances went to Remenham to stay till tomorrow morning.

Saturday Walked to Henley to meet the Children on their return home.

Sunday November 9th Heard from Mr T. Powys a sermon on the sinfulness & Folly of anticipating the evils of life, which I notice, as many parts of it operated as a severe reproof on my too common conduct. He argued the Sinfulness of it from its betraying a distrust of God's providential care; & its folly he proved from many strong but obvious arguments, in particular that it lessened, if not wholly subverted, our enjoyment of present things, & that in fact by allowing the imagination to range over all the remote possibilities resulting from apprehended misfortunes, we suffered a hundred times over what could happen but once; & which, when it did arrive, might probably be attended with some sources of consolation unexpected & not foreseen with the evil itself. I shall hope to recollect this Discourse when my mind is assailed by undue anxiety & apprehension, & sincerely pray that I may be enabled to overcome so simple & weak an

indulgence of a natural propensity!

On this day a most remarkable storm of wind took place during the time of morning service which blew down a great number of Trees & tore up Banks, unroofed Houses etc. to the great terror of a variety of persons. We have understood since it came from the north, travelling in that direction & was experienced in different parts of the Kingdom at the distance of time only of a few hours, coming suddenly on, without notice or indication of any kind.

Tuesday 11th On this day my Brother arrived in order to a final settling of my mother's affairs.

Thursday My Brother went this day to London by an Oxford Coach. Mr H. & myself walked with him to Henley & afterwards called on Mrs Macalester, & on Mrs Allnutt to enquire after Fred, who is come home from school ill - found him but indifferent.

Sunday 16th Went to meeting in the morning & to Church in the afternoon.

Monday Mr H. set off early this morning to go to London.

Tuesday A letter from Mr Purkis, which mentioned the safe arrival of Mr H. as far as Brentford where he saw, very unexpectedly, Jane Brown, who is come to Town with her Brother to consult an Oculist about his eyes, & a Surgeon about a lameness in his knee.

Wednesday Heard from Jane confirming the above account. Some of the Children indisposed with colds.

Thursday 20th The Children being better Margaret F & myself walked to Remenham to call on Mrs T Powys. Mr T.P.. with Dr Deane called upon me before we set out. Mr Macalester also, who walked with us to Henley. Betty Pickett being ill I sent to Mr Coulson to see her. He thinks her disorder, tho' severe, proceeds only from cold. N.B. omitted to mention going on Monday to call on Mrs Fanshawe & dine with Mrs Ryder, took this opportunity of going to an evening's meeting of Mr Douglas's congregation to hear Mr D. expound, which he did with some critical knowledge, & with a great deal of practical application. I afterwards joined in the Family party at Mrs Ryder's & returned home at 10 o'clock.

Friday Mary Allnutt spent the day here. The Children, with her, went to the upper part of the Parish, while I walked to some of the other Cottages to enquire whether Mr Piercy had fulfilled his promise of giving these poor People Clothes - finding he had not, I called on Mrs Piercy, when rather high words passed between us, as my indignation was raised to observe such an unwillingness to give common necessities to persons, to whose labours the Farmers are so much indebted, but Riches harden the heart, & in proportion as they are acquired they seem to extinguish the feelings of humanity towards others, at least in the present instance this is the case, for while the Farmers here are living like Gentlemen they grudge every Shilling which is spent to relieve the wants of the Poor. Hence I trust that while I am "angry I sin not" for in such a case common justice requires that their cause should be taken up & zealously supported.

Saturday Mr H. returned this day from London, having left

his friends there tolerably well.

Sunday 23rd At Church in the morning at meeting in the afternoon. Fred Allnutt very ill. Margaret with a bad face-ach which she has had now for more than a week.

Wednesday 26th Nov. Margaret's pain in her face continuing she consented to let Mr Coulson take a faulty tooth out this morning. Fred Allnutt's complaint is now ascertained to be Water in the Head - every method is now trying to relieve him, but much fear is entertained that nothing will be successful, as he gets daily worse.

Thursday We sent this day for Mrs T Powys, who with her little girl are coming to stay a day or two with us. Mrs Ryder brought Mrs Merlott & Miss Crosse in the morning.

Saturday Sent Mrs T.P.. home again, obliged to go up the Hill & along the new Road on account of the water being so much about. Mr Cope & his Daughter came by the Henley Coach this evening.

Sunday 30th Nov. Went to meeting in the morning & in the afternoon to Church, when Dr Deane did the Duty for Mr T Powys.

Tuesday Spent the whole of this day at Reading in order to attend the Services at the new Meeting on account of its opening. There was 3 Services; but the most striking part of the whole was a Sermon from Mr Clayton spoken extempore & accompanied by such graceful action & in manner so impressive that it seems impossible ever to forget it. The subject was the nature of public worship; its Duty & advantages, it was indeed a complete specimen of pulpit oratory; perfectly correct in point of language, expression, manner, emphasis & sentiment - we were all highly gratified. Miss Cope accompanied us, the building is very neat & elegant, & was entirely filled every part of the day, a collection was made amounting to 80 pounds.

Saturday 6th At 2 o'clock this morning Fred Allnutt breathed his last, having lain for several days before in a almost insensible state, & , it is to be hoped, free from pain; & this morning an account was also received of the sudden death of Mr H. Hall's youngest Child, a little boy of about 8 months old. He was said to have been laughing one minute & dead the next - a great mitigation to the feelings of the Parents, who had not, thus, to deplore the sufferings of their Child, which is one of the bitterest feelings that can be experienced, & indeed is the "sting of death" in the cases of young Children. These awful dispensations of Providence, in addition to those which have been lately experienced, urge the mind to some conferences with itself, & engage it in contemplations on the (?) state to which we are all hastening, nor can we avoid remarking on this (as on some former occasions) that when Death has once entered among a Family, it commonly happens that many are taken away in the course of a few months. Since the commencement of the present year, Mr Hall has lost a Mother, Mrs T Hall a Father, Mr Allnutt a Sister & Child, Mr H Hall a Child, & myself a Mother! Not to mention the death of Mr Joseph Butler's only Daughter, a sweet girl of more than ten years old, who is also a distant relation. May these solemn Providences impress upon all our minds the necessity of being prepared for Death come when it will, & we shall then be so indifferent to the

concerns of this life as to view it as the Gate of everlasting Life, into which we shall joyfully enter, having hopes "full of immortality".

Sunday Dec 7th At Church in the morning, at Meeting in the afternoon.

Wednesday On this day the remains of Fred Allnut were interred in the Vault in the meeting yard, made for Mr & Mrs Hall. In the evening a funeral sermon was preached from the 6th & 7th Verses of the 40th Chap: of Isaiah. The whole Family attended, and I consider it a great happiness that Mrs Allnut could so far subdue her maternal feelings as to be able without great agitation to be present on so trying an occasion.

Sunday At Church in the morning, in the afternoon at the meeting. Mr Cope came to dinner in order to take his daughter home tomorrow morning.

Monday Mr C. & his daughter set off this morning at 6 o'clock. Mrs Norman called, & I went with her to Henley, & walked home.

Thursday Mrs Jackson & Miss J. called to take leave previous to their going to London for the winter.

Friday 19th Dec We have been much disappointed to day in not seeing Henry who was to have come in the Cirencester Coach last night, so as to have arrived early this morning. We learn from one of the Passengers that he could not get a place, but that we may expect him tomorrow by another Night Coach which sets out from the same place. Our Servants are all ill with an infectious complaint, which occasions me some apprehensions for ourselves & the Children. We have just put our whole Family upon an allowance of bread, confining each person to a half gallon loaf a week. The Children find it much more than sufficient, & Mr H. & myself quite enough nor is it understood as any hardship in the kitchen, having plenty of rice & potatoes. Why this should be necessary? will be a very difficult question to answer. Whether the scarcity is real or artificial the event of a succeeding year must determine. So far is certain, That the nation feels all the evils of a real scarcity almost indeed amounting to famine & that the price of every necessary of life is at a higher rate than even the avowed deficiency of corn can authorize. Government, by means of the Parliament has instituted an enquiry into the real quantity of corn in the Country - from this enquiry it appears that there has been about a fourth deficient in the average quantity of wheat grown in the Kingdom but that from other accidental, & incidental, causes this quantity will not be adequate to the purposes of the year. Hence strong measures are recommended to be pursued, & the Farmer is rather encouraged to withhold his grain from the market, that a supply may be insured in the future months, and hence, as this is a sad defect of principle among this class of People, they are hereby authorized to persevere in a system by which the community at large are so severely distressed, & the price is raised every market day, till it is become difficult for one half of the Kingdom to procure common necessaries. It certainly appears that the Farmers are grown too rich, they are not obliged by their wants to bring their corn to market; & if, when there, it does not fetch a good price they have no principle of conscience to forbid their

taking it back again, & waiting till the price is advanced. A spirit of Covetousness has seized upon the Country at large, on the Trading part of the community in particular, and not satisfied with the common profits of business or traffic, they desire to become hastily rich, & thus are led to speculations of every kind & description. May it please God to avert from the nation those judgements which the sins of the nation are likely to bring upon it! It is only by an increase of Religion, & a prevalence of the doctrines of Christianity by which we can hope any effectual reformation to be obtained, or any safety of the Kingdom to be depended upon.

Saturday Henry arrived safe this morning at 6 o'clock - he went to bed soon after, & got up apparently not the worse for his journey about 12 o'clock. We have the satisfaction of receiving a favourable acct. of his conduct & improvements from Mr Edwards. S. & E. Allnut called to excuse their Mother's accepting our invitation to dine here on Xmas Day.

Sunday Mr Gower from Marlow did the Duty this morning, in the afternoon a stranger at the meeting.

Monday An infectious disorder which has attacked by turns all the Servants now has seized on Henry, & he has been very indifferent all night. It is in the first stage like a bad Cold & sore Throat, but in its progress shews a more distinct appearance - William suffered very much from it & was one night quite delirious, & he now suffers from an awkward accident, having scalded his leg which is very painful, & disables him in a great measure from doing his business.

Christmas Day And one of the most bright & beautiful in point of weather I ever saw - no frost, yet a clear sun, & blue sky. Mr Gower gave us a most excellent sermon on the day. We had to dine here the usual party with the addition of Wm. (?) & Henry Benwell.

Friday 26th Wm. & Lizzy went this day to Reading to consult Mr Bulley - Wm. about his scalded leg, & Lizzy about a complaint which has something of a tropical appearance. She is gone to try change of air at her sister's, in hopes of getting better, & then returning to her Place. Henry tolerably well, but with a Cough. The disorder seems for the present suspended. A letter from Mr Purkis telling me that Charles is quite restored to health.

Sunday 28th Mr T. Powys did the Duty here to day & administered the sacrament. We went to Henley as usual in the afternoon.

Monday A fall of snow in the night defeated our intention of going to Reading this morning.

Tuesday We attempted it this day but having little Jane with us, the motion of the Coach made her so sick that we were obliged to return.

Thursday January 1st 1801 We accomplished our plan, & after doing some business sat an hour with Mrs Ryder. This is not only the first day of a new year but the beginning of a new century - an important Era in Time as it gives ample scope for reflection, & serious consideration. It is also an awful Crisis according to present events & existing circumstances. All the powers of Europe engaged in War,

& most of them in opposition to this Country - the French carrying everything before them - and joined by other powers whose interest it should seem to be to pursue a very different line of conduct. But there is no arguing from the events or conduct of former times, there being no precedents in history to assist the judgement in its conjectures about the future or contingent events of the present period. We must, then, content ourselves with the conviction that the Almighty Ruler of the World will so conduct the great events which are taking place that they will finally terminate in his Glory & the good of Men, that he will even be praised for the severe scourges which he sends among us, & that when these national judgements have fulfilled the designs for which they were permitted, a new & better state of things will be established, & what now only excites our wonder & astonishment will then demand our admiration & fill our minds with gratitude & awe. In our individual capacity these steps in the progress of time call the thoughts home in a way of enquiry as to the past, & of new resolution for the future. We look back with astonishment at the rapidity with which Time seems to pass; yet in the anticipation of time a year seems to contain a space large enough for many more purposes of use & improvement than in passing it is likely to contain. We are not sufficiently careful of minutes & the lesser divisions of time, but it is of great importance to be in the habit of employing every five minutes, & every moment, such as so often occur & are neglected on account of the shortness of their period, but if these irregular spaces were all filled up, they would in the course of a year amount to a considerable saving, and the saving of so precious a commodity as Time is of high importance to Beings whose happiness in Eternity depends on the proper use of Time in this life. May I then so number my past days, & use what are in store for me, that I may "apply my heart unto wisdom", making each year in succession a standing proof that Time well-spent is one of the privileges of enjoyment & duties of a true Christian!

Sunday January 4th I went this day to Henley Church both morning & afternoon on account of Mr Townshend's doing the Duty. His morning's Discourse was rather different from what I expected as it turned principally on the subject of the scarcity of Corn. He opposed the prevailing opinion of the avarice of the Farmer & the monopoly of another description of Man, & strongly urged the necessity of great economy in the use of it, lest scarcity should be turned into actual famine. He summed up the whole in a very excellent address to his congregation as Christians, the leading feature of whose character was self-denial, if they were indeed followers of Christ, consequently that a temporary abstinence in a single article of food would hardly by them be deemed a hardship. He then concluded by desiring we would leave second Causes, & look only to the first Cause, who had probably inflicted this punishment on us as due to our sins, & that we should therefore deprecate his wrath, by sincere repentance & true faith. His afternoon's discourse was a very excellent one on the text "to those who believe He is precious". Mr Gower did the Duty at Harpsden.

Monday Mr T. Powys 3 Boys & Henry Micklem spent the day here.

Tuesday January 6th Received this morning a twelfth cake from Mr Walker, which we divided as usual among the Tenants Children. On account of the scarceness of flour we

made no cake ourselves for the day; nor did we stay at home & draw King & Queen but spent the day at Mrs Ryder's. Called on my aunt & the Miss Davisons.

Wednesday Walked to Henley in the morning to call on E. Allnutt, who is not well, found her better, heard but an indifferent account of Mrs T Hall.

Thursday At Home all day, heard of the death of Mrs Gule. Wm. Everett came at 3 o'clock.

Sunday January 11th Dr Deane did the Duty at Church this morning, we went to the meeting in the afternoon. Wm. Everett left us yesterday.

Tuesday Mr H. Hall called on us this morning with Mrs Allnutt & Sarah, he came from White's where himself & wife are staying on account of Mr Stevenson's illness.

Wednesday Mrs Ryder came this morning, but returned home to dinner.

Thursday Mr T. Powys's sons & Master N. Micklem dined here to day.

Friday We went this day to White's to see Mr S. & found him better. The Children dined at Mrs Allnutts.

Sunday 18th Dr Deane did the Duty here to day, he also dined & slept here & we went to Henley church in the afternoon.

Tuesday Called at Crowsley in the morning & spent a very pleasant 2 hours with Mr & Mrs Wright.

Wednesday Mrs Ryder came here in the morning & engaged us to dinner for tomorrow.

Thursday Went to Mrs Ryder's to dinner & took with us the 4 eldest Children. Till this day the weather has been more like spring than the middle of winter. The lilacs, & the honey suckles are many of them in leaf, the snowdrops are out of the ground & many of them in flower, the gooseberries are several of them in leaf, & all other shrubs & flowers in proportionate forwardness, but to day, we have had storms of sleet & hail & snow, such as indicate an approach of winter, when it is commonly on the eve of departing - the seasons, as well as the Times seem a little "out of joint" (as Shakespeare says) & furnishes many subjects of thought to a reflecting mind.

Sunday 25th At Church in the morning, at meeting in the afternoon. In walking across the field leading to the wood, I trod on a nail, which ran into the bottom of my foot. I returned immediately, & found some difficulty in getting home.

Monday We dined this day at Crowsley, for tho' my foot is painful when I walk on it, I did not think it a sufficient reason for not fulfilling my engagement.

Wednesday My foot is still troublesome when I walk, but to counterbalance this inconvenience it has been the means of affording me more leisure for reading some Books lately lent me by Mr Townshend. One of these I have this day

finished, namely, Mrs Bowdler's "Practical Commentary on the Revelations". It is the first commentary I ever read on that awfully mysterious Book, & I must confess it throws very little light to my comprehension on the prophecies contained in it. Where so much is left to the imagination it is easy to accommodate certain parts of particular events, to written predictions, but there seems in Mrs Bowdler's interpretation nothing sufficiently distinct, or strongly remarked, as to bring it home to my judgement or belief. The picture she draws of the expected Millennium is very pleasing, & what one wishes to embrace, but it does not appear to be fully authorized by Scripture. Reason indeed seems strongly to point out the necessity of some intermediate State where the affections may be gradually more spiritualized, so as to fit us for the perfect enjoyment of that final State where we are to be the companions of angels, & live in the presence of the ever-blessed God. It seems as if the utmost degree of piety, & affection towards our Saviour & our God, which can be attained in the present World must be inadequate to furnish us with a capacity for the pure & spiritual joys of Heaven - for tho' we know that the righteousness of Christ will be imparted to us as a covering for our sins, yet it should seem, (& without I trust detracting from that perfect work of Man's Redemption by Christ, which is, & ought to be, our sole dependence) that there is a purity of heart & mind, an abstractedness from worldly & selfish feelings which cannot be perfected here, & which is yet necessary for our enjoyment hereafter. Hence an intermediate State presents itself to the mind, & the idea of a Millennium is embraced with ardour & satisfaction, because it is an opinion which wise & pious Persons have held as seeing some foundation for it in this most awful & sublime Vision of the Revelations - Conjecture would perhaps range much further, & when we are told of other worlds capable of sustaining Beings like ourselves, and of all the sublime wonders of the "Starry Host" it is difficult to check the imagination from enquiring into the purposes for which they were created. For my own part I will confess (tho' I do it with great humility & therefore I hope without Sin) that I have supposed it probable that the Planets might be intended to receive the departed Souls of those who having here embraced the Religion of Christ, yet incapable from the prevailing infirmities of their nature of obtaining that heavenly mindedness so necessary to the enjoyment of a state purely spiritual, are there placed, where, their temptations being fewer, they may gradually advance till they have obtained a compleat fitness for the Eternal Inheritance - but these are conjectures unauthorized by Scripture, & therefore should be barely permitted to pass thro' the mind, without resting any dependence, or raising any hope, upon them. The practical part of Mrs Bowdler's little volume is excellent indeed, & cannot but suggest many useful hints to those who read with a desire of being instructed. In page 152 there is an excellent Criterion by which to distinguish between lawful & unlawful pleasures, "and let those pleasures (says the writer) for which we dare not thank God, be considered at least with a suspicious eye, as to the lawfulness of indulging them". On the whole I have read this work with great pleasure (particularly the latter part of it) & I hope with some profit.

Thursday Mrs Ryder spent the morning here, & Mr Scholfield came to dinner. Henry also left us to return to Fairford. He went on horseback, with William to accompany him.

Sunday February 5th Dr Deane did the duty here in the morning. In the afternoon we went to the meeting.

Monday Went to Fawley this morning to pay a visit to Mrs P. on account of the death of her Mother Mrs Guile, met there Mr Howman & Mrs Thos. Powys.

Tuesday I omitted to mention the return of Wm. on Friday, & that he left Henry well. He brought me a letter from Mrs Tomkins acquainting me with the death of her sister Mrs Henry Shepherd - the particulars of her illness she had not time to give. This morning's Post brought me also the account of Mrs Walker's death; a letter from Mr W. told me of it.

Friday Mrs Ryder came in the morning. In the afternoon we walked to Henley, where being told that E & M Allnutt were preparing to go to a Ball & Concert for the Benefit of the Poor, I was tempted to leave my dear Girls at their Aunts, to accompany them. I therefore hope that they are at this moment enjoying an amusement entirely new to them, & that I shall have the happiness of seeing them tomorrow not the worse for their Evening's entertainment!

Saturday I walked to Henley this morning to fetch home my two Girls, who were not the worse for, & appear much pleased with their last Evening's Entertainment - they danced till 3 in the morning. This afternoon I have finished reading Gisborne's Survey of the Christian Religion which appears to me a very useful...of that subject which is the first & of the highest importance to us all. It is divided into distinct heads so that the mind is not distracted by being obliged to take in a multiplicity of ideas at the same glance. It treats of each clearly & distinctly, and tho' in few words gives a very comprehensive account of the History & Progress of Christianity amid all the abuses & corruptions to the state in which we now enjoy it. And he then endeavors to prove, (& proves it doubtless to many) that the Church Establishment of this Country is liable to as few objections as any human Institution will admit of, & that, as no express directions on this subject were left by Christ or his apostles, that the wisdom of man is left at liberty to form such as may seem best to subserve the general good. From hence, or on this principle he finds nothing to blame in those sects who differ from the Establishment tho' he entirely approves of this establishment & deems it more expedient for the national benefit than any which has yet been devised; conceiving it also to be nearer the practice of the primitive times than any other. Of these matters I am not competent to judge, but it certainly seems that the original Christian Churches were amenable to the apostolic authority, & that therefore Episcopacy with certain restrictions was the original, & scriptural form of Church Government. As to intermediate offices in the Church the New Testament is silent, & it must be therefore mere matter of opinion the authority on which they are founded; or their propriety. Mr Gisborne's concluding chapter is so excellent, as to claim the attentive consideration of all into whose hands his book may fall, & I earnestly hope that my own dear Children will impress his sentiments both on their memories & on their hearts, that their practice may be influenced by them, & their minds guarded in that intercourse which their situation in society may require them to share, by those views which he has herein given of the general neglect of those principles & that practice, which are the basis of all that is really respectable in this life, & the only sure ground of hope in the Life to

come.

Sunday February 8th Dr Deane continues to do the Duty here, we heard him in the morning as usual. In the afternoon went to the meeting.

Monday Mr Allnutt & his Family dined here to day. Mrs Powys called in the morning, and in the afternoon Mr T. Powys, who informed us that Mr Pitt had resigned his situation as Prime Minister & first lord of the Treasury. His resignation has been followed by that of several others; & new arrangements are already made. The cause of this event is said to be a difference of opinion respecting the emancipation of the Irish Roman Catholics. He pledged himself to obtain it, in order to forward the union of the two kingdoms; & the King now objects to the measure. The Duke of Portland takes his place as Prime Minister, & Mr Addington as first lord of the Treasury.

Tuesday My dear Thomas's Birth Day. A holiday granted in consequence.

Wednesday Kept at home all day by the weather which is now become very cold, after the mildest & most spring-like winter that was almost ever experienced. Snow now lies on the ground - & flora's early progeny can scarcely be distinguished.

Thursday Dined with Mrs Ryder, the Girls dined with my aunt for the last time at her house.

Saturday A week has elapsed without my having attempted to add to my Journal, & now, whatever I might have to note, has escaped from my memory. The weather is changed from Snow to Rain. The markets continue much the same; but butcher's meat on the rise - nothing now to be had under 8d a Pound. The brown bread ordered by act of Parliament is to be baked no more, it not having been found to answer the purposes of economy intended by it. Brown bread certainly does not go so far in a Family, & it has been clearly proved that a Sack of coarse flour will not yield near as much bread as the same quantity of fine, hence the saving can be none, & the disadvantages as a public measure, many.

I have just now finished reading a useful book lent me by Mr Townshend called Ellis's "Self Deceiver". It is a dialogue between a Minister & his Parishioner in which the former lays open the many sources of Self Deceit to which the human heart is liable, & recommends in story language & upon forcible considerations the adoption of genuine Christianity as the only effectual means for shewing a man to himself as he really is, & as the only sufficient rule by which his conduct can be regulated to make him consistent with himself, & to justify his hopes of a happy immortality.

Sunday 22nd February My dear Husband's Birth Day! which necessarily calls forth many ardent prayers for his best interests, & for his enjoyment of health & long life, together with Thanksgiving to the great Author of all our enjoyments for the happiness I enjoy in so affectionate a Friend, the solace of my life, & the tender Father of our beloved Children! May God visit him & all of us with his best of blessings & may we so pass through this life that at the Great Day we may be owned by our gracious Redeemer, as among the number of those for whom he died & thereby purchased for them an eternal inheritance. We went this

afternoon to Henley Church, on account of Mr Townshend's doing the Duty there. His sermon was a very excellent one on the words of Christ "I am the Way". He afterward spent the evening & slept at our house. He also breakfasted with us this morning (Monday).

And I walked part of the way to Henley with him afterwards. We had a good deal of serious conversation & he left me to read, "Law's Serious Call", a sermon of Mr Cooper's, & an ode of Mr Gisborne's with one in reply of Mr Cooper's - both in allusion to the death of Cowper the Poet. I copy (as my opinion of these odes) what I have said of them in a letter to Mr Townshend. "It may seem like arrogance in me to give an opinion on the two odes, but you will I know expect that I should say something of them. I am much pleased with both, and am at a loss which to prefer. Mr Cooper's is more interesting to my feelings, but I am not sure that I think it the best. Certainly there is in Mr Gisborne's more of the true character of the Ode which, I believe, is sublimity of thought & expression with a sort of admissible obscurity that requires some effort of the mind to penetrate. There are more harmonious lines in Mr C's, but the few which admit of poetical imagery are not as well supplied as in Mr Gisborne's. I say the few which admit of 'poetical imagery' because the source from which both draw their language & ideas, being the Scripture, little embellishment from the imagination can be allowed. The description of "the Bard" is strongly marked & tight, tender & beautiful, but to balance this, I think Mr C is equally happy in the allusion to Elijah's mantle which is very aptly & may with strict propriety be applied to Mr Gisborne. I did not before know that Cowper's state of derangement continued to his death, but this is I observe implied in the Odes. I have now only to lament the being obliged to destroy them without taking a copy, but our arbitrary friend must be obeyed.

We dined to day at Mrs Macalester's, Mr & Mrs Allnutt etc. met us in the afternoon, Mrs Lee came home with us to spend a few days before she returns to her lodging at Reading, which is now her place of residence, having quitted Wokingham since her son's taking a Partner in the business. (Tuesday)

Mr & Mrs T Powys with their Babe, & Mr P.P. dined with us, they returned home soon after dinner.

Saturday Took Mrs Lee home, & dined with Mrs Ryder, called on Mrs Deane in the morning & drank Tea with my Aunt in hopes of shewing Marg't. & Frances the Judges' entrance into a Town for the Assizes, but it was so late before they came that we did not wait for it. My Aunt is now got into a lodging in Friar Street. Found Mr Wm. Tomkins from Abingdon here on our return home.

Sunday 1st March Mr T. accompanied us to Church in the morning & we went to the meeting in the afternoon. Dr Deane dined with us, but returned home when we went to Henley. Had a stranger at the meeting, on account of Mr Scholfield's being suspended for a time from the functions of the Ministerial Office, the punishment for some misbehaviour by which he has disgraced his holy Profession.

Monday 2nd My dear Margaret's Birthday. I walked to Henley in the morning to procure some Biscuits etc. for a little entertainment on the occasion. She has not been well some weeks with head ach & loss of appetite as usual, so that it was not (I fear) much enjoyed. We dined at Mr Biscoe's, for the first time, & met there Mr & Mrs Wright &

Mr & Mrs Howman.

Tuesday Took the two Girls to Reading with an intention to shew them the form of Trial at the Assizes, but could not succeed in getting them into a situation where they might see & hear, the crowd was very great, the Trials numerous & every place filled.

Wednesday A day spent at home with only a walk to Henley in the afternoon.

Thursday Mrs Ryder dined here. She seemed but indifferent.

Sunday 8th March Dr Deane gave us this morning a good sermon on Prayer, a stranger in the afternoon at the meeting.

Tuesday Dr Wilder came to day to dine & sleep at our house. I shall here note a remarkable circumstance which occurred in our family last week. Isabella Gardiner my Housemaid was observed to be very low & unhappy in her mind, which after suffering for a few days she acknowledged to arise from strong pangs of conscience which convicted her of sin, and that tho' she knew she might apply to the Throne of Grace for Mercy thro' a Redeemer, that she was incapable of praying, & miserable as she was, seemed to have no hope by which she could be cleared or comforted. She remained in this state for several days but yesterday acknowledged herself relieved, & she is now going about her business as usual. William Andrews our Footman (who is a man of a very religious turn of mind) conceives this lowness to have been the immediate effect of God's regenerating Grace; I hope it may be so, as similar instances have occurred where it has been thus sensibly felt; but it must have the test of Time upon it before we can determine. "By their fruits ye shall know them". Unless convictions of sin are followed by amendment of life & productive of "Holiness to the Lord" we cannot pronounce them genuine, or suppose that "the hand of the Lord" was in them. Ignorant people are too apt to deceive themselves in these respects, & imagine that the first notions of saving Grace in the Soul must be thus sensibly felt, & dated from a certain period - an instant of time - but, I believe that in general the influences of Divine Grace are much more gradual, &, like itself, of too spiritual a nature to be seen & felt. Doubtless in cases of open gross violations of the Moral Law, the Conscience may be instantaneously roused & Conversion speedily follow, but where the sins have been of a more secret nature, where the life has been rather a course of self-deception, than of allowed & open transgression of the divine Commandments, the light of divine grace shines by degrees into the mind, & of course its fruits are progressively ripened. This poor girl speaks of having obtained her first convictions by means of a Sermon of Mr Townshend's preached on Sunday the 22nd February.

Friday Dr Wilder left us only this morning. Mr Hall & he found something in their natures & pursuits so assimilating that each seemed desirous of enjoying the other's company for a lengthened period, & therefore the visit of a day was changed into one for three days & nights. Dr W. has had a great deal of experience in Country Business which made his conversation both useful & pleasant to Mr Hall.

My Housemaid has had another paroxysm of her disorder (whether of body or mind I cannot ascertain) but is to day

better again.

I have been reading this afternoon Addison's sublime contemplations on a future state (No 600) and it suggests many subjects of reflection to my mind. It is on the whole a most elevating, & beautiful composition, full of sublime ideas, & high & animating views of the Eternal World. Our reason, our reflection, our best hopes must accord with all the sentiments which it contains, & there is nothing in Revelation, which, to me, appears to discourage the belief of such opinions. There is one thought of singular grandeur where he says "The memory likewise may turn itself to an infinite multitude of objects, especially when the Soul shall have passed through the space of many millions of years, & shall reflect with pleasure on the Days of Eternity - what a noble conception! It is considering "the incalculable bliss of a newly-arrived blessed soul in Heaven to be capable of increase!"

But in describing the faculties with which he supposes the soul endued, an objection strikes me which has often pressed upon my mind before. Addison says "The soul consists of many faculties; as, the understanding & the will with all the senses both outward & inward". I am ignorant of the science of metaphysics, nor am I desirous of perplexing my mind by nice distinctions, or speculations which have nothing but their ingenuity to recommend them, but there are certain deductions which the reasoning faculty when in exercise will & must make upon every subject about which it is conversant, & this is one on which I have ventured to make a stand. I cannot then admit this definition of the Soul to be just. I cannot suppose the understanding & the senses to make a part of it. If they do, what shall we say either to the decay of their faculties, or to the sudden destruction of them by an injury done to the brain, or by a too powerful irritability of the nervous system? No, I consider the Soul of man to be totally distinct from any of those faculties which are liable to injury or decay. I view it as, a simple emanation of Divinity, the breath of life from God himself, & which is secure from all external injury even in the frail Tabernacles in which it is placed. It endures to the end, undiminished in its capacities, & often becoming stronger in its influences & brighter in its emanations the nearer Life is to its close. I give then to man three distinct Powers Bodily, Mental & Spiritual. His bodily faculties are those of the mere animal - those of his mind make him a reasonable creature, but it is the Soul, or spiritual faculty which can alone stamp upon him the Image of God or ally him to Saints & Angels. How many persons are there of strong intellectual Powers, who never get a single Talent in the Service of Religion or to forward the interests of the Soul, but if these faculties were a part of the Soul could this be? And on the contrary let the intellect be ever so feeble & imperfect, while the "vital spark" is properly exercised, it is sufficient for all the purposes of life, & is capable of enjoying by anticipation the joys of the world to come. The pleasures of intellect are among the good gifts of God for our enjoyment here, but they seem little, if at all, connected with the joys of that unseen State on which the Soul enters at Death. They may be spiritualized to the use of the Soul & to the increase of its enjoyments but they cannot I think make a part of it. The faculties of the mind decay with the Body because like it, their uses are calculated for the Region which we now inhabit, but our Souls become daily stronger & stronger till they are ripened for that eternal & unchangeable state which awaits them hereafter. May these reflections induce in me a more ardent desire to exercise the spiritual part of my Nature, & only so far to set a value on

my intellectual part, as it is employed in subserviency of that great end the full enjoyment of a blessed immortality!

Saturday Mrs Allnutt called this morning to take leave of me previously to her going to London on a visit to her Brothers.

Sunday 15th March Dr Deane did the Duty at Harpsden this morning for the last time of his present engagement. Mr Scholfield occupied his own Pulpit again to day - we heard him in the afternoon, with a very full congregation.

Monday Dined at Crowsley Park, met there Mr & Mrs Howman Mr & Mrs Wise & the Dean of Canterbury, & took with us Mr & Mrs T. Powys.

Friday Mr Macalester dined here. Our Housemaid still in a very uncomfortable state of mind, but no distinctness in her views or feelings.

Sunday 22nd March Mr T. Powys did the Duty here this morning. In the afternoon we heard Mr Scholfield at the meeting. Rec'd a letter from my Brother which gives but an indifferent account of his health. Finished the last week reading Law's "Serious Call" abridged - a very excellent little Book both in its design & execution. The arguments apply in a very home way to the breast of every individual; and it is one of the most powerful appeals to man as a rational & intelligent Being that I ever read, contained in so small a compass, & confined to one subject. I pray that it may make a lasting impression on my mind! The Children indisposed with Colds, & Margaret in her old way with restless nights, head ach, & loss of appetite. She has been not quite well for some weeks. This dear Child has suffered much, tho' she reckons but a few years in this troublesome, yet attractive world. Without actual ill health, she is often so much indisposed as to incapacitate her from enjoying those sweet & innocent pleasures which belong to her time of life. As a Parent anxious for her present enjoyment I cannot but hope in a few years to see her health better established, but this may perhaps interfere with God's gracious designs towards her; who may, by thus separating her thoughts & desires from earthly good, attach her affections more entirely to himself, & to the obtaining that heavenlie inheritance which will amply recompense her for all her sufferings here. The will of God therefore be done, however it may oppose my will, or the wishes of my heart towards her present gratification! And may she in sickness or in health, in life or in death stay her soul on him, who is able & willing to be the support & Refuge of all who cordially put their Trust in Him!

Monday S. & I. Allnutt dined with us, in the absence of their Father & Mother & younger sister who are in London.

Tuesday Our two Girls & Thomas dined with their Cousins. In the Evening Mr I. Stevenson returned with them Home, & spent the Evening, & slept here.

Wednesday Mr H. our two Girls & myself went to Reading to dine with Mrs Ryder; we called in the morning on Mr & Mrs R. Butler who are on a visit at Mrs Davison's. Mr Butler's eyes are rather worse than better; & Mrs B's spirits are much affected by the melancholy prospect of his total loss of sight. My Aunt sat an hour with us at Mrs Ryder's; she seems much pleased with her new Lodging. Mrs R. tolerably well.

Friday Went in the morning to Wargrave to call on Mrs Norman. On my return called on Mrs Michell while the Coach went for Mrs Thos. Powys who with her child & Mr P. dined with us. My dear Margaret continues still very indifferent - restless nights, headachs, languor, loss of appetite & occasional sickness.

Sunday At Church in the morning, at the meeting in the afternoon. Mr Scholfield's congregation is much increased since the establishment of an Evening Lecture by some of the neighbouring Ministers, nor is it diminished by his late misconduct. "There is forgiveness with God that he may be feared" - Man therefore can have no right to withhold pardon to a repentant fellow-creature!

I have lately read Law's "Serious Call" abridged; it is an excellent little work, calculated to rouze the dissipated & unthinking, & is moreover a very powerful appeal to every man's reason & experience - its arguments are founded chiefly on the unreasonableness of the life pursued by the generality of persons, & of the insufficiency of such enjoyments as the world holds out, to procure either permanent peace here or to qualify the mind for future felicity. And from hence it forcibly recommends a life of devotion, & devotedness to God, as satisfying all those earnest longings & desires after some unknown & untasted good, which a worldly life of common pleasures never can do. Mr Townshend, in a letter to me, speaking of this Book says "It seems to be best suited to a not very confirmed Christian. I think a mind as yet unawakened, entering really into the spirit of the work would be driven to seek for some principle less variable than unassisted reason, to enable it to persevere in what its own powers proved to be so necessary." It is an excellent observation, & I trust has been found true in the experience of many! On the whole there is perhaps nothing very new in sentiment, or in the observations; but it is Truth shewn in such strong colours, & placed in such a point of view, as to catch the attention even of those, who think of nothing less, than becoming converts to such opinions.

This day has brought me a Letter from Miss Fox, giving a melancholy account of her Nephew. His medical Attendants give no hope of his recovery. Miss Fox is very calm in the expectation of the event, from the idea that were his life spared, his diseased Habit of Body would occasion to him only a perpetuity of suffering.

Tuesday Mrs Ryder dined here.

Wednesday Mr H. & myself went in the Whiskey to Whites to see Mr Stevenson. He is nearly recovered from his complaints; we met there Mrs Romsey. Mrs Geary is a good deal ill.

Easter Sunday April 5th I went this afternoon to Henley Church for the sake of hearing Mr Townshend. His sermon was as usual very clear & capable of a large application to the consciences of his hearers, delivered also in a very forcible & energetic manner. His Text was from 1 Cor. 1 v.22 The Jews require a sign etc. And he took occasion to make a remark which has sometimes passed thro' my mind in reference to the imputed righteousness of Christ. It is sometimes objected to the Gospel scheme, that an all-powerful God might have preserved our first Parents from the snares of Satan, & thus have continued them in innocence, to a state of inherent righteousness, but as the righteousness of Christ must have

been more perfect & greatly superior to what man even in a state of innocence could have attained; so, if thro' faith in Christ, this righteousness can be imputed to us, may we not suppose that our happiness in eternity will thus be greatly heightened? by entitling us probably to a nearer access, & more intimate communication with God himself, than we could have enjoyed had we appeared before him in the robe of our own righteousness. Thus is the mercy of God made 'more honourable' both in Creation & Redemption.

Monday My Brother Mrs H. & Charlotte came to us this day to dinner & (Tuesday) we all went to Reading & called on Mrs Ryder, Mrs Hills & my aunt.

Wednesday My brother etc. left us after Breakfast, & about 2 o'clock our much-valued friends Mr & Mrs Cooper came to us with all their five Children out of Staffordshire, the meeting was of course full of pleasing & affectionate welcome accompanied by many interesting recollections of time past, & many delightful anticipations of time to come, with actual enjoyment of the present moment. They are all well & in good spirits, having made a very safe & pleasant journey without distress or difficulty of any kind.

Sunday 12th April Mr Cooper did the whole Duty at our Parish Church this morning - his sermon was on the Conversion of St Paul - and in the afternoon we went to Henley Church where Mr Townshend read Prayers & Mr Cooper preached, to a very full congregation. Mr T. returned with us, & spent the evening & slept at our house.

Thursday So short-lived are our enjoyments here that we have been this day constrained to part with our Friends Mr & Mrs C. They went at 12 o'clock to Bray, leaving behind them as hostages for their return their 5 Children, who enjoy themselves so much here, that they expressed no desire to accompany their Parents, & no regret at parting with them. I look back with peculiar pleasure & satisfaction on many of the hours of the past week. Conversations, I trust, of the most beneficial kind, have passed between us, & highly interesting communications mutually exchanged. "Our days have been days of pleasantness, & our paths, paths of peace", such as the true intercourse of real friendship, elevated & refined by Christian love must ever prove. Mr Cooper, always superior in the native powers of his mind, is now something more than Man, by the dedication of these powers to the God who gave them. His heart & his understanding join in the noblest efforts to celebrate the praises of Him who has "called him out of darkness into his marvellous light", & irradiated his mind with the clearest views of those important subjects which Revelation has displayed. The riches of God's grace are given him freely to enjoy; & he is earnestly desirous that others should partake with him in so glorious a dispensation. With a zeal properly tempered by a clear judgement, & prudent conduct, his Ministry has been already greatly blessed, & will doubtless in the end be abundantly successful. And the evenness of his temper, the integrity of his life, & his uniform cheerfulness, recommend in every possible way the doctrine which he teaches, & it cannot fail to "put to silence the ignorance of foolish Man".

Friday Henry came this Evening from Fairford on account of a nervous & infectious Fever which was in Mr Darand's house & in the Town. He is at present well, & I trust will

continue so.

Sunday 19th April At Church in the morning, at Meeting in the afternoon. My Servant (before mentioned) gains no ground in her religious experience. Her mind is beset with doubts & fears, & horrid imaginations. Mr Cooper talked with her twice when he was here; but to no purpose. She complains of not being able to read or pray - and indeed it is much to be feared that she is in a state of actual derangement. Her Mother, we now find, is in a similar state, & this poor girl's feelings & conduct bear strong marks that her mind is no longer capable of judging between good & evil. This is now the universal opinion of the House, tho' it has been hitherto attributed to a religious sense of the sinfulness of her former conduct, & repentance for it. May the God of all consolation give her comfort! All human aid seems vain.

Tuesday I have thought it necessary to send home my Servant above mentioned, as it seemed no longer consistent with my duty to my Children & other Servants to keep her in her present wretched state. She is to return if her spirits are restored.

Thursday We went this day to Bray, where we dined & hoped to have brought back with us Mr & Mrs Cooper, but Mr C. being under the necessity of going to London the next morning he staid behind at Mr Townshend's. This was my first interview with Mrs T.- I find her very mild and amiable in her manners & conversation, and apparently of a benevolent & religious turn of mind. She is an educated & a well-bred woman, and her countenance pleasing and prepossessing, tho' with little (what would be called) beauty. Mr T. appears the same excellent & respectable character at home, as abroad, and must win many souls to the love of Christ by his own zealous attachment to His cause, and the sweet & persuasive manner in which he recommends it. The Spirit of the Lord is upon him, & Peace & Righteousness have sanctified his dwelling. With much knowledge of the world (& formerly much love of it) he is raised above its temptations, & is capable of despising its follies, yet he is taught by this knowledge the kindest charity & truest candour towards those who are still held by its wiles, & his present love of the truth, & the pleasure he finds in Religion only teach him for such a more extensive pity & a more earnest zeal to awaken them to a concern for their eternal welfare, & to make this world's Hope yield to "a hope full of immortality".

Friday I carried Mrs Cooper & all her Children this morning to Fawley, and in the afternoon we sent them to Hardwick. The Children left us with some reluctance, particularly Edward who burst into tears as he took leave of me. They are very fine, & engaging Children. Mrs Mitchell and my Aunt Hallifax called to make me a morning visit at half past 3 o'clock. We had dined, but I received them. I have been much employed lately in making interest to procure for Mrs Nicholl one of the Houses of Bromley College in Kent allotted for Clergyman's widows who are in such circumstances as to require this help. I have myself written to the Archbishop of Canterbury (recollecting his acquaintance with, & large promises to, my Father) but my success is principally owing to Mrs Cotton's interest. The A. bishop however informed her that the Charity is so honestly applied that those who are most in want will certainly receive it - he therefore only engages to present Mrs Nicholl's petition without attempting

to influence the choice of the Trustees. There is as yet no vacancy, but I may charitably hope that when one occurs, none will be found to want it more than herself.

Sunday 26th April At church in the morning - a sermon to young people (principally) from Mr Powys. In the afternoon at the meeting.

Tuesday Spent the day at Hardwick to meet the Coopers - the weather very fine, & the Place in high beauty. Mr Powys is making some alterations, which are likely to prove great improvements, as the young Plantations grow up. The little Coopers were all very glad to see us, & say they prefer Harpsden to any other place.

Wednesday Mrs Hunter Mrs Norman & Miss Ward with Mrs Ryder & the Miss Hills came to make me a morning visit. Mrs Allnutt returned this afternoon from her visiting in the neighbourhood of London.

Thursday Mrs Allnutt & her three daughters called on us this morning. I. Stevenson in the afternoon. My dear Frances's Birthday, now eleven years old. May God be her Guardian & Friend thro' time & in eternity!

Saturday Mr Cooper came here in his way from Hardwick to Fawley. Mrs Cooper & the Children also called for a short time.

Sunday 3rd May At church in the morning, at meeting in the afternoon. Mr T. Powys dined here. Mr Cooper did the Duty at Fawley.

Monday Mr & Mrs Wright, Mr & Mrs Powys, Mr & Mrs Cooper, the Dean of Canterbury, Dr Wilder & Mr Biscoe dined here. Little Edward also spent the day with the Children, much to his satisfaction. Mr Cooper has given us the offer of taking Thomas with him into Staffordshire for a few months, when he promises to instruct him with his own Son; and the offer is so advantageous, that we have accepted it on the condition of it's being what the Child himself likes - for as the distance is so great & he has never been from home; being also of a timid disposition, it would be painful to send him without a perfect willingness on his part, besides that he would involve Mr & Mrs Cooper in a difficulty of which when they made the offer they could be aware.

Tuesday Dined at Mrs Ryder's, who is but indifferent. Saw also my Aunt for a short time.

Thursday May 7th The anniversary of a much beloved Child's death! The "House of Mourning" (says Solomon) gives better instruction than the "House of Mirth". And so, I thank my God! it has proved with me. The calamitous circumstances of my life have been, I believe, more subservient to my best interests than all its most prosperous events. In days of sorrow the mind turns from the world around, to seriousness & self-enquiry, it recoils as it were from those enjoyments in which it once delighted, & seeks out others more suited to give relief under the pressure of its woes, & the sense of its deprivations. How blessed then do those things prove which on their first arrival seem so grievous & hard to be borne! It should therefore be our great endeavour in trouble to "stay ourselves on God", to

"take hold on the hope set before us", to implore help from above, and perhaps, above all, (as more easy & giving more immediate comfort) to bear in mind the uses of affliction, & to carry our thoughts a few years forward when we are sure that our views of things will be changed & when we shall be convinced that "these light afflictions which are but for a moment" will (if properly improved) work for us a far more exceeding & eternal weight of Glory".

Saturday Mr Cooper breakfasted with us, & I afterwards walked with him to the Reading Road to meet Mrs Cooper that they might go together to call on Mrs Ryder. In the afternoon I walked to Henley, & in the mean time the two girls went to call on Miss Jackson with whom they drank tea.

Sunday 10th May At Church in the morning, at the meeting in the afternoon. Mr Cooper did the duty at Fawley.

Monday In our way to Whites we this day breakfasted at Maidenhead, where we met, by appointment, Mr & Mrs Cooper, & were also joined by Mr & Mrs T. Powys, all of whom were on their road to London. At Whites we saw Mr & Mrs H. Hall & their Children, & returned home by a new road thro' Marlow which, tho' pleasant, we found much longer & more rough & unpleasant for the Horse. This road lay by Acadser (?) Wharf.

Tuesday Miss Jackson & a younger brother & sister with their Governess (Miss Jones) drank tea here. I found the Governess a pleasing & intelligent woman, with very conciliating manners, so as to have gained the affections of the Children, & thus to govern by the law of love.

Wednesday Mrs Ryder dined here. Mr Wright called in the morning to talk with Mr Hall on the subject of a disputed Tree claimed by Mr Stonor as on his Manor tho' on Mr Hall's Land, & in which difference of opinion Mr Wright has kindly agreed to become a mediator.

Saturday Margaret's head-achs etc. still continuing I have given her to day Ching's worm medicine but it has hitherto given her no relief.

Sunday 17th May At Church & meeting as usual. Henry made faint by the heat in the afternoon & obliged to go home. Margaret much the same.

Monday Miss Jackson dined here to day. Margaret so indifferent as to have induced me to repeat Ching's medicine by way of giving it a fair trial.

Tuesday Tho' I gave my dear Child 2 of the yellow Lozenges at night, & 2 & a half of the brown ones this morning & this afternoon near a Tablespoonfull of Castor Oil, nothing has hitherto had the desired effect.

Wednesday Margaret still the same. I gave her some Rhubarb & Magnesia in the morning and in the afternoon the desired effect was in some measure produced. We dined this day at Fawley to meet the Coopers & Mr & Mrs Wright.

Thursday Margaret very little relieved; but in the afternoon her spirits returned & her appetite was something better.

Friday We went to Reading (taking Miss Jackson along with us) to see "a Panorama" describing Lord Nelson's victory on the Nile "with motion". Upon our return we took up Mr Hall & Henry & set off immediately to dine at Mr T. Powys's, again to meet our friends Mr & Mrs Cooper. Margaret was on the whole better. This day we lost our good old Coach Horse Sprightly - he died of the cholera, with which he was suddenly seized the day before. He was a general favourite, & of course much lamented.

Sunday May 24th (Whitsunday) At Harpsden Church in the morning, at Henley Church in the afternoon. Mr Cooper preached there for Mr Jeston. He returned home with us, & we walked after tea, & he then officiated as Chaplain in our Family.

Monday Mr Hall drove Mr Cooper to Reading. Mr & Mrs Powys & the Children spent the morning here. Margaret somewhat better.

Wednesday Mr Hall Mt. Jo. Thos & myself set out this morning in the coach to Abingdon, where having left the Children Mr H. & myself took a Post Chaise to Oxford where we met by appointment Mr & Mrs Cooper & their Family on their way home. We were at Dr Isham's, the warden of All Souls Coll. who very kindly invited us to join our Friends at his House. We walked round Ch. Church Meadow, Magdalen College & several of the Colleges, leaving what was more striking to the next day when we expected the Children to meet us.

Tuesday The Children came to us about 11 o'clock, but the day was so wet that we could see but little, & that in an uncomfortable way, we went however into All Souls Chapel & Library, New College Chapel, Christ Church Hall, & a few other places. The time of parting with our dear Boy now drew near for we were to return to Abingdon in the evening. His spirits began to sink, & tears soon followed, we waited hesitating a long time while the Coach stood at the door. At length we yielded to the advice of Dr Isham & our Friends & left him abruptly, while Mr & Mrs Cooper took him out of the House another way intending to amuse him by taking him to a shop & making him some Presents. His cries & tears however pierced our hearts, & we sent William back, while we waited in a distant Street, to know if he was better after we left him. He brought us a satisfactory acct. & we proceeded. I, however, wrote a note the same evening to Mr Cooper which William took the next morning desiring that the dear Boy might not go without his free consent, for being of a very mild & affectionate disposition, we could not bear the idea of sending him so far from home if much against his will. William however returned without him, bringing us the account that tho' he waked in tears, & was very desirous of seeing us again, he yet chose to go with our friend when Mr Cooper put the question to him for his final determination. And we acquiesce with thankfulness in this his resolution! trusting that it will ultimately prove advantageous to him in a more than common degree. It is not that we can rejoice in his absence or as being relieved from the common cares & attentions which every Child claims from its Parents. No, were we to listen to our feelings only, we should lament rather than rejoice, for it is our chief delight to see our Children around us, to provide for their wants, & gratify their wishes, but we view an intimacy & growing friendship with such a man as Mr Cooper as promising great advantages in

future, & we hope that even in present much good may be derived to the Child's health & to the powers of his mind - at present both are rather enfeebled - and in particular there is a sort of sickly fear & timidity in his temper which an absence from home is the most likely means of correcting, & tho' of the most amiable & affectionate disposition this if encouraged would degenerate also into a weakness which might embitter his future life. Hence we are led to hope that we see the hand of God in thus choosing for us what perhaps, if left to ourselves, we should have resisted; & are led earnestly to pray that he will give a blessing on this, as on all the past events & circumstances of our lives, which we now perceive to have been so immediately under his providential direction as to have even now worked together for our good!

Friday Spent at Abingdon, but the weather so wet as to keep us within doors till quite the day.

Saturday Returned home and found, arrived before us, Mr & Mrs H. Hall & their two little girls.

Sunday May 31st At the meeting both parts of the day.

Monday Mrs Allnutt etc. called in the morning, & Mrs Ryder (tho' very unwell) dined & drank tea with us.

Tuesday At four o'clock this day Mr & Mrs Relson & the two Miss Halberts came here to dinner, the first visit they ever made me, and in the morning before their arrival Mrs Hayter, whom also I have not seen for many years, called on me.

Wednesday Our whole Party went over Park Place in the morning, & returned home to a late dinner. After dinner Mr Relson gave us some very useful hints respecting the repair of our house which has been long talked of, & which will probably next spring be accomplished.

Thursday Our Somersetshire Friends left us. I have had to day a long & very satisfactory letter from my dear Tom who seems quite reconciled to his change of situation. Drank tea at Mrs Allnutt's. M. & F. dined at Bolney Court.

Friday Mr Hall drove Mrs A. H. off to Whites. A quiet day spent at home with my Children, & not at all unwelcome after so much dissipation.

Saturday Mr & Mrs Allnutt etc. dined here. Mr A.H. came in the evening.

Sunday 7th June At Church in the morning. Mr Matthews did the duty & dined here. In the afternoon at the meeting.

Tuesday We all went this day to Ascot Heath Races & took Mr Allnutt with us. Mr Macalester also accompanied us on Horseback. None of the Royal Family there except the P. of Wales & Duke of York, on account of the King's late severe indisposition.

Wednesday Mr Stevenson & Mrs Fenn came from Whites to dine with us. Mrs Allnutt etc. drank tea here.

Thursday Mr & Mrs Powlett & Mrs Norman drank tea here.

Friday Went to Reading in the morning to enquire about a Housemaid in the place of the poor young woman named in this journal a few months ago. Her malady rather increasing, than diminishing she made it her own desire to leave her Place, which she did last week. It proves that her complaint is hereditary, her mother suffering from the same unhappy malady. We had therefore little hope of a cure either in body or mind, and it was therefore with less reluctance we parted with her which common humanity seemed otherwise to forbid.

Sunday June 21st I went to Henley Church in the morning expecting to hear Mr Townshend, but was disappointed, Mr Jeston doing the whole duty. In the afternoon went to the meeting, & in the evening also, as Mr Douglas preached at the lecture & Mr & Mrs H. Hall & Mrs J. Stevenson (now with us) wished to hear him. The last ten days have been past in rides & walks to amuse Mrs H. Hall. One day we spent on the water going on our usual voyage to Danesfield, Medenham Abbey & the Island. The days Post brought me an account of the death of John Fox; an event in which all who knew him must rejoice, as his sufferings have been great, & had his life been spared the prospect was an indifferent one for him considering the badness of his constitution, & other circumstances. Miss Fox's attention to him has been unceasing, in sickness & in health. She has been as a Parent to him, and her friends much fear that her own health will be injured by the weeks of anxiety & fatigue which she has now experienced. My God be her support, and may she accept Him as her only sure refuge & friend!

Monday Mr H Marg't Mr J.S. (?) & myself called on Mr & Mrs Powys at Remenham. & afterwards drove through the grounds at Culham Court. Spent the afternoon in the Hayfield, & in the Evening walked to Henley where we left Mr J.S. to go by one of the night Coaches to Birmingham. Mr & Mrs H. Hall left us in the morning on account of Owen's having a bad cough which we feared might prove the Hooping Cough.

Wednesday Owen's cough continues much the same; & Jane has now begun to cough, tho' not so much, nor so violently as Owen. Mrs Ryder dined here, & M. & F. went to Remenham. Henry drove Mr Marteau (?) to Yew-Elm, where they dined with Mr & Mrs Armstrong, Mr Edwards having on account of his ill health declined the business of education we have again a situation to seek for Henry, & we had a view in this visit, hoping that Mr Armstrong might propose again to take him, as he was always fond of him & Henry made great progress while under Mr A's care.

Thursday This afternoon we were greatly alarmed by the illness of our little Jane. She was suddenly seized with pain in her Stomach & Bowels, which returned by intervals with great violence. We sent for Mr Coulson who came immediately and she was relieved. On Friday she continued tolerably well thro' the day but on

Saturday Had another seizure of the same kind, by which we were so much alarmed as to send for Dr Taylor & Mr Bulley, who thought her very ill, but could not ascertain the seat of her complaint. My fears naturally led me to see it in the most unfavourable light; & I was indeed so weak as not to be able, without extreme agitation, to continue in the Room

with her. Mr Hall therefore took my place, & I endeavoured to resign myself to the loss of her, satisfied that all God's dispensations were wise & good, tho' sometimes difficult to be borne, & that if I rested on him for support, I should find "his grace sufficient" for my most trying exigencies. I lifted up my heart in prayer, and I received comfort!

Sunday The medicines given to the dear Baby had the desired effect, & by the blessing of God on the means used, I had the comfort this afternoon of seeing my Child once more, & in a state that bespoke returning health. My gratitude was I hope proportioned to my fears, & I rejoiced as the one who had found a long-lost Treasure - "this my Child was dead & is alive again, was lost & is found" - such was the language of my heart!

Monday Mr King came again this day to see the Child. The cough which (as well as Owen) she has lately had now proves the Hooping Cough, & our anxieties are turned into a different channel - but as the season of the year is favourable to this complaint, we trust, it will not last so long, as it sometimes does.

Tuesday My Aunt Hallifax & her maid came here this day. The Child continues rather better except her cough, which rather increases.

Sunday July 5th The dear little Girl's Cough very indifferent. Owen's rather better. Mr Matthews did the Duty at Harpsden Church. In the afternoon the Children & myself went to Henley to hear Mr Townshend, who gave us an excellent Sermon on the Duty & Importance of reading the Scriptures. It was a most forcible appeal to the consciences of his hearers, and those must stand self-condemned who neglect a practice, so necessary & reasonable, when considered as a means by which grace & salvation are conveyed to the Soul. The text was from the 17th Chap. of the Acts 11th & part of 12th verses.

Wednesday Mrs Ryder dined here, & my Aunt being very indifferent with a rheumatic complaint desired to return home with her in the Evening, which she did. The Child's cough is rather worse than better, & she is all together very languid, fretful, & unlike her former self.

Thursday Called on Mr & Mrs Banwell, who are come to their House in Henley to stay a month.

Friday The Child so indifferent that we sent to Mr Bulley to see her.

Saturday The Child somewhat better. The Banwells called here; & Mr Charles Fanshawe, who has undertaken to write for us about a situation for Henry.

Sunday Mr Matthews did the Duty here. In the afternoon we all went to the Meeting, & afterwards called on the Banwells for a few minutes. Mr & Mrs Ed. Green returned this morning (time enough for Church) from Hamstall. They brought us Letters, & an excellent account of our dear Tom, who so conducts himself as to preserve entire the good opinion before entertained of him by Mr & Mrs Cooper. He is also very well & happy; & seems fully to understand the value of so advantageous & comfortable a situation. I lift up my heart in praise to God, "from whom every good &

perfect gift cometh".

Tuesday Mr & Mrs Banwell & their 6 Children dined with us to day. The little Girl better than she has been for some time past.

Thursday The last two days kept at home by the rain & violent storms of thunder etc. Jane not quite so well again.

Saturday Went in the morning to Reading to take leave of Mrs Ryder, & to settle with her about taking possession of her house when she leaves it to go to Bristol, in order that we may try the effect of change of air for our little Girl. In the afternoon Mr & Mrs Banwell & 3 of their Children drank Tea with us.

Sunday 19th Spent as usual.

Monday Mr Hall set off at 6 o'clock for London & the rest of us in the afternoon went to Reading with Lucy & Betty & William. We met a very smiling reception from Mrs Ryder's Servants, & were most comfortably accommodated at her House. The Children are all much delighted, & we trust our dear little Girl will receive benefit from the change.

Tuesday Mrs Deane & Miss Blagrove, Mrs Tyndale & her youngest son called on me. I sat two hours with my Aunt, & find her very indifferent. Mr Bulley fears her complaint is the Stone.

Saturday The last two days spent chiefly in receiving & paying visits, but as I have reason to believe that my time has been spent among those who have a regard for me, & whose principles of conduct are entitled to honor I have had real enjoyment in their society. My dear Husband returned last night & has spent this day here.

Sunday 26th In the morning Mr H. & myself went to Mr Douglas's Meeting, the Children to St. Lawrence's Church; in the afternoon I went to St. L's Church alone, & in the evening we all again went to the Meeting. In each of these Services my mind was much elevated, & my feelings gratified, by the propriety & solemnity of the Worship, & the clearness & excellency of the Sermons. The Morning's discourse was on the Truth of the Gospel. And in the evening on its Evidences. The subject in the afternoon was on the freeness & fulness of Divine Grace, as described in a verse in the Revelations, 22nd Chap:17th Verse, by a call to partake of the waters of the River of Life. Mr Marsh spoke with much feeling & energy, yet without any affected display of himself, & his tone was that of a decided conviction of the truth of those principles which he was recommending to others. Mr Douglas's discourses were very clear, methodical, & correct, tho' spoken without the assistance even of notes. There were also some striking observations interspersed, which added to the general excellency of the Sermons. My memory, however, has retained but few - among them was an explanation of a verse which I did not before see in that light, tho' it will well bear this application. "There is a way which seemeth good unto a man, but the end thereof is Death". This Mr D. explained as the error of those who trust in their own righteousness, people who take refuge in their own moral conduct as the principle mean of Salvation; this does indeed seem right, if Scripture Doctrines are not well understood, but which, if thoroughly examined, will prove

to be a "refuge of lies" such as none dare trust in, who have compared their hearts & conduct with that strict rule laid down in the Holy Scriptures, & which no mere man ever did, or can live up to, & adopt thro' his whole conduct. Another explanation of a text Mr D. gave somewhat different from the commonly-accepted sense of it "Oppose themselves" 2nd Timothy: 2nd Chap: 25th Verse - this he explained as an opposition to their own peculiar & individual interests, in not so learning the truth as to obey it in their conduct. On the whole this is a day on which I may truly say I have enjoyed real & unalloyed pleasure.

Monday Spent in leave-taking visits, & with my Aunt who is still very indifferent.

Tuesday Returned home this day to the great regret of Margaret & Frances, who with myself could have passed a week or two longer at Reading very happily. We have however great cause for thankfulness, as our dear little Girl is much mended, & the rest of us well, except my beloved Margaret who has had most severe returns of head ach lately. I pray God to give her strength, & trust in his goodness, equal to all her pains & difficulties! for she is of a disposition & constitution likely (to all appearance) to be called to trials to which known strength is wholly unequal.

Thursday Called on Mrs Banwell & Mrs T. Powys.

Saturday Paid visits at Crowsley & Shiplake Hill, & called also for the first time on Mr & Mrs Howman. Jane's cough is now so much mended, as to be very little troublesome to her, or alarming to us; indeed it is wonderful the effect which change of air has had, & especially since our return home. Owen still coughs of a night.

Sunday 2nd August Mr Matthews did the Duty here.

Monday Mr H. myself & Owen went to Reading to see my Aunt who is still indifferent. H. M. & J. spent the day at Remenham. A Confirmation & Visitation this day at Reading.

Tuesday Mr & Mrs Townshend dined here, in their way home from Mrs Fanshawe's, a few hours out of the common lapse of time worthy of being remembered! Mr T. is going to the sea-side for the benefit of his health.

Wednesday Mr & Mrs Benwell & all their Children dined with us. It is their intention tomorrow to return home & we part from them with regret.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday At home amidst our common employments & enjoyments.

Sunday The Duty still done by Mr Matthews for Mr T. Powys, tho' we are now in expectation of a change of some importance in our clerical arrangements, for Dr Mountague having relinquished the Living, it is taken (as we understand) by Mr Finch (a brother of Lord Aylesford) who is likely to reside, & give that satisfaction to his Parish, which his awful & responsible situation among them demands! This has not been experienced since the departure of Mr Cooper. Of our dear Tom we hear frequently, & such accounts as tend to gladden our hearts & make us very thankful for his being so placed.

Monday Went to Reading to see my Aunt who is much the same. Called on my return on Mr Baker at Caversham Hill by the desire of Mr Hansell.

Tuesday Mr H. drove me in the Whiskey to Wargrave to call on Mrs Norman & Mrs Hunter. Mrs N. again ill with a complaint in her mouth. The remainder of the week spent entirely at home except our usual evening walks. The weather fine, & crops very abundant.

Sunday 16th A very good Sermon from Mr Matthews on the Parable of the Publican & Pharisee. At meeting in the afternoon where we had also a more connected discourse than usual from Mr Schofield. Criticism, however, on these occasions is out of the question. It is my desire in the use of public Ordinances to be "taught of God", & he sometimes sees fit to employ very humble Instruments in this work, & such as suit but little with our preconceived opinions, or likings. It is true there are certain indispensable requisites; and there are others which may be highly desirable when our feelings want to be roused & our hearts elevated; but when God is "in us of a Truth" every Vessel employed in his Service is sanctified to us, & we are enabled by such instrumentality to draw water out of the wells of Salvation! Highly desirable as it would be to me to have a pious & sensible Minister in our own Parish, till this blessing is granted, I hope to derive comfort & help from the means afforded; & wait God's good time for that which wd. not be withheld but because wisest is best.

Sunday 23rd Mr T.P.. did the Duty here to day. In the afternoon we were at the Meeting. There was nothing to note in the course of last week but a visit from Mrs Hill of Wargrave, & her sisters of Reading, and one from Mr Bell of Battersea, accompanied by Mr & Mrs Taylor who manage his Family. One of his Keepers also came with him, & Mr Bell conversed very rationally, without wandering, or wildness of any kind. This Evening Mr & Mrs Purkins & their Daughter came here.

Monday Mrs & Miss Hunter & Miss Eliza Ward drank Tea with us, & we walked in the wood. Before they went, Mrs Randall & Miss Fox came. In the mean time Mr & Mrs Purkis drove thro' the grounds of Culham Court, & were much delighted. Mr Walker came also this Evening.

Tuesday The whole Party (except Mrs R. & Miss F.) went on the water as far as Danesfield, where we dined, & returned home by nine o'clock.

Wednesday Walked in the wood in the morning & went to the Races after dinner.

Thursday Mr & Mrs Purkins left us. Margaret was indifferent in the morning with giddiness & sickness & head-ach. I left her however to the care of Miss Fox, & with Mr H. & Mr Walker went to Reading, & afterwards to Prospect Hill, to enquire about a Gardener. Mr & Mrs Liebensood (?) not at home, returned home to dinner, & walked in the Eve. to Henley where Mr Walker took a place in the Coach to go to London the next morning. He left us accordingly (Friday) & we had to regret the loss of an intelligent & pleasing companion, tho' a less cheerful & animated one, than on his former visits. Since the loss of his wife in Jan.. last, he

is much altered in his spirits & , unhappily for him, not having the Christian's Hope to sustain his mind, in these sad changes & vicissitudes of life, the Philosopher is lost in the man, & nature yields to the pressure of misfortune.

Saturday Mr & Mrs T. Powys dined here, & we walked to the Parsonage in the Afternoon.

Sunday Mr Matthews did the Duty here. I have this week finished reading a very excellent little Book called the Christian's Remembrancer, which, tho' somewhat gloomy & abstracted, contains so much that we all require to be reminded of, as makes it a desirable addition to the Christian's Library. As such I am endeavouring to purchase it. Margaret much better to day.

Monday Called on Mrs Allnutt in the morning with Mrs Randall & Miss Fox. Mr Knight's Servant came with his dogs this Evening.

Friday After a week of expectation Mr & Mrs Knight arrived this Evening. at nine o'clock. Mr H. was detained in Town by business.

Saturday Called on Mrs Jackson in the morning with Miss Fox & Mt. & Ts. Mr Jackson not yet returned from the West Indies, but daily expected.

Sunday At Church both parts of the day. Mr T.P.. did the Duty. I have during the past week read Bonnet's "Critical & Philosophical Enquiry Concerning Christianity" - a very excellent work as far as it goes, & calculated to convince the enquiring & sensible mind of the truth of the miracles recorded in the Sacred Writings. It contains much logical argument; & the enquiry is arranged with perfect precision & in a good method, & addressed entirely to the reason; tho' in treating some part of his subject, particularly where he speaks of a few of the miracles in the N. Test., his heart seems to warm & dilate, & he inspires the same feelings in his reader of their admirable beauty & simplicity, distinct from the strong external evidence which he brings to prove that they were actually performed. Where he touches on the doctrines contained in the Bible, I lament his deficiency, he forgets the foundation, & points only to the superstructure. It is however a work calculated to convince the understanding, & therefore strongly to be recommended to the Sceptic & Unbeliever, & no less so, to the upright mind which doubts while it desires to be convinced.

Monday Mrs Knight, Miss Fox, & myself went to Reading to call on Mrs Ryder who returned from Clifton on Friday. I called also on my Aunt who is better. Tuesday - at home. Wednesday - Called on Mrs T. Powys.

Saturday Mr & Mrs Knight left us, after a very successful sporting week spent here. Mr K. killed 25 brace of Birds, & the weather has been beautifully fine. Mr K. made us a very liberal offer of procuring from the Duke of York (as Commander in Chief, & who is particularly friendly to Mr Knight) a Commission for Henry, if we shd. like his going with the Army - of this however we have at present no thoughts, nor the least wish, but it marks a liberal & friendly spirit which is gratifying to us.

Sunday At Church in the morning, when a Thanksgiving

was read for the late abundant Harvest, which is indeed a subject of great gratitude after what the Nation has lately sustained by scarcity, real or artificial. It is indeed most remarkable that the produce of the earth, that in the whole of vegetable nature, there is an abundance superior to what the oldest Person can remember - the weather has been particularly favourable to the growth & gathering in of all, & if the iniquity of Man does not mar the bounty of God, we may now enjoy plenty, & cheapness.

Tuesday Dined at Crowsley where we met two of Mr Atkyns's Daughters. Miss Fox, & the three eldest Children went with us, & we spent a sociable afternoon, walking in the Park etc.

Saturday Engaged in home occupations entirely thro' the week I have nothing to note & scarcely anything to recollect, but the perpetual mercies of God, which have preserved me & mine in the comfortable enjoyment of health & cheerfulness, & given us hearts capable of relishing the pure delights of domestic intercourse, while we can acknowledge His protecting Hand in all. May the Giver of all Good preserve these enjoyments to us; or if in wisdom he sees it necessary to deprive us of any, may he teach us to understand, that he is equally merciful in what he gives, & what he takes away, & that all things will eventually be found "to work together for good to those who love him".

Sunday Took leave of Mr T. Powys to day, who with his wife & child are setting off on a journey into Norfolk. It is now finally determined that Dr Mountague gives up the living of Harpsden; & he is succeeded by Mr Finch, a Gentleman, who we hear, does honour to the Clerical character, and whom we therefore look to with great satisfaction as an expected resident amongst us. His predecessor has had but little to recommend him, & his chief merit lies, in having relinquished the living, because "his conscience would not allow of his receiving the income of it, while his feelings opposed his residing here". He never entered the Church but to read himself in (as it is called), & even then gave us no sermon.

Monday Sept. 21st Dined at Mrs Ryder's to partake of the amusements of the Cheese Fair held on this day. Mrs R. not quite so well as while she was at Clifton. Miss Stow still with her.

Friday Went to Whites, to see Mr & Mrs H. Hall. Mr Stevenson very indifferent.

Saturday Returned home to dinner to meet Mrs Ryder & Miss Stow, the latter of whom is come to stay a few days with me.

Sunday Sept. 27th Mr Gower (of Marlow) did the Duty here. His sermon was of a peculiar kind, & delivered with great emphasis; it contained some very sensible observations, & shrewd & acute reflections on the profession of Christianity without the conduct which shd. distinguish the Christian's character. He called it hereditary Christianity, which descending to a man with his Estate, he took it up as such, used it as far as it contributed to his advantage or respectability, but without examination into the claims which it had upon him. He said it seemed more like a national distinction than a religious profession, and in short

described the bulk of professing Christians as devoid of all the leading principles by which their temper & conduct should be influenced. The picture was (I fear) too just. May the likenesses diminish in number, & the power of religion be rendered more visible in the life of those, who name the name of Christ!

Wednesday Mrs R. & Miss Fox, & Miss Stow left me. I took them to Reading in the morning - Miss F. on her way to Yattendon, Mrs R. & Miss S. to meet a Bath Coach to convey them to Brentford. We returned home somewhat dispirited at parting with our friends.

Thursday Master Newell (the deaf & dumb Boy at Mr Jeston's) dined with us, on account of Henry's going to School tomorrow. He is a genteel & interesting Lad of about 13 years old, will have a good fortune, & has been taught to articulate a few sentences; but this he does in a tone so entirely monotonous, as to be painful to the ear, & distressing to the imagination. He is very quick in his motions, & seemingly so in his perceptions could he make himself understood. Miss Nicholl is come to day to spend a little time with us.

Friday The Children & myself took Henry this day to Henley to meet a Coach to take him to Brentford on his way to Richmond. Here he is to be placed with a Mr Young by way of finishing his education, and may God bless the means which we are using to make him a good man, & a useful member of society! "Paul may plant, & Apollos water, but it is on God alone we depend for the increase."

In the evening of this day Mr Hall & Myself took our Girls & Miss Nicholl to the Play at Reading. It was a very chaste Comedy, & the Children were much pleased. For myself, I did not feel that I was doing quite right, & this consciousness embittered all my enjoyment. The Theatre, by people in general, is thought a very allowable species of amusement, but I fear it will not bear the test of close enquiry, a true disciple of Christ must bring everything to be tried by the Gospel Standard. If his amusements will not bear this, I must doubt how far they are allowable. In saying this I condemn myself, for when I consider how often the sacred name of God is trifled with in most, if not all, theatrical representations, when I consider the profligate lives which are led by most of those who belong to the company of actors, & the natural tendency of their employments to corrupt their minds, & influence their passions, the man or woman of truly Christian principles must shrink at the idea of giving encouragement to an amusement which is so pernicious in its nature & tendency. There are doubtless excuses to be made for indulging Children & young People, in the sight of such things, occasionally, because, such is the corruption of our nature, that what is forbidden is often the more earnestly desired; & the imagination dresses up the desired object in colours much more enchanting than it would be seen in, if really enjoyed, but this is no excuse for me - my influence at present over the minds of my dear Children is such, that they would willingly have relinquished any expected pleasure they were to receive from going to the Play, had I properly exerted this influence. And I should not by my presence have sanctioned what in any degree militates against that pure & holy profession of Christianity, which says "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works & glorify your Father which is in Heaven". "Lord I have sinned, be thou merciful unto my sin."

Sunday Oct. 4th Mr Gower again did the Duty here in the absence of Mr Powys.

Monday Called at Mr Housman's, Mrs Hill's & Mrs Norman's with Mr Hall. Mrs Norman is still very ill with her extraordinary & hopeless complaint, met at her house Mr & Mrs Powlett who seem much distressed about her.

Thursday Went to a Sale at Barkham (the late Mrs Levison Gower's) - bought a few things.

Friday & Saturday Mr H. went both these days to Barkham, on the first to make purchases, & on the latter to see them packed & brought home.

Sunday 11th Mr Gower did the Duty. After Church we sent off a Packet with a watch, to my dear Tom by the Dean of Canterbury, who is going tomorrow to Hamstall. Our accounts of him are still highly satisfactory, & I trust he will continue to deserve the friendship of Mr & Mrs Cooper.

Monday Mr & Mrs Powlett & Mrs Ryder dined here, the two former staid the night to see their Linen etc. (which we have had in our house the last 6 months) properly packed in a Bath Waggon to be sent to their House in Devonshire, called New Court which they have lately taken on lease. They left us this day (Tuesday) before dinner.

Thursday Miss Nicholl returned to us again after having been to London to consult Mr Knight upon my recommendation. Mr & Mrs Goss at Henley, Mr H. & myself went to call on them, & were wet through on our return home, rain came on so sudden & so heavy. I have omitted to remark a fortnight ago that preliminaries of Peace have been signed between France & this Country, to the great joy of all classes of People. The outward rejoicings have been universal, & will be still more splendid, probably, when Peace is actually proclaimed by the ratification of the final treaty. Thus is plenty & peace restored to us at the same moment, & I hope the national gratitude will be proportioned to the greatness of the blessing.

Sunday Oct. 18th Mr Gower did the Duty here, Mr Walker at Henley on acct. of the indisposition of Mr Schofield.

Tuesday Dined at Mrs Macalester's.

Wednesday dined at Mrs Ryder's, & engaged with John Painter & his wife to come in the capacity of Gardener & School-mistress on Friday Sennight.

Thursday William Andrews left us to day, & is gone to live with his Mother, to learn the trade of a Shoemaker. We are likely to feel his loss very much, as he has been a very faithful, conscientious, & useful Servant to us, for near six years, and as such was highly valued by us all, as well as by those of our friends who had the opportunity of observing his conduct. I had an account to day Henry is removed from Richmond to Mr London's of Pentonville, having found that Mr Young's was not a proper situation for him.

Saturday Mrs Macalester Miss Jones & Mr M. dined with us to day, previously to Mr M's going to London to establish himself in a Merchants House in the City. Master Newell

also dined with us, & the younger part of my company amused themselves agreeably in the afternoon playing at Blind-Man's-Buff etc. in the Hall.

Sunday Mr Gower did the morning Duty here, & gave us a very learned, tho' not a very useful Sermon. In the Evening the Dean of Canterbury sent us a large Parcel which he brought for us from Hamstall, containing several specimens of the manufactures of the place & in particular a pr. of Servant's Sheets sent me as a Present by Mrs Cooper, spun by the poor people whom she employs. Mr & Mrs C's active benevolence in their neighbourhood seems beyond a parallell, they do more than any person I know with double & treble their Income, and they do it upon the gospel motives, not to purchase Heaven by their good deeds, but to evidence their attachment to that God who has dealt so bountifully with them, as to "call them out of darkness into his marvellous light", and who, therefore, having shewn them that Faith in a crucified Saviour is the only way to obtain salvation, they endeavour to adorn this doctrine by living up to all its moral precepts, & by making the Glory of God the ultimate end of all their actions. May I be enabled to "Go, & do likewise", which I wd. also make my prayer for those the nearest & dearest to my heart - my Husband & my Children.

Monday Drank tea this afternoon with Mr & Mrs Goss.

Wednesday Called with Mr Hall on Mr Grete (?) & at the Parsonage at Fawley, found both Families at home. My Brother & his daughter Caroline came to us to dinner.

Saturday My Brother & his daughter after having spent two wet days here, set off this morning for London. We are ourselves preparing for a visit to Mr & Mrs H. Hall at Hackney, but it is rather doubtful whether we shall accomplish it, as our little Jane is not quite well, & we shall be fearful of taking her such a journey unless her health seems perfectly (for the present) established.

Sunday Nov. 1st Mr Gower did the Duty here this morning. Our Journey to London still uncertain from the Child's appearing not quite well.

Monday The dear little Girl having awaked in good spirits & apparent health, & all things being prepared for our visit to our friends, we ventured under the auspices of an encouraging Providence to set off on our Journey. The weather was wet & stormy the whole day, we however reached Hackney by 7 o'clock, (having dined at Mr Randall's in our way) & the Children seemed not at all the worse, but had enjoyed themselves throughout (especially little Jane) beyond what could be expected. We found our friends prepared & ready to receive us, & the comfortable appearance of the House gave me every reason to hope that without incommoding them, we shd. ourselves spend a very comfortable fortnight under their roof.

Tuesday We walked this day to London, to the great amusement of Owen & the Girls, & returned home to dinner.

Wednesday A compleat wet day.

Thursday Walked again to London in the morning.

Friday Went in the evening to the Royal Circus which much delighted the Children & Mary Allnutt, who being at her Uncle's of course accompanied us. I was myself much pleased & astonished at the skill in Horsemanship displayed by some very young Riders.

Saturday Called on Henry at Pentonville, was pleased with Mr Lendon, but did not much like the appearance of things in the House. Went afterwards to Mr Crafton's in Guildford Street, where we met my Brother & Caroline. Went afterwards to Maillerdets Toy Rooms, & the King's Stables to show Owen the cream-coloured Horses, returned Home to dinner.

Sunday 8th Went in the morning to Salter's Hall, where the service was very solemnly & well performed by Mr Robert Winter. In the afternoon we went to Mr Palmer's meeting at Hackney. Mr P. I think a very heavy & disagreeable Preacher, monotonous in tone, manner, & sentiment, if I may be allowed so to apply the term.

Monday 9th The grand City Show, or Lord Mayor's Day. We took the Children to Mr Addison's a Linen Draper on Ludgate Hill where they saw the whole procession, the man in armour & all. They were rather more fatigued than pleased.

Tuesday Dined to day at Walthamstow. Mr J. Hall much as usual, T. Allnutt on a visit there.

Wednesday Called on Mrs Cope, Miss Wells, Mrs Serle & Miss Cope at Camberwell.

Thursday Went to Mrs Bailey's to get stamps etc. for the Children, & in our way saw Miss Linwood's Exhibition.

Friday Dined at Mr Walker's.

Saturday Went to Town to fetch Charlotte Wells to dinner. Mr Macalester dined with us also, & Mrs Serle was to have done so, but had a bad cold.

Sunday 15th Spent as the last, & with the same opinions confirmed, one of the Horses being ill I was disappointed in my intention of going to Christ Church to hear Mr Crowther.

Monday Walked to London & returned to dinner.

Tuesday Went again to Mrs Bailey's, & at different times took the Children to Merlin's Exhibition & a few other places of morning amusement. One day we dined at Mr Fenn's, another at Mr Stewart's, went again to Walthamstow, and to see a curious Exhibition in the Strand of automatical figures & of optical deceptions; the former of which served to shew how far human art could go, and when at its height how infinitely inferior, how below all comparison with that Divine Power which could create, & animate by the same word. The two principal figures were rope-dancers, & were indeed astonishing pieces of mechanism. The optical part of the Exhibition was said to be only an improved magic Lanthorn.

On Wednesday the 26th of Nov. we took leave of our kind friends at Hackney. We slept that night at Brentford, distributed between the two Houses of Mr Randall & Mr

Purkins, & on Thursday evening reached our Home in health & safety, & I hope grateful to a merciful Providence for the protection afforded us during our absence, on our journey, & in all the different circumstances attending it, which were indeed peculiarly favourable both as to health & comfort as well as in the minuter advantages of weather etc. I shd. not omit to mention that the last Sunday evening of our stay, Mr Hall, Henry, the Girls & myself heard Mr Crowther at Christ Church & were much pleased with his manner & his discourse, all bespoke a strong & affectionate interest in the work he was engaged in. He had a crowded & attentive Congregation.

Friday I was this day seized with a violent Rheumatism in my back, which prevents my rising from my chair without help - it came on quite suddenly, & seemed to arise from the coldness of the House of which I found myself unusually susceptible.

Monday Dec 7th Having been confined the whole past week with the rheumatism just mentioned, I have had nothing to notice in my journal, the snow has hindered the arrival of visitors, so that it has been a mere blank in intelligence. Finding myself better yesterday afternoon I went with Mr H. & Frances to Henley Church where we heard from Mr Townshend a very good Sermon, on "Be ye doers of the word & not hearers only etc.". I continue to day rather better.

Wednesday Mr Finch came to the Parsonage this day. Yesterday Mr & Mrs Townshend called in the morning & sat an hour with me.

Friday Mr T. Powys gave me a summons at six o'clock yesterday morning to attend on his wife who was taken in labour. I went immediately & was with her till 11 o'clock at night when she presented us with a fine Boy, and I had the satisfaction of leaving her very comfortable. On my return James mistook his way & we were got to Culham before we perceived it, there being no moon, & the road not familiar to us (not being able to go along the common road on acct. of the water being so much out). However I reached home in perfect safety between one & two, & am not the worse for my expedition this morning.

Saturday Mrs Wright & Miss Rigail called on me this morning. Our new Rector (Mr Finch) called also, being my first introduction to him. He is a very mild unassuming man in his manners, & mode of speaking, & is universally respected by those who have had opportunities of knowing him. We talked of our Parish School, but did not come to any determination respecting it. We have just engaged with our new Gardener's wife to take the care of the Children, who seems a very proper person, & is the grand-daughter of my old Schoolmistress (Mrs Dorling) to whom I am indebted for a knowledge of my a.b.c. & the recollection of whom is associated with so many ideas of pure & innocent enjoyment in my earliest childhood, as to produce many interesting & pleasing reflections.

Sunday 13th Mr Finch having yesterday rec'd. his induction into the Living by the hands of Mr Powys he this day read himself in (as it is called). We were much pleased with the devotional spirit which appeared in the performance of the several services, & his sermon from the words of

our Saviour "Take heed how you hear" gave us a very satisfactory specimen both of his sentiments as a Christian, & his abilities as a Preacher. He spoke emphatically of the respective duties of the minister & his congregation, & particularly enforced it on the latter to come to Church with a teachable spirit & a willing mind, & not out of mere form, or custom, or any inferior motive. He also recommended that the words & conduct of both should be tried by the test of Scripture, & nothing rec'd. or admitted that would not bear this scrutiny. On the whole our hopes are greatly raised of having, as our "Minister in Holy Things", a man who will faithfully discharge the duties of his important situation.

Monday Called at Remenham & at Bolney Court. Called also on Mrs Martin the Schoolmaster's wife who seems in a deep decline.

Tuesday Went to Reading, & dined at Mrs Ryder's.

Wednesday Mr & Mrs Wright & Miss Rigail, Mr Fanshawe, Mr T Powys, & our new Rector dined with us, the latter improves the more as he is more known, & seems to unite the character of the real Gentleman with the upright Christian Minister.

Thursday Mr Finch sat near two hours with me this morning talking about our Parish School & other matters relative to the Poor.

Friday Dec 18th The thirteenth Anniversary of my first dear Child's death! All earthly attachment as well as all earthly regret having now ceased I contemplated without alloy, & with the most exalted hope, the blessedness of meeting her pure spirit again in Heaven! A thoughtless wish has often, ere now, escaped my Husband & myself, that as we have been watching our little ones at that early & most engaging age when two of them have been torn from us, as we have listened to their sweet & innocent prattle, & observed their playfulness, & every little motion so interesting because so unaffected, with those thousand nameless graces which pure nature & innocent affection throws around Children in the eyes of those who have hearts to feel & capacity to discern what is really lovely & amiable - I say when we have been contemplating with fondness, & parental partiality our little ones, under these circumstances, a wish has escaped us that so they might always remain! that they might never grow or alter! May not this wish then have been granted while we have been deploring their loss? Separated from us for a "little moment" they may probably be restored to us unchanged in another world except in possessing a higher capacity for enjoyment, & will join their lisps to our plainer speech in celebrating the praises of their God & Saviour to all eternity! It is a delightful Vision - O that it may be realized!

Saturday Mr Finch called again to talk over the Parish School & other matters. Mr Howman called also. The more we see of Mr Finch the better are we pleased with his mild & amiable manners, & the vein of seriousness which seems to run thro' his character. He seems to possess both a benevolent & active mind, which will be employed in the service of all those who claim his notice or protection. He shews no pride of rank, which his family might give him pretensions to, but which he has wisdom enough to see as unbecoming a Christian, & unworthy a sensible man.

Sunday 20th Dec Mr Finch gave us a sermon to day from the words of our Saviour "Think not I am come to destroy the Law; I am come not to destroy but to fulfill". It was a sensible discourse tho' not exactly what our friend Mr Cooper would have said on the same subject. It was however as far as it went very good.

Monday My Rheumatism having returned with some violence I am again chained down to my fire side, & can only hope for milder weather to remove it.

Saturday 26th Dec Ever since Tuesday Evening I have been too ill with the Rheumatism in my back, & limbs to be able to do anything. My time has been principally spent in bed, tho' even there I could not find ease, & seldom rest. I am to day somewhat better, but still in a great deal of pain. It is the more mortifying to me from having been kept from Church yesterday. It may however be necessary discipline for me to exercise me in patient submission to those sufferings which in this life we must endure.

Sunday 27th Dec Still too ill with the Rheumatism to go to Church - or indeed to walk about the House, but the pain somewhat abated. Mr Finch's sermon on the text "But wisdom is justified of all her Children."

Monday Mr C. Ord & Miss Langley called. Mrs Norman still very ill. Mrs Ryder also but indifferent. The pain of my complaint lessened, but is succeeded by a great degree of weakness.

Tuesday Mr Finch dined here.

Wednesday M. & F. went to a Ball & supper Mr Jackson's. I was myself much indisposed with a severe head ach, which indeed had begun the day before, & which therefore led me to fear was something of the same complaint.

Thursday The Children returned about 3 o'clock. I got up free from pain in my head & on the whole better than for some days. Mr Wright etc. & Mr Finch called in the morning, the Children much tired, particularly Margaret.

Friday Jan. 1st 1802 Another year is gone! It seems as if the velocity of time was increased, it is like all descending bodies the rapidity of whose motion increases as they advance. So I, having passed that summit which Providence has prescribed for Human Life, am descending into that vale, which, unless arrested in my passage, I must enter ere the shadow of death passes over me, and every year as I advance I shall probably fancy that the motion of Time is accelerated. May the considerations it suggests be practically improved, and while I am carried by Time into Eternity, may some vestiges remain that (thro' first strengthening me) I have so lived as that I need not be afraid to die!

Sunday Jan. 3rd Tho' I did not think myself well enough to venture into our cold Church, I went in the afternoon (accompanied by Mr H. & the Children) to Henley Church, where we heard a very animated discourse from Mr Townshend. Mr T. afterwards spent the Evening with us, & read a sermon to our Family on the New Year.

Monday Mr T. dined here to day, Mr Finch having been engaged to meet him, but being obliged to go to London

to see his Brother just returned from Egypt, we had Mr T. alone, a matter of no regret, as his animated conversation, joined to those high religious views by which his mind is filled, render him a most interesting companion, & desirable Inmate.

Tuesday Mr T. left us in the midst of the Snow this morning to return to Bray.

Wednesday Mr H. & myself went to Reading this morning & dined with Mrs Ryder. Miss Ward with her. I have just finished reading Fuller's Companion of the Calvinistic & Socinian Systems, & Mr Wilberforce's admirable Treatise on the religious system of the present day. The former is an excellent defence of Calvinism & the total overthrow of the doctrine opposed to it. The author's aim was to give a check to those opinions which of late years have gained ground under the title of Unitarianism & which Dr Priestley & some other well-known characters have carefully propagated & defended, but Mr Fuller meets them on their own ground, & seems to foil them with their own weapons. It is an excellent specimen of cool controversy, & fair argument; & if the heretical monster is not absolutely destroyed, he has shewn him in so hideous a point of view, & drawn so very much of his life blood from him, that no honest mind can look at him again but with abhorrence. Mr Wilberforce's Book is a too faithful Portrait of the low state of religion & morals among the higher ranks of Society, but very ably contrasted with real & vital Christianity. The descriptions are drawn from the life, & are such as cannot be denied, or resisted. It is said to resemble in style the writings of Mr Burke - unequal but full of fine & vigorous expression - shewing also a thorough knowledge of his subject, & deep & penetrating views of human nature.

Saturday Went to Reading to see a Person recommended as willing to undertake our village School, met at Mrs Diane's, Mrs Wilder, who looks much out of health, the woman not likely to do. Called on Mrs Ryder & my Aunt & returned home to dinner.

Sunday 10th Jan. My rheumatism being better I ventured thro' the snow to Church, where we heard a very good sermon from Mr Finch. It was on the Epiphany, taking for his Text "And when they saw the Star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. He considered in its literal, & in its spiritual meaning. He first noticed the suitability of the sign (a Star) & the circumstances of the Persons who were called by God to the knowledge & worship of Christ. They were "wise men from the East" when the science of Astronomy being much cultivated in miraculous appearance of this kind would be likely to attract peculiar notice. This led to a digression on the kindness of God in all his dispensations, in that he generally accommodated the means to the different dispositions & wants of the Persons to be assisted. He next remarked on the absence of this supernatural light during the stay of the wise men at Jerusalem. Here, he said, they wanted no other than the common modes of information. Here they could enquire of the Chief Priests & Scribes, here they could attend on the worship at the Temple or in the Synagogues, & obtain thro' the medium of common ordinances, & appointed means, all that was necessary for their information. Thus, he said in general, common means were sufficient to instruct us in our duty, without any miraculous interposition or supernatural influence, that

these would not be withheld where the others were not to be obtained; but that it was in the use of these principally that we were to expect to attain a saving knowledge of the things which relate to our everlasting peace. He next adverted to the joy expressed by the wise men, on perceiving again the Star, & the worship with which it was succeeded when the Holy Child was found. And said that if these Persons could shew such an ardent desire to see the promised Saviour, & when found, could worship him with a zeal & joy so pure & holy, how much more are we bound to desire to find, & come to Christ, & whom found to worship him, who have experienced the full value not only of his birth, but of his death & resurrection; & who, by the fulfillment of prophecy are made more entirely sensible that he was indeed the promised Saviour. In the course of the Sermon Mr Finch remarked that our greatest error was an ignorance of ourselves, but he did not describe this ignorance in the language of Scripture, it was not ignorance of our own depravity, ignorance of the true nature of sin, ignorance of the deceitfulness of the heart etc. etc., but it was a partial ignorance, that as, in our different dispositions some had a natural inclination to one virtue, & some to another, so one would be more addicted to one failing, etc., & that it was against yielding to these that an ignorance of these natural propensities has led to so much erroneous conduct, and we should be constantly on the watch & endeavour to apply the remedy. And further, in speaking of regeneration it seemed as if he meant nothing farther than that it was the gift of God in Christ, when Christianity was first promulgated. In these two points there was a manifest discordance with my present views of Scripture Doctrine, yet it was a sermon in which there was much serious matter for meditation, many ingenious observations, great thoughtfulness in speaking as far as his own ideas led, & an apparent earnest desire to recommend religion as the grand object of life, & which should enter no less into our regular concerns than into those employments, & at those seasons when we are peculiarly called on to worship God, & secure the Salvation of our Souls. In the afternoon we all went to Henley Church & heard a very animated discourse from Mr Townshend on these words, "The Law was given by Moses but Grace & Truth came by Jesus Christ".

Tuesday Dined at Mrs Ryder's, but having been much disordered with Tooth ach the night before, did not venture from her fireside. Mrs R. tolerably well, but a good deal harrassed in her spirits by disagreements amongst her Servants which obliges her to change her own maid who has lived with her from a Child. Miss Ward staying with Mrs Ryder.

Saturday The remainder of the week spent in my usual home occupations, the weather being too severe to admit of my going out, tho' my rheumatic infirmities have nearly disappeared. Called this morning in the Coach on Mr Finch who has been confined to his House by indisposition, sat with him more than an hour, & left him much better.

Sunday 17th Mr Finch read prayers to day, & Mr T.P. preached. Mr F. much better. In the afternoon we all went to the meeting. The 51st Chapter of Isaiah was the morning lesson, the former part of which affected my mind in a more than common degree for its energetic language & the encouragement it affords to trust in the Lord under any discouragements we may meet with from those who are

enemies to the practice of true piety. The Epistle too, for the day (2nd Sunday after the Epiphany) is a compendium of the whole duty of Man & could form a most excellent rule by which to examine ourselves whether we do indeed adorn that doctrine we profess to believe. May I not shrink from the enquiry!

Thursday 21st Mr H. & myself, with Mr Finch, went this day to Remenham to the Christening of Mr Powys's Child which was named Thomas Arthur. In our way thither, & on our return, Mr Finch & myself had some very interesting conversation on the subject of Baptism, in which the doctrine of Original Sin was discussed, & very clearly stated, by Mr F. He said that what occasioned the doctrine to be so generally exploded was the shallow way in which it was enquired into, for if rightly understood it lay at the very root & foundation of all Christianity; & to deny it was in effect to throw off all dependance on Christ as a Saviour, & to despise the love & grace of God in our redemption. He argued, that unless we admitted the scripture doctrine that "in Adam all die", neither could we receive that "even so in Christ all are made alive". If all the generations of Adam were not radically tainted by his transgression & fall, then all must depend on themselves for righteousness by the fulfillment of the Law, and if Adam when made upright & in the image of God was unable to resist the temptation to sin, how could it be expected that his posterity with much fewer advantages should retain their integrity, & be able to stand against the various assaults which would be made upon their faith & fortitude such as wd. be necessary every day. Not a human being could be saved. Indeed there is that connexion & dependance between one scripture doctrine and another, that by denying one we are generally found to deny all, if a fair examination is once made. May I therefore preserve the Bible as a whole, receiving it in humble faith as the revealed will of God, which no power on earth should tempt me "to gainsay or resist".

Friday The Piercy's all dined here to day (except William who is very ill). They coursed as usual, in the morning, and concluded the Evening with a pool at Commerce, highly pleased at a very small expence. Sent this day a Jar of preserved ginger, with a long letter, to Mr Cooper. Letter also to my dear Boy.

Saturday Engaged with a woman for our Parish School, a long conversation afterwards with Mr Finch on the subject.

Sunday Mr Finch did the whole Duty this morning. His sermon was on the Leper which was cleansed by our Saviour, mentioned (I believe) by 3 of the Evangelists. He remarked first that the Miracle itself evidenced strongly our blessed Saviour's goodness & his divine power. He then spoke of the Leprosy as a disease which seemed to have been usually inflicted as a mark of the divine displeasure & which could only be eased by divine interposition, no human means being adequate to its cure. That it was a most malignant disease, and which by the Jewish Law separated the person afflicted with it, from all intercourse with society. After this he spiritualized his subject by comparing the disease of Leprosy with the disease of Sin in the Soul, and from hence formed the chief part of his discourse. He first remarked that in the address of the Leper to Christ were to be remarked four things - an importunity wch. marked an earnest desire of being cured, an approach to him full of reverence &

humility, a conviction of Christ's willingness to relieve him, & faith in his power. All this he applied, with suitable & energetic language, & a very earnest manner, to what ought to be the feelings of every sinner on their approach to Christ, & which must be, of all those who are once brought to a sense of the evil & danger of Sin, & that by the natural corruption of their nature they are incapable of receiving a cure but from his hands. He added to this general view of the subject many judicious & pious remarks, such as tended to prove that his own views of Christianity are of a very deep & serious kind, & sufficient to make his residence among us a circumstance of encouraging hope, & thankfulness to Him "who dispenses his blessings severally as he will". Mr Finch remarked on the slight expression of doubt which was observable in the expression, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean", this, he said, was to be understood not as implying any doubt of our Saviour's willingness, but of his own deservings to receive so great a favour, and he concluded by saying that this was highly becoming, & what we should all apply to ourselves, by preserving in our minds an humble sense of our unworthiness, with a constant watchfulness, & self inquiry, that we ask as we ought the blessings we are desirous to receive.

Wednesday Dined with Mrs Ryder but returned home to Tea.

Thursday Master Jackson breakfasted & went a coursing with Mr H. & Henry. Miss Jackson & Miss Colcroft came about 12 o'clock, & staid to dinner. Mr Finch & Mr E. Vansittart called, & met here in the morning.

Friday Mr Finch dined here, & after dinner Mr Green & Mr T. Piercy came to hear our plan for the School. They approved it & each subscribed two Guineas.

Saturday A violent Tooth ach all night determined me to send for Mr Parkyns in the morning. He came about 3 o'clock, & drew my Tooth, which procured me the relief I wanted. Mr Hall went this morning in the Henley Coach in order to see a Mr Davies of Clapham who has been recommended by Mr Venn as a Tutor for Henry.

Sunday 31st Mr Hall did not get home till past four this morning, having met with some disasters in the Liverpool Coach in which he came from London. However the main purport of his Journey having answered, these difficulties appear trifling. Mr & Mrs Davies fully answer the character given of them, appear very genteel & respectable, & we think ourselves happy in having such an opportunity of placing Henry where he will have every advantage which our most anxious wishes could desire for him. Mr Finch did the whole duty this morning. His text from the prophet Micah - "and what does the Lord thy God require of thee but to do justly, to love mercy, & to walk humbly with thy God". He treated the subject very judiciously. & while he laid a considerable stress on moral Duties, shewed their insufficiency in a way of justification. He spoke of justice as fundamental to the well-being of society, & mercy as necessary in many cases to temper it, but both as wholly inadequate to the purposes of salvation which could only be attained by the sacrifice of Christ.

Monday Henry went this morning by the Henley Coach, with an intention of reaching Clapham this evening. May

his introduction there have the blessing of God upon it! Margaret & Frances spent the day at Remenham, & I amused myself with transcribing some passages from Faber's (?)

Saturday The week spent chiefly at home, & nothing to vary the common tenour of our thoughts & employments but the arranging matters with regard to our Parish School, which is now on the eve of commencing. Mrs Ryder called yesterday, & I went with her to call on Mrs Norman, who has just taken a House at Henley. Margaret has been indisposed with a Cold, but nothing more of illness than what she is commonly subject to from head-ach.

Sunday Feb. 7th Mr Finch gave us this morning a most striking & affecting discourse on the love of man as deduced from, & founded upon, the love of God. The text from the first Epistle of St John "And this commandment have we from him that he who loveth God love his Brother also". Mr F. proved in the first place how entirely we are bound to love God. He mentioned the obligations our first parents were under to love Him, but said that ours were of a still stronger kind for that in addition to the blessings of Creation, we were indebted to Him for those of Redemption; which he conceived to be a gift of still greater importance, & certainly demanded from us as a higher species of gratitude, in that it was bestowed when we were in a state of of actual rebellion against Him, and while we were yet sinners, shewing towards us loving kindness & tender mercy. He intimated also that when restored to the image of God by faith in the sacrifice of Christ, & the sanctification of the Holy Spirit, we should be capable of a larger portion of happiness than if we had kept our first estate, & lived a life of unsinning obedience. This was an opinion held by Mr Cooper, & probably on the same grounds. It tends to exalt the Mercy & Goodness of God, & to place the mysterious work of redemption in the most important & gracious point of view, and should stimulate all who name the name of Christ to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called. After shewing, then, how entirely we are bound to love & serve God, he drew the position in the text, that if we did indeed love God we must necessarily love our Brother also, for this was the strongest evidence of our sincerity. He brought forward all the leading arguments by which we should be induced to the love of our neighbour, from the consideration of God's love to us. That we spring from one common Parent, have been redeemed by the same merciful dispensation, are subject to the same wants & infirmities, & are in fact brethren in the closest acceptation of the word, but above all he said, we were commanded by God himself so to do and "This is the love of God that we keep his commandments". Thus were we taught the most refined duties of benevolence & charity, on the truest motives, and indeed without these motives, they will be found, generally, to be but as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. This is the apostolic doctrine, which always teaches the most perfect morality, but from motives worthy the Christian Character - to please & glorify God - hence there is a stability of conduct which can on no other principle be obtained, for, as Mr Finch said in this sermon, if our love to man is only founded on similarity of dispositions, qualities which awaken affection, or demand esteem, these being in all persons so changing & unstable, no principle can be found of sufficient strength & stability but that adduced by the apostle - love to God!

Monday Walked with Mr Finch to Henley to call on some

poor families belonging to our Parish about sending their Children to School. Called also at Mr Allnutt's.

Tuesday 9th Our Schoolmistress settled this day in her new habitation, the School to open tomorrow.

Wednesday & Thursday Kept at home by the snow.

Friday Mr Finch & his Brother the General dined here to meet the Dean of Canterbury & Mr & Mrs T. Powys. It was intended to have been a Coursing Day, bur the snow proved an impediment.

Saturday The two Girls went to Remenham, & staid the whole day in consequence of the snow, by which I was more alarmed than I ought, having ordered them to return by 4 o'clock.

Sunday 14th Mr Finch gave us a sermon to day on a Passage from the first Epistle to the Corinthians. "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize?" He followed the apostle in the metaphor throughout & drew some very useful inferences from it in application to the Christian race in which we are all engaged - "they which run in a race run all" - this he explained as meaning professing Christians, "but one receiveth the prize"; this he said was to be understood of that class who may be called real Christians, from their pursuing their course with vigour & perseverance to the end. He pointed out how much care & circumspection was necessary, how much self-denial, deadness to the world, with a full consciousness of the enemies we should have to encounter; in order to our reaching the goal & obtaining the prize. It was a very sensible & ingenious discourse, but not equal to that of last Sunday.

Monday Mr Jones here the whole day, when Mr Hall determined to repair, & in part rebuild, his House. Mr Finch called to examine the plan which is in part fixed on, but will not be finally settled till it is seen what materials the old building will afford.

Tuesday Met Mr Finch at the School, where we settled some matters relative to the employment of the Children. Mrs Norman & Miss Ward called.

Saturday The remainder of the week spent chiefly in preparations for taking down the House. Owen not very well for a day or two but now better. Mr P. Powys & his Brother & Son dined here & coursed on Friday.

Sunday 21st Mr Finch being from home Mr T. Powys did the whole duty here to day. We went in the afternoon to the meeting.

Monday Called on Mrs Martin (who is now only able to get up to have her bed made) and on Mrs Mitchell who has been & is still very much indisposed. She told me of having received from an unknown Benefactor 10£, which I traced to our good Rector (Mr Finch). I had a few days before named her situation to him, when he gave me a Guinea for her, & made particular enquiries as to her Lodging etc., and no doubt remains of his being the source from whence this generous stream has flowed. This day the old House began to be pulled down, and we expect to be in a state of great

confusion for many months to come.

Saturday The whole week spent in dirt & bustle in dismantling the House both within & without. Mr Townshend & Mr Finch met here for the first time to dinner & appear mutually pleased with each other. Mr F. staid with us till 11 o'clock, & Mr T. slept here.

Sunday Feb. 28th Mr Finch's sermon this morning was from this text, "Whatsoever ye ask, believing, ye shall receive". After describing in general terms the Duty of Prayer, he spoke of those things which made it an acceptable worship. According to the Text Faith he considered as the leading & fundamental principle, a living active faith seated in the heart, & which to be genuine must be productive of Repentance, earnest desire of amendment & universal charity, a charity which inclines with love to our enemies. He said he thought it unnecessary to point out to a Christian congregation the only object of religious worship - God, the Father, Son & Holy Ghost - or that Prayer was to be offered thro' Christ as God's Man. On our part a believing heart & a contrite spirit was, he said, indispensable, a consciousness also of our frailty & sinfulness, & our incapacity of offering to God any acceptable service but by the sanctification of the Holy Spirit. He described Prayer as requiring fervor & constancy - fervor including a powerful sense of what we need, & constancy as not only requiring stated devotion, but such a perpetual sense of God's presence as will lead to a lifting up of the heart to God in mental prayer & adoration thro' every part of the day. He enlarged on the Lord's Prayer as forming a proper model for Prayer in general. Spiritual blessings he said were to be first asked, & especially that the gospel of Christ may come with power & be increased on the earth. Temporal blessings to be prayed for with many restrictions in the moderation expressed by "Give us this day our daily bread" he said implied that the necessities, or at most the common comforts of life were all that we should ask of God. "Lead us not into temptation" showed that we are to place no dependence on our own strength, but to rest solely on the Grace of God to save us from temptation, & preserve us from the power of the Evil one. He strongly enforced the propriety of earnest importunity in our prayer - blessings when even properly asked were sometimes withheld as an exercise of our patience as well as faith, & to make us fitter objects for the reception of spiritual blessings. It was on the whole a beautiful & interesting discourse. In the afternoon we heard from Mr. Townshend at Henley a Sermon full of earnest importunity to sinners to accept the blessings of Salvation & enforced by arguments of the most impressive kind. "I must do the work of him who sent me now while it is called to day before the night cometh when no man can work". The arguments to be drawn from the subject are very obvious, but they were brought forward with great force of language, & a most evangelic manner. The application was peculiarly excellent. First Mr T. addressed those who had not embraced the Gospel, that it was the work to which they were called, & which they were inexcusable in not doing. It was the only method by which they could glorify God in all his various perfections; for tho' his justice might be glorified & magnified by their punishment, yet the other perfections of his nature would best thereby be called into exercise. He spoke of God's Glory, as what should be the ultimate end of all his creatures, & which those only withheld from him who refused the proffered Grace by the mediation & sacrifice of Christ. He the addressed Believers, exhorting them as their

proper work, to be sober, diligent, active in God's service, & proving their faith & trust & hope by a life of fruitfulness, which should in all things adorn the doctrine of which they made profession.

Monday The day spent chiefly in consultations about the new building etc.

Tuesday My dear Margaret's Birth Day! which I considered as a subject of thankfulness to the Giver of all Good for having brought on a beloved Child to the age of 14 under such fair promises of her proving every year an increasing comfort to me.

Wednesday The anniversary of my excellent Father's Death! It is now thirteen years since this event...my recollection of him is as perfect as ever, my regrets only have become fainter, these indeed have all vanished; & I see nothing but the Mercy of God in the dispensation.

Thursday A morning spent in visiting the sick - Mrs Nicholls, Mrs Martin, Mrs Allnut & a poor little Boy.

Friday & Saturday At home in my usual occupations & amusements.

Sunday 7th March Mr Finch's Sermon to day on the Temptation of Christ. He opened it by bringing into opposition the temptation to which Adam our first representative head yielded in Paradise, & that which Ct. our second Adam resisted in the wilderness. It was a very admirable & scriptural discourse, full of just remark & pious exhortation, & Mr F. concluded by summing up the difference in degree of the temptations which the great Mercy of Man was permitted to use on this occasion. And he drew from thence some inferences of strong consolation for the Poor whom he considered as so much less exposed to temptation from the lowness of their situation, & the consequent contraction of their wants. Wanting but little, that little was soon attained, & contentment followed, but the rich & great he said were placed in the foremost ranks of those who have to fight against the temptations of the world & of Satan. He took occasion to point out the propriety of observing this season, as a time of abstinence & prayer, for tho' he acknowledged it was not of scripture appointment, & had often been sadly abused, yet as fasting was a duty recommended in general terms, & humiliation was always a duty, no time could be more proper for some extraordinary expression of the latter, to which the former might be made subservient, than that which immediately preceded the commemoration of Christ's humiliation & death. I remember Mr Cooper's giving us three excellent sermons on this subject, and many of Mr Finch's arguments & ideas were very similar, but Mr Cooper's general remark I hope never to forget viz. that the Word of God will always furnish us with a reply to Satan's temptations, & that our Saviour's use of it on this occasion is an example we should invariably follow.

Monday A meeting of Mr Finch with Jones the Surveyor to decide finally upon the plans for the House, agreed upon to adopt the one proposed by Jones.

Tuesday Went early to the School to cut out some work, & make some necessary arrangements, was met there by Mr Finch, who kindly employed himself in hearing the Children

read.

Wednesday The Girls dined at Mr Allnutts. I walked in the Evening to fetch them home, and called also on Mrs Nicholl.

Thursday Went again to the School in the morning. Mr Finch called here afterwards with whom I had some very interesting conversation, and find him well read in the Scriptures & in ecclesiastical history, & thoroughly furnished to every good word & work.

Sunday March 14th Having taken cold on Thursday, I have not been out since & was too indifferent to day even to go to Church, the weather being cold & the wind boisterous.

Sunday March 21st My cold & cough having continued with great severity during the week, my time has been spent chiefly within doors, & tho' to day rather better I have not thought it prudent to go out, especially as the weather is become wet as well as cold. The pulling down the House was finished on Wednesday, at least all that is to be done at present in preparation for the rebuilding, and in a few days the rebuilding is to commence. Mr Finch went to London on Thursday, & Mr Powys therefore did the Duty to day at Church. I have lately finished reading Doddridge's excellent treatise on the Rise & Progress of Religion in the South. I was particularly pleased with the latter part of the work, indeed from the 14th Chapter I found it peculiarly useful & applicable. There are arguments suited to every case from the unawakened & careless sinner to the most experienced Christian, and the Prayers are admirably adapted to the different subjects, & breathe the true spirit of piety, with an earnestness & importunity highly becoming a serious view of subjects so important, & desires so necessary to be fulfilled. The rules laid down for the disposition of time etc. are doubtless very strict, & such as it may not be in the power of many very serious Christians to live up to, but they are certainly right in themselves, & would be found highly beneficial in practice. Dr Doddridge was himself an example of all he taught, both in his life, & in his dying hour; he could teach, therefore, "as one having authority", & his book has been blessed to many persons by being made instrumental to their conversion. All his works are entitled to much commendation, & they are in the present day much read by every denomination of Christians.

Friday Drank Tea at the Howman's where I met the Crowsley Family, & Mr & Mrs Wise who are on a visit at Howman's. We had some appreciable music, & a few Glees sung by Mrs Wise, Mrs Howman & Mrs H.

Sunday Mr Finch did the whole duty this morning & gave us a very good Sermon from one of the Psalms in which David laments his absence from the Worship of the Temple. The time when he wrote the Psalm is supposed to have been during Absalom's rebellion when he was obliged to leave Jerusalem, & Mr F. took occasion to observe that all other considerations were subordinate in his mind, & occupied a small space in comparison to that of his being absent from the Sanctuary, & thereby losing in a measure that sensible demonstration of God's presence with him, which he had formerly experienced. He lamented the loss of that divine companion in which his soul delighted, & many affecting recollections of course presented themselves.

These however were at length chased away by his calling upon himself to remember that Trust in God was in this situation his peculiar Duty, & his lamentations are therefore concluded by a pious exclamation of trust & confidence. Why art thou so disquieted O my Soul & put thy trust in God who is the health of thy countenance & thy God. Mr F. first described in language plain & simple yet suited to his subject the happiness which pious souls enjoy even on earth in a communion with their maker, & their fellow-saints in the ordinances of worship; & then adverted to those higher joys which would be afforded in the world to come when joining the angelic choir, with saints & other glorified spirits, they sang praises to their God & their Redeemer. On this part of the subject he took occasion to say that he conceived the happiness of Heaven would be constantly increasing to all eternity. What a glorious idea! Almost inconceivable by our weak & finite capacities, but which will doubtless be realized if ever we reach that blessed place. The 2nd part of Mr Finch's sermon was describing Trust in God as a Duty & a Privilege, by which he proved that it was our highest Wisdom as well as our most urgent duty to trust all our concerns in the Hands of Him who careth for us; & who can alone judge what will best contribute to our final well-being. And indeed if we did but well consider this, & wholly confide all that we have to his care & kindness, suppressing all undue anxiety about second causes, how easy & peaceful would be our lives in comparison to what they are at present.

Monday Went with Mr Finch to Crowsley to dinner. Mr Hall could not be satisfied to leave the workmen, & Margaret having the ear-ach, I could not have either her or Frances to accompany me. We met no Visitors, but spent a social & agreeable day, in our interchange of friendly & cheerful conversation.

Wednesday Mrs Ryder & Miss Ward called here in the morning. Mrs R. looking very ill & appearing to be very feeble & out of spirits. I omitted to note that on Saturday last (the 27th) I gathered several pieces of the White Thorn (or May) quite in leaf - a proof of the earliness of the spring which is indeed in all respects forward by more than a month than is common. Since Mr H. began his building he has not had a Day's rain, & the fruits of the earth appear to be in a most flourishing state. How grateful shd. we be both as a nation & as Individuals! I pity those people who enjoy the bounties of Providence, without acknowledging God even in his own Gifts. For my own part, every comfort seems doubled & every enjoyment heightened by considering them as coming from a kind Father & Benefactor who knows what gifts his Children most need, or what they are to be trusted with. And, on the contrary, if trouble or affliction come, I know they are sent by Him, as kind corrections, or as exercises of my faith & patience & that therefore if I so receive them, he will grant me such strength & support as will enable me to endure them without complaining, & afterwards to reap those peaceable "fruits of righteousness" which God's afflicted Children sometimes experience.

Saturday The remainder of the week spent at home in the usual way, with occasional walks to Henley, or the School, which goes on tolerably.

Sunday Mr Finch read the prayers & Mr T.P. preached. Mr Townshend did the Duty at Henley both parts of the day but we did not hear of it time enough to go; but went as

usual to the meeting. William (who has been returned to us about three weeks) went afterwards to Henley Church & was time enough to hear the Sermon which he speaks of as very excellent, on the necessity of Sanctification. When our Saviour's side was wounded, there came out blood & water, which he said was emblematical of redemption & sanctification. By what I learn from Wm. the subject was illustrated by some very strong & familiar reasoning, by analogy, & in all respects, was very clearly & satisfactorily proved & strongly enforced.

Thursday April 6th My Birth Day; May God give me Grace so to live that the day of my death may be better than the day of my birth.

Wednesday Mrs Ryder & Miss Ward dined here. Mrs R. but indifferent tho' better than last week.

Thursday I called on Mrs Norman, Mrs Martin & Mrs Nicholl. Mr Finch went this day to London to return on Saturday.

Saturday Mr T. Powys dined here, & waited for Mr Finch's return in the afternoon.

Sunday April 11th Mr Finch did the whole Duty this morning. His sermon from the 26th Chap. of St Matthew the last verse. The subject, Peter's denial of Ct. He drew the Character of this apostle in general terms - but ably, & justly - his warmth of affection, his forward zeal, his self-confidence; with the virtues, & defects consequent upon such principles. From that part of his conduct which was made the principal subject of discussion, Mr F. deduced many excellent remarks & useful inferences, especially insisting on the error which those run into who depend on their own strength in an hour of temptation, when it is God alone who can impart to them his all-sufficient Grace to enable them to resist & stand, when placed in situations of difficulty or danger. He observed that St Peter was in the first instance wrong, to make such strong professions, without sufficient assurance of being able to be governed by them, and again wrong to place himself in the way of temptation by going to the Palace of the High Priest. How highly culpable in his after conduct was too obvious to be passed over. Part of his temptation to deny Christ as he did Mr F. conceived to arise from the fear which he had of being discovered as the Person who wounded the Servant of the High Priest when employed in seizing the Person of his Divine Master, & which would have subjected him to some severe punishment, but he was probably permitted thus to fall as a standing example of the weakness of even an apostle when attempting to stand in his own strength, without the supporting Grace of God. Mr F. said also that this example shd. teach us to be charitable in our judgements of others since such eminent saints had yielded to the strength of temptations, and that we shd. be careful to imitate St. Peter in his hearty & unfeigned repentance. He desired also we would remember that we all denied Christ who allowed the fear of man to operate against an open profession of attachment to him, & that we shd. be very diligent in the use of those means of grace which would lead to a knowledge of Christ, & find us in a steady attachment to his service.

It is one of the many proofs (tho' perhaps of a subordinate nature) of the Gospel History, the manner by which the character of the apostle Peter is identified. From first to last, under every circumstance in wch.. he is brought forward

to notice, the same character universally prevails. If he had not been named, the exact conformity of his conduct to his character under each particular wood describe him - zealous, sincere, affectionate..warmly attached to his blessed Master..hasty in his judgement, rapid & impetuous in his flow of ideas & in his speech; he waits not for the cool deductions of reason, but speaks & acts from the impulse of the moment, & from the first views which are painted on his imagination. It is an interesting & amicable, but often a faulty character, perhaps I like it the better (so deceiving is self-love) from having naturally some resemblance to my own...But St Peter was not only a Disciple, but a chosen apostle of Christ, & his natural temper was by this constant intercourse with his Divine Master so renovated & subdued as that his very faults were in time made subservient to the advancement of Christ's spiritual Kingdom, to the furtherance & promotion of that course to which all the lusts of the flesh were to be subdued. Alas! here the resemblance fails, but I will beg of God (who giveth to all men liberally & upbraideth not) that he will impart to me such a measure of his Grace as that all my impetuous passions may be brought into subjection to the Will of Christ, & that my appetites & desires may be spiritualized to the advancement of his Glory & my Soul's eternal Salvation.

Tuesday I had this morning a very interesting Conversation with Mr Finch on a subject which has often engaged my thoughts, & on which I have before in this Book expressed myself, tho' doubtingly & with timidity from what I there said having been the simple suggestion of my own mind unaided by any reading or conversation on the subject. Some previous remarks induced me to shew those crude thoughts to Mr F. who declared without hesitation that he held the same opinion tho' somewhat differently modified; & he spoke (tho' this I did not ask him) as if this was the received opinion of many who had written on the subject - The component parts of man was the matter in discussion. We say commonly that man is made up only of Body & Soul. It always seemed to me that this was an imperfect definition; & that he was composed of three distinct parts which I called Body, Soul & Intellect. Mr F. methodized my ideas by describing these three "properties" in a different way, & by bringing forward strong & satisfactory proofs of what he advanced, suited equally to my definition & his own. Man he says is made up of a vegetable, an animal, & a spiritual nature. In his vegetable nature he is analogous to plants, his progressive growth, & increase in strength, the nourishment he requires to this end is mere vegetation; animal nature consists in the addition of intellect to the vegetable part of his composition, hence he is possessed of memory, & of many other faculties of the mind; is capable of education, & becomes an imitative being. When to these faculties is superadded a spiritual nature then he becomes a rational creature &, if this spiritual nature is duly improved, a Child of God. This is that breath of life which God is said to have breathed into man at his first Creation, & constitutes indeed the Glory of his nature. Thus are many things reconciled which upon the commonly-received notion cannot satisfactorily be explained, such as the Sagacity of Brutes so nearly approaching to the standard of human reason, for Mr F. observes that upon this scheme the brute creation may be allowed a degree of intellect tho' not of a nature comparable to that enjoyed by the human species. It gives also an answer to the question often put by atheists & unbelievers 'If the intellectual faculties make a part of

the soul how is it that they are liable not only to injury but to absolute loss & decay?' It accounts also for that spiritual Darkness which too often overspreads the minds of Men possessed of great intellectual powers, & the highest mental capacities. Vegetable & animal life would each droop & decay if not supplied with nourishment suited to each, and the spark of spiritual life must necessarily be extinguished if not fed & encouraged by those spiritual exercises suited to its heavenly nature & divine origin. May God then grant that while the vegetable & animal parts of my nature droop & die, the spiritual part may increase in vigour & purity till it form an alliance with saints & angels & obtains its consummation & perfection in the realms of everlasting bliss!

Thursday Mr Hall set off this morning to London in consequence of a Letter rec'd from Mr Wright respecting the business in which he is to be arbiter between Mr H. & Mr Stonor.

Good Friday Mr Finch did the whole Duty & gave us a most affecting Sermon on the death of Christ, shewing how minutely the prophecy of him contained in the 53rd Chap. of Isaiah was fulfilled. He drew also some excellent practical inferences from the subject; in particular remarking that Christ came to save us not only from the punishment due to our sins, but from the power & influence of Sin on our minds. Holiness added to faith can alone constitute us Christ's true disciples.

Easter Sunday Mr F. again did the whole Duty. His Sermon was of course on the Resurrection. He established the Truth of it founded on the evidence of the apostles; & the Importance of it as an article of Faith. Under the first head he shewed how capable the apostles were of furnishing this evidence. He remarked first their unwillingness to believe the thing itself, for that when Christ discoursed of it they only supposed he alluded to the general Judgement, & this veil continued on their hearts till after his resurrection, & was not removed till they had the conviction of their senses to the fact, & till by the power of the Holy Ghost they were ordained to be witnesses of it. This incredulity of course made them less likely to be deceived, & led them so to examine (even with all the suspicion of enemies) into the circumstance itself, as rendered their testimony of the most unequivocal kind. To this belief also they sacrificed all their temporal ease of advantages, subjected themselves to sufferings & ignominy & even the loss of life itself; which, being so contrary to nature, could not have been the case unless they were fully convinced of the truth of what they asserted, & saw the circumstance itself in the most important point of view. In proving the 2nd position Mr F. said that not only the ignominy of the Cross was taken away by Christ's Resurrection, but the Divinity of his Person & Mission was hereby proved. And the importance of this in the establishment of his doctrine, & the confirmation of the Faith of his disciples is very obvious. It also assures to us our own resurrection in the Body, for that if we are planted with Christ in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.

Monday Mr Finch too indifferent to come to Church. Mr Schofield lost his Son John this day.

Thursday Mr Townshend sat a few hours with me this morning. Mrs Wright also called.

Sunday Mr Finch still unwell, & tho' at Church he took no part of the Duty. I was struck with the following Verse of the last Hymn which was sung at the meeting & therefore transcribe it.

"Jesus we come at thy command
With faith & hope & humble zeal
Resign our spirits to thy hand
To mould & guide us at thy will."

I like the epithet humble when applied to zeal, as this vigorous faculty in human minds requires to be tempered with humility.

Tuesday I this morning rec'd a note from a Gentleman in which is this expression "I will have the honor of waiting on you". As the honor was rather conferred on me than on him, it led me to reflect on the indiscriminate used of the word, as adopted in the present day. It is indeed so indiscriminate as perhaps to mean nothing in the mouth or from the pen of those who principally use it, but from some characters it is natural to enquire why they use a word which has a definite & strong meaning to express nothing, or in a sense opposite to what ought to be expressed considering the relative situation of the two Parties. In fashionable life there is such a sameness of character (the manners of a certain few being the model for all) that Nature in vain asserts her right of dictating to the individual what should be their distinguishing characteristic. But there are people, & those in the elevated ranks of life, who refuse to be led by the ideas & manners of others; who have a character of their own, & who use to the best of purposes the noble privileges of thought & reason imparted to man by his beneficent Creator. When such people then, partially adopt absurdities, or in some few aspects submit to the arbitrary laws of fashion, it makes an honest mind grieve, & an inquisitive one search for the cause. When therefore a Man or Woman superior to myself in rank, & worldly estimation talks of being honoured by my Company etc. etc., I am led to suspect that they either mean to laugh at me, or to keep me at a distance - probably the latter interpretation is the best. If this is not the case, it must then be (at least so it appears to me) that they forget themselves, & their obligations to God & to Society, all of which require that Truth should be respected no less in the common payment of common debts, than in the higher demands of equity & justice in transactions in which our characters as men & Christians are manifestly involved. This may be thought too serious a view of the subject but it is the present dictate of my feeling & my conscience.

Wednesday Mrs Ryder called in the morning - much recovered from a severe indisposition. This day brought me a Letter from Mr Cooper with an acct. Mrs C's being in bed with another little Boy - her sixth Child.

Thursday Walked with Mr Finch to the School, to reprove the Mistress for some little irregularities in her conduct. She took it very well, & therefore we promised they shd. be no more remembered against her.

Sunday May 2nd Mr Finch preached this morning from 1st Chap: of Romans 16 v. "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto Salvation to every one that believeth". He went into a pretty full explanation of the Scheme of Salvation by Christ shewing how greatly God's power & mercy were manifested in it; &

that its accomplishment was indeed the end of the Law, & the fulfillment of Prophecy. He spoke of the union of faith & obedience implied in the verse following the text, "for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith" - faith as the foundation of the life of faith, which wd. be consequent upon an unfeigned belief of the truth & doctrines of Christianity. It was a very good discourse on the whole, but some parts of it not so well defined as Mr F's Sermons usually are, in general both from the Pulpit & in conversation he speaks with remarkable clearness & perspicuity, indeed with an accuracy not common in the arrangement of his ideas under the different divisions of his subject. Having a little head ach I went to Church also in the afternoon.

Monday Mr H. & myself, Miss Palgrave & our two girls dined to day at Mrs Ryder's & staid to see the illuminations which were exhibited on acct. of the ratification of the Peace with France, Spain & the Batavian Republic. They were not so splendid as we expected. Mrs Mesteyers House on the whole exhibited the most taste & brilliance, among the Transparencies the best struck me as a simple figure of Brittania at Mr Golding's, the sentiment I liked the best shone forth at Mr Rings where was on one of the windows a transparency of two Cornucopias entwined with the olive wreath, immediately above these the words "Te Deum Laudamus" and at the top of all a Dove in a hovering posture but in the act of descending. We got home about 12 o'clock rather weary with our Evening's walk.

Tuesday I dined this day with Mrs T. Powys, having walked there in the morning to see her little Boy now under inoculation. The Child was well, & the day spent pleasantly in social & friendly chat. They walked back with me in the Evening to view the progress of our building, which now begins to make some shew.

Wednesday Mrs Ryder & Miss Ward dined here.

Thursday The Children went in the morning to hear the Proclamation of peace read at Henley. Mr H. & I dined at Mr Allnutt's, & staid in the Evening till 11 o'Clock to view the illuminations which were more splendid & appropriate than those at Reading. Mr H. & myself became nurses to Own & Jane while the Servants all went on the same errand.

Friday 7th May The anniversary of the death of my little Julia. The Sting is now removed. I rejoice in her joy!

Sunday 9th May Mr Powys did the whole Duty in consequence of Mr Finch's having engaged to serve the Church at Shiplake for Mr Howman. In the afternoon we were at the meeting as usual, when Mr Jos. Forndy's (?) Child was baptized.

Tuesday Reading this morning a short essay on Redemption the author did not seem to me quite scriptural in his representation of the rewards attainable by man, or rather as to what favour he could entitle himself to at the hands of God. He seemed to insinuate that we might purchase Heaven by our Faith in Christ & a life of obedience, bringing by way of proof this text, "He that cometh to God must believe that He is, & that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him". But as it appears to me to be of infinite importance in order to our imbibing clear views of Scripture that one part

should be brought to harmonize with another, I am inclined to make some little distinction here, in order to reconcile those many promises of reward at the hands of God for obedience to his will which we meet with in the Scriptures, with those other passages which declare it to be all of free Grace & Mercy thro' Jesus Christ.

I would say then, that this reward does not mean Salvation, or Eternal Life, for that was, & can only be, purchased by the Sacrifice of Christ, but it is a bestowal of the gracious influences of the Spirit, by which the Soul is put in a capacity for the enjoyment of Heaven, the mind thus spiritualized can relish spiritual joys in which the happiness of Heaven consists.

Thursday Mrs Ryder Mrs Merlott & Miss Cross called in the morning & I engaged to dine with them the next day.

Friday Which I did, where I met, besides, Mrs Douglas. We had some agreeable chat & amongst other subjects I started rather a favourite one of mine which I have been endeavouring to build up into a sort of system, but which a simple speech of Mrs Merlott nearly overthrew. I am not, however, sorry for it, as I am convinced that the nearer ones ideas on every subject approach to the standard of scripture the nearer they are to what is (perhaps) the only standard of Truth, and the vision I had been indulging tho' not, I hope, contrary to scripture, could not call on scripture for its support. For my full opinion I must refer to my Journal for Friday the 13th March 1801, my idea was, that in the nature of man there was three distinct parts, and I imagined this necessary in order to reconcile those instances of derangement of the intellect which so often occur from accidents, or severe illnesses, also to explain why persons of extraordinary intellectual faculties shd. yet be totally ignorant of spiritual things, which, if the intellect was one with, or made a part of, the Soul seemed inexplicable. I stated the first part of this argument to Mrs Merlott and she gave me the following answer. "I conceive the Soul to act by the instrumentality of the Body, and we well know that if the instrument is disordered or imperfect nothing harmonious can be produced, tho' the power itself remains unimpaired, & would again act if the medium thro' which it must be conveyed is restored, & made capable of executing its office." The difficulty is not wholly cleared, but sufficiently so to make me willing to relinquish my former opinion in favour of one which has truth & evidence for its basis.

Sunday May 16th Mr Finch's Sermon this morning was from 16th Chap. of St John 12 verse "I have many things to say with you but you cannot bear them now". This was as clear, as interesting, & as serious a Discourse as any Mr F. has delivered from this Pulpit. He established every point by scriptural proofs alone, & accordingly gave entire satisfaction to my mind. The subject was the gradual introduction of the Gospel to the first disciples of Christ, which he considered as analogous to the mode in which it is still received by every mind under its influence. He considered it as having three stages in its first promulgation; the first during Christ's personal ministry till his Crucifixion; the 2nd from his resurrection to his ascension; the last at the day of Pentecost when the apostles received the Gift of the Holy Ghost, by wch.. their understandings were compleatly opened so as to see the whole grand scheme of Redemption in the clearest point of view. To prove this Mr F. said that in the early teachings of our blessed Saviour (after

John the Baptist had in some measure prepared the mind of the People for its reception) he was particularly solicitous to remove some of their old prejudices, & to inculcate the duties of meekness, humility, & those other virtues which should bring their minds to a yielding of submissive temper, by which the impressions of the "engrafted word" might be longer retained. He then preached to them the Kingdom of Heaven in parables, & brought them on by degrees to more important truths, but even after his resurrection their prejudices were not entirely removed (particularly the idea of a temporal Kingdom which they imagined the Messiah was to restore to Israel) & it was only the day before his death that he spoke to them in the language of the text, instructing plainly the the imperfection of their knowledge, & their incapacity for receiving all that it was designed they should embrace, nor was it till the Descent of the Holy Spirit that they were indeed competent to all the purposes of their important mission. Under this view of the subject how absurdly do those people talk who undervalue the Epistles wch.. the Sacred Volume contains, & plead for the exclusive teaching by the words of Christ in the Gospels. It is evident that tho' the Spirit was given without measure to Christ yet he did not impart it fully till he was himself ascended to the Glory from whence he came, and on the contrary the Epistles were written under the most enlarged communications of the Spirit, who himself dictated all the Apostles wrote. Besides that the great end of Christ's coming in the Flesh was not fulfilled during his abode here & therefore that a specific object of faith was wanting in order to the Sinner's final acceptance and sanctification. I make this remark because I have heard many People say that what is contained in the Gospels is sufficient for every purpose of the Christian's belief & practice, which is clearly a mistake, & injurious to the Providence & Wisdom of God. The concluding part of the Sermon was to shew the analogy between the progress of the Gospel in its first spread & in its present effects, & to encourage sinners to embrace this great Salvation, which the Wisdom, the Mercy, & the Providence of God holds out freely to their acceptance.

Tuesday We dined for the first time with Mr Finch where we met Mr & Mrs T. Powys & Miss Palgrave. He gave us a very hospitable & friendly reception, & we spent a few hours very agreeably.

Thursday Mrs Ryder Mrs Merlott & Miss Cross dined with us. The weather has for more than a week been so severely cold attended with such sharp frosts that the fruit appears to be nearly all cut off, especially the Apples Cherries & Gooseberries, the Beech Woods have an autumnal appearance, & the leaves of many trees are drying off, from being perfectly chilled. It is said that so severe a season has not been known for a great many years.

Friday May 21st I look back with gratitude to God for the many mercies I have experienced in the various capacities to which on this day nineteen years I was called by my connection with my dear Husband! and I revolve also in my mind the many events which this course of time has produced! It is with great & increasing satisfaction I can remark that these events whether grievous or prosperous, have severally had their uses in ripening my mind for the reception of those great Truths which I have embraced, & for enabling me to see with a clear evidence those doctrines & duties which lead to my eternal salvation. I trust that my

hindrances will every day be fewer, & my joy in the prospect diffuse a more chearful & uniform acquiescence in the will & providence of God under all future events, than hitherto I have experienced! May my dear Husband & myself be more closely united in love & friendship, & may our beloved Children witness in us an example which may be to God's Glory, while it proves to their minds the reality of a Religion which when truly known & practiced will be found to lead into paths of pleasantness & peace! On this day the weather again changed so as to become oppressively hot.

Sunday 24th A Confirmation being expected to take place at Henley on the 2nd of June Mr F. addressed his congregation this morning on the subject. He first explained the nature of the Baptismal Covenant, shewed in what it consisted, what blessings were derived from it, & what obligations it laid those under who were thus made members of Christ's visible Church. In this part of his subject he very properly remarked on the solemn engagement those were under who offered themselves as sponsors at the Baptismal Font; & lamented the sad degeneracy of principle which was observable in the present day in this respect. He next explained the office of Confirmation, rescued it from the reproach sometimes thrown on it by Persons who speak of it as "a remnant of Popery", & pointed it out as a means of Grace which shd. by no means be neglected. What he said in answer to the charge brought against it is worthy of remark. He said that, first, it could be proved that Confirmation had been practiced from the time of the Apostles, consequently long before the Romish Church had fallen into disgrace by her departure from the simplicity of real Christianity, and next he said that had this not being the case, the discarding a ceremony merely because it had been practiced by a corrupt Church was highly unreasonable, & might operate equally to the breaking thro' other more sacred obligations, even to the disuse of public worship itself. I did not think Mr F. made a proper distinction between the outward form of Baptism & the regenerating influences of the Holy Spirit, or rather between internal & external baptism, indeed he seemed to insinuate that by the outward form, every blessing & promise was received, which I should conceive to be attainable only by the regenerating influence of the Spirit at an after period, but I might have misunderstood him, & my own views on the subject are at present not very clear. May He who can alone truly enlighten the mind grant me that increase of knowledge, which being employed in his service, & to his glory, may make my path shine brighter & brighter unto the perfect day!

Saturday 29th May The week spent at home in preparation for our intended Journey into Staffordshire except a visit to Reading to take leave of my Aunt & Mrs Ryder. Mr King called on me there to talk with me about getting the Child whom Mrs Wright interests herself for, into the Asylum for Deaf & Dumb. The week has also been marked by the death of Mrs Martin who was most happily released on Wednesday; & by Mr Finch's giving at the School House some lectures previous to the Confirmation which is to take place the 2nd of June. I attended three of these which turned principally on the nature of the Christian Covenant, the promise made in baptism & the ratification of it now to be made by the Parties themselves. They were very plain & familiar, yet Mr F. went at some length into the leading doctrines of our Religion.

I obeyed Mrs Martin's desire by seeing her after her decease, & by informing Mr Martin of those wishes respecting her

funeral which she had expressed to me alone.

Sunday May 30th We went twice to Church to day on account of the heavy rain which has been falling the whole day. Mr P. did all the Duty. His Sermon was on the Ascension.

Tuesday June 1st The day appointed for a Thanksgiving on account of the Peace. Mr Finch preached & gave us a very suitable Sermon pressing the necessity of individual reformation lest a worse thing come upon us. Mr & Mrs T.P. & Miss Palgrave came to Church & Mr Townshend (who is just returned from Hamstall) dined here, & staid till near 8 o'clock. It was a few hours very truly enjoyed by me.

Wednesday June 2nd This morning we set off on our long-projected Journey - viz. Mr H. & myself & the two girls. We arrived at Warwick about nine o'clock after a very agreeable & safe Journey in our Coach with hired Horses. We drove thro' Blenheim Park which we highly enjoyed.

Thursday June 3rd We this morning saw Warwick Castle, & were highly delighted with a Structure which has preserved so perfect an example of the style & grandeur of the Castles of the ancient Barons, in those aristocratic times of which we read in English History. The outside appearance of the Building was rather the most interesting to me, & especially on entering the Court Yard where a Watch Tower shews itself in a point of view remarkably picturesque & the Castle Walls take at once a magnificent & formidable appearance, bringing forward to the mind scenes of ancient grandeur, & warlike defence, such as History & the Pencil have united to describe. Some of the rooms are a little modernized, but no farther than to give comfort, & such accommodations as in the present day is required. There are many good Pictures especially a portrait of Ignatius Loyola (the founder of the Jesuit College) by (I believe) Rubens, & a very large collection of Portraits by Vandyke, with many others of (perhaps) equal excellence & superior value wch.. I have now forgot, for our time being limited a cursory glance was all we could take of them. There were also some beautiful antique Vases; and a very large & magnificent one in the Green House presented by Sir Wm. Hamilton brought lately from Italy, & which formerly stood in the Villa of the Emperor Adrian. It is so large as to have required a room to be built on purpose for its reception in order properly to display the beauty of the workmanship, & the elegance of its shape. The morning being wet we could see very little of the gardens or Park, but on our way to the next Stage, we stopped at Kenilworth & walked to see the magnificent & interesting Ruin of its Castle, so famous in History by many of its circumstances. It is indeed highly beautiful & picturesque both in itself as a Ruin, & in all its appendages. It was defective in nothing, to my eye, but the flatness of the Towers - not a single Turret remains by which to break the uniformity of their tops, or to mark the ravages of time by shewing what they once were. Here was all which could aid the imagination of the Poet, the Raven & the Owl had here taken up their abode, & secured themselves lasting habitations. Where cultivation has ceased, vegetation in its natural luxuriance has produced trees & flowers & mosses, & ivy which harmonizes & adds beauty to the whole. It is a place fitted for melancholy musings, but it is a place also which to the religious mind may afford subjects for glorious & elevated contemplation, which looking beyond the decays

of time, & the dissolution of earth itself ascends above the Clouds where Christ sitting at the right hand of God offers to his faithful followers "habitations not made with hands eternal in the heavens".

From some untoward circumstances we did not reach Hamstall till 6 o'clock but had the satisfaction of finding all our friends well & glad to see us.

Friday June 4th Our dear Boy we have now seen well & happy, he is grown & improved, as are all the Children, of our good & excellent Mr & Mrs Cooper. I call upon my heart to bless God for all his mercies!

Saturday June 5th Spent in walking about the village, calling on some poor people etc.

Whitsunday June 6th This day has been past in a truly satisfactory manner. Mr C. begins and ends every day with family prayer, &, except on Sundays, with some exposition of the Scriptures. While we have been here he has gone on in the mornings with the Epistle to the Colossians & in the evening with the Gospel of St Mark. I was much pleased with the decency & solemnity of the Public Worship, & especially with the attentive earnestness of the Congregation. There is a small Organ in the Church which as soon as Mr Cooper enters plays a plain Tune to which some verses from the 95th Psalm are sung, & immediately on its conclusion the service of the Church begins. Mr C.'s morning Sermon was from the Acts where St Paul enquires if some Converts who came to him had received the Holy Ghost, to which they reply that they had not heard if there were any Holy Ghost. The Afternoon's Sermon was on the Character of Manasseh, both excellent Discourses, & calculated to touch the hearts & awaken the consciences of his hearers. Before the Morning Service I accompanied Mr C. to the Sunday School, where he catechized the Children upon Mrs More's plan, & with considerable success. In the Evening he went again to the School Room to expound the Scriptures to any of his parishioners who chose to attend him. All this he did without appearing to be at all fatigued, proving his zest in the great cause as well as his increased bodily strength.

Monday June 7th Mr Hall left us this day immediately after breakfast. He walked to Lichfield with an intention to go from thence to Birmingham & there to take a place in the Coach for London.

Thursday June 8th This & every other day we have walked to visit the poor people by turns. I like their manners, which appear more civilized than those of the People about us. They have a sort of scotch accent in their pronunciation, mixed with the constant use of the pronoun her as a substitute for every other. Mr & Mrs C. keep them constantly employed by furnishing them with spinning & knitting; & they attend to their bodily wants in the kindest manner - for this they seem very grateful, & by every action & look express their sense of the obligation. Mr C. has read to us these two Evenings Cecil's Life of Cadogan - a very interesting work to me tho' diversified with none but the common incidents of life. Mr C.'s character is well & faithfully drawn, & the style of his preaching depicted in very strong & emphatic language. The whole account is written in a very bold & forcible manner, peculiar to Mr Cecil, in wch.. his sole aim seems to be to honour God, & to vindicate the cause of the Gospel, & those who preach it in plainness & sincerity of heart.

Wednesday June 9th Mr Spooner (the brother of Mrs Wilberforce) dined here to day. He is a young man of agreeable manners, of remarkably cheerful disposition, & of unexceptionable principles, who makes the service of God his ultimate end & aim, & who fulfils diligently all the duties of his profession.

Friday June 11th Mr Gisborne dined here to day. He is a man too well known to need my Eulogium. His writings confirmed by his practice describe his character. "His prayers & his alms will go up as a memorial before God". Mrs Hall & her Son came in the Afternoon. Mrs H. is an old Bath acquaintance of Mr Cooper's, tho' lately settled in this neighbourhood.

Saturday June 12th Mr Gisborne passes the night here but left us between 11 & 12 this morning. Added to his great qualities he has a mildness & humility of manners, that must change admiration into love among those who are intimately acquainted with him. Two or three hours in each day (when the weather will admit of it) are spent by Mr & Mrs C. in visiting the Poor of their Parish whom they employ, & encourage by all possible means - they furnish them with spinning & knitting of every kind, the former they get wove by a man in the Parish. Are any sick? they nurse & prescribe for them. Are any in trouble? they comfort them. Are any desirous of "seeking a better Country, or enquiring what they shall do to be saved"- they find in Mr Cooper a safe Guide to that heavenly friend who will give them to drink of his own blessed spirit, & receive them into everlasting habitations.

Sunday June 13th Mr Spooner took the morning Duty, while Mr C. went to his Church to administer the Sacrament Mr S. not being in Priest's orders. He led the service with uncommon feeling & emphasis, & delivered an excellent Discourse on these words "This is a faithful saying & worthy of all acceptation that Christ Jesus came into the World to save Sinners". He explained it clearly & fully, marking that it was not sufficient merely to believe in Christ, but we must receive him as worthy of our acceptation. Also that we must understand that tho' the Saviour of Sinners he wd. not save us in our Sins, but from them, consequently holiness of life must follow our belief & acceptance of Salvation by Christ. And the whole was applied with great clearness & energy. Mr Cooper's Sermon was a continuation of the character of Manasseh. He now shewed him under that change of heart which affliction had wrought, that he was changed by the sovereign Grace of God from a vessel of wrath into a vessel of mercy. And hence Mr C. inferred the uses of affliction, & that it was rather a mark of God's love than of his anger, as it shewed his desire that we shd. become his Children & enter into his Rest. He cautioned us not to abuse the free mercy of God by continuing in Sin that Grace may abound but only to receive the example held out in the conduct of Manasseh as a proof of God's willingness to save even the chief of Sinners, & that if we return from the evil of our ways, he will forget his anger & receive us to his Mercy.

Monday & Tuesday June 14 & 15 Spent like most of the past which I shall here particularly describe, with a view of shewing the life of holiness & good works which my friends here lead, & that upon true Gospel principles. I never saw more genuine, yet discreet, zeal than Mr C. exhibits in

his whole conduct. He makes all his talents & all his time subservient to the one great end of glorifying his God & Saviour, & magnifying that great name by whom Salvation has been purchased for him. He rises every Morning very early, expounds to his Family before Prayers - half the time between breakfast & dinner is spent in his Study, the other half in visiting the Poor of his Parish; talking, or reading, or, (in sickness) praying with them, as their circumstances may require. After dinner he goes again into his Study till Tea time, & after Tea we walk till nine, (sometimes calling upon a poor person) and the Evening is finished as the morning began. Mrs C. is very humble kind & benevolent to the poor People, & visits them daily by turns. Thus is time usually spent here, & the Sunday is, of course, hallowed in a peculiar manner by every sort of religious exercise that can be honorable to God or beneficial to man, and thus is Mr C. not only one of the best but one of the happiest men I know for happiness will always be consequent on such sentiments & conduct. The true Christian can even "joy in tribulation", that is, he will see in all things the hand of God directing all events for his good ultimately, & under the pressure of outward afflictions he will receive those inward consolations from the Spirit of Grace as will enable him not only to be resigned, but in a measure cheerful under them. At least in a course of time this will be his happy experience. Mr C.'s parishioners look up to him as a Father, & his Children promise to reap all the advantages that may be expected from such a Parent, and how happy shd. I think myself to have my dear Boy a Sharer in these distinguished advantages!

Thursday June 17th Thomas began this day to complain of symptoms which have uniformly attended a complaint that has been very prevalent in this village & neighbourhood, & from which indeed, the Children of this Family have suffered.

Friday June 18th Tom continues very indifferent, tho' he professed himself well enough to take a ride in the Dicky to the Cannock Hills. We went accordingly in the morning, & the roads being bad, & the day warm, we were kept out till 5 o'clock. I was pleased with the view from the Hills, it is grand & extensive.

Saturday June 19 Tom not better, but accompanied us to Lord Bagot's Wood, whither Mr C. took me to see some uncommonly fine oaks which are indeed surprising both in bulk & height. I suppose we saw 5 hundred whose value cd. not have been less than 60£ each. There are others more picturesque but less valuable, one of these measured between 19 & 20 feet round. Tom this morning became again very feverish, and in the night called up his sister. She came to me & on going into his room at 2 o'clock now Sunday morning I found him so ill as I think it necessary to send for the apothecary. He gave him an emetic, & he got better towards the afternoon. I was obliged on this account to omit going to the morning service, but in the afternoon I left him to the care of his sister Frances. Mr Cooper's Sermon was to shew our simple dependence on Christ as a Saviour, & the danger of mixing any of our own performances with that propitiatory Sacrifice wch.. cd. alone justify us in the sight of God. It is an important subject & not sufficiently understood. All professing Christians rely on the merits of Christ, but not on his alone merits; on an unmixed covenant, in which the creature has nothing to do - yet this shd. be clearly understood.

Monday June 21st This morning Mr C. told me that Tom's illness had given such an alarm to Mrs. C.'s mind that he was under the necessity of saying that they shd. be fearful of his remaining with them, lest he shd. have any return of his complaint. After some awkward & distressing conversation it was determined that I shd. take him home with me on Wednesday. We dined this day at Mr Gisborne's where I saw for the first time Mrs G. The day could have been highly enjoyed by me but for the circumstance wch.. happened in the morning, & Tom's remaining indisposition.

Tuesday June 22nd Tom rather better. Mrs Gisborne called in the morning to take leave of me, & expressed herself in a very obliging manner as to her wish that we might at some future time renew our acquaintance.

Wednesday June 23rd We took leave of our Friends this morning at 7 o'clock. We hired horses to Lichfield & then took our own to Thetford where we slept. As we arrived late we cd. see nothing of the Town; but on leaving it the next morning we admired the view of the Church etc. from the Bridge; & thought also that the Avon was not unaptly called a "silver stream", as its colour was very analogous to the idea conveyed by such an epithet. The next night we slept at Woodstock (having enjoyed a walk thro' Blenheim) & breakfasted on Friday morning with Mr & Mrs Wright at Oxford, & reached our much-loved Home in the Evening. The joy with which the Children met may be well imagined, my pleasure was much abated by seeing Mr Hall not in his usual health & spirits; but I have yet much to be thankful for, in that I have been preserved thro' a long Journey, & that we have met under circumstances of great, tho' not of entire comfort. To God be the praise! Since my absence an account has been received of the death of Mrs Nicholl. It was an event for which my mind had been prepared by her long illness; & I rejoice that she departed while under the care of her near relations & friends. Her Children sensibly feel her loss. May they seek their support from God!

Saturday June 26th Tom appears quite recovered, & Mr H. has been prevailed on to take Mr Bailey's advice, who hopes he will soon be well.

Sunday June 27th Mr H. still but indifferent. Mr Finch being still from home, Mr T.P. did the whole duty, & he & Mrs P. dined here. Henry returned home on Thursday, & expresses himself quite satisfied with his situation.

June 28th Monday Mr Stevenson, Mr & Mrs H. Hall & Children, & Mrs Geary (?) & her Son dined here.

June 29 Tuesday Mrs Powys called here, & carried us to make a first visit to Mrs Hodges who is lately come to Bolney Court. The Parliament dissolved this day.

June 30th Wednesday Having walked to Henley I was much surprized to hear of the arrival of Mr & Mrs Cooper at Fawley, in their way to London on business.

Friday July 2nd Mrs Powys brought Bernard (?) & Isabella Cooper to see us, their Parents being in London.

Saturday July 3rd Dined in Reading with Mrs Ryder, a great bustle about the Election. Mr Shaw Lefevre has started

up as an opponent to Mr Simeon. I forgot to remark that while at Hamstall I read Mr Gisborne's Sermons & recd. great pleasure & information from them. I thought the style easy & elegant; & that the subjects were duly enforced by strong argument, & sound scriptural authority. They are calculated, & indeed principally intended, for the higher ranks of society, these they attack in their "strongholds" with great force of argument & practical illustration. The general character of the Sermons seems to be that we must love God with the whole heart, & Him only must we serve, making all our pursuits whether of pleasure or business, subordinate to this as a leading & governing principle. This is made appear, not only to be our indispensable Duty, but our high privilege as Christians.

Sunday July 4th Mr Finch being not yet returned home, Mr Powys did the whole duty. We went in the afternoon to Henley Church. Mr Townshend gave us a very good Sermon on the Parable of the Pharisee & Publican. He defined in very forcible language the different characters of the two men as capable of being inferred from the style of their addresses to God, but being a subject on which there can be but one opinion it was less interesting than Mr T.'s addresses from the Pulpit usually are. He concluded however, with a very close application of what he had said, desiring that we would each enquire for ourselves whether we had any self-righteous feelings in our minds, for that in proportion as these prevailed the Sacrifice of Christ wd. be less estimable to us, & we shd. be farther from that only means of Salvation by which we have access to God, & can be made partakers of the happiness of Heaven.

Monday July 5th The Children went to Reading to see the event of the Election there. Mr Armsley & Mr Lefevre were chosen, and Mr Simeon thrown out, the latter gentleman who was the former member seems not to have been well used; & many undeserved aspersions were cast upon his character, this indeed is not much to be wondered at, as he makes a profession of Religion somewhat stricter both in principle & practice than commonly obtains in the world, but it seems surprizing that in Reading where religious characters abound, all shd. not have united in his support, it affords a lamentable proof that party-religion mixes too much with genuine Christianity. A Friend of mine calls a General Election "one of the Triumphs of the Prince of this world; & the hour of darkness".

Tuesday July 6th Dined at Fawley with the Coopers.

Wednesday July 7th Mr Cooper breakfasted here; we afterwards called on Mr Finch; & met him & Mr & Mrs T. Powys at our House on our return home.

Thursday July 8th The Coopers set off on their return home.

Saturday July 10th Confined at home the last two days by bad weather, which is very threatening to the crops of Hay. The Meadows being not yet cut it is hoped may be benefitted if fine weather soon succeeds.

Sunday July 11th Mr Finch did the whole Duty. He gave us a striking & affecting Sermon on "using the world and not abusing it". He described the World to mean those things in it by which our attention & affections are necessarily

engaged; & these he said might be contracted under 3 general descriptions Riches, Honour, & Pleasure. The use of these, he said, consisted in the moderate enjoyment of them, such as could be indulged innocently without any breach of the law of God, or any injury to ourselves or fellow Creatures. That this was the lowest use, that there was a higher & nobler use of them which he considered as indispensable. The using each of them as they were severally possessed to the honour of God, & with a desire of promoting the happiness & comfort of our fellow Creatures. This he pressed in very strong & earnest language, describing the beauty & excellence of talents so employed. The abuse of the world was easily & shortly described as consisting in the inordinate love of either riches honour or pleasure so as to set up a species of idolatry in the heart. But the most interesting part of the discourse was from the latter part of the subject the apostle gives as a reason for his injunction, that "the fashion of this world passeth away". Mr F. here drew a comparison between the present & future state of being, shewing that reason as well as religion taught the absurdity of setting our affection on things of so perishing a nature. He said that in heaven the only riches which would avail us anything was God's rich mercy in Christ Jesus, & the having used the abundance granted us here in such acts of kindness & benevolence as necessarily spring from a true faith in him. That the honour of the next world would consist.....

In the afternoon I went with Mr F. to Henley Church where Mr Townshend gave us a Sermon, in his usual strong & emphatic manner, on the Parable of the Sower. As it is a subject on which nothing new can be said, it was Mr T.'s earnestness of tone & manner which commanded the attention & shewed its real importance. It does indeed convey some strong lessons to hearers of every description, & especially in that it shews how necessary a proper preparation of heart is in order to a useful reception of the good seed, & the produce of a crop. This preparation of the heart is from God, but it is our part to pray earnestly that it may be granted us, & use diligently those means by wch.. it may be attained.

Monday July 12th Mr Townshend sat some time with me. I afterwards walked part of the way to the Parsonage with him.

Wednesday 14th July Mr Finch drank Tea with me (Mr Hall being absent) & sat till past 8 o'clock. On this morning it was a very white frost, & the cold as great as is usual with frosts of this kind. This is very unusual when we recollect that at this time of the year we are seldom able to love comfortably without doors & windows all open, whereas now we are compelled to use fires & warm clothing.

Saturday July 17 Kept at home the remainder of the week principally by the rain which has already soaked our small crop of hay so as greatly to injure it. One of the Coach Horses has been to day taken very ill with a complaint they think will prove the Staggers. It of course causes a great alarm for the other Horses, & Humanity breathes a sigh for the sufferings of the poor animal.

Sunday 18th July Mr Finch's Sermon this morning was from the 127th Psalm - "Unless the Lord build the House their labour is but vain that build it." He took occasion from hence to give us a most important & necessary lesson;

that as we all require in our several relations & situations 'that no business, or occupation shd. be engaged in that we cannot ask God's blessing upon; & & without our doing so'. He shewed the folly of many worldly schemes of profit or aggrandizement, whose success had proved a curse rather than a blessing; & on the contrary many favourite plans which had been disappointed in mercy, whose end must have been destruction. He taught the absolute necessity of looking up to God for everything, & the folly & sinfulness of those who neglect private & family prayer in order to secure to themselves an interest in the grace & blessing of God thro' Christ. On this part of the subject, too, he remarked on the absurdity of laying out plans, & forming schemes for the future without appearing to acknowledge our dependence on God for their accomplishment; as if we were of ourselves competent to the fulfillment of our own wishes, that we ought never to forget our entire dependence on the providence of God, & that all our success & all our strength originates with him. That we cannot expect success without his blessing even upon our most innocent desires, & that it therefore especially incumbent on us to undertake nothing wch.. we cannot pray to him to grant success to. He then spoke of the more precise & definite meaning of the Text. That the Church of Christ was alluded to under the figure of "the House", that ministers who had the building up that House committed to their care should first recollect & apply to themselves this most important truth, "that all their care & labour in instructing either in public or private, or in any other of their incumbent duties, would be vain & useless unless they prayed to God for a blessing upon them, & were sincerely conscious that they cd. do nothing in their own strength, that tho' Paul might plant & Apollos water, it was God alone who could give the increase. And the same applied secondarily, but with equal force, on the hearers of the word, as on the teachers, that hearing would avail nothing unless mixed with earnest prayer to God to give the understanding heart. He was led under one branch of the subject to speak of the danger of riches, & the high responsibility which attached to those who were possessed of them. He said that few could believe even the word of God respecting them wch.. speaks of the excessive difficulty of using without abusing them, & that therefore it shd. tend greatly to check those inordinate desires which too many feel to become possessed of wealth, since it almost always proves a snare, & detaches the heart from that love of God, & the thoughts of that spiritual State which is alone worthy of man as a sinful Being & as possessing a Soul which is to live for ever. There was one other general remark wch.. I shall notice, in speaking of the mercy & compassion of God in denying some of our most earnest desires after temporal Good, Mr Finch said it was only denying one prayer while he granted a more important one, that we daily pray "not to be led into temptation", which was granted by the refusal of those other requests which a Being to whom : "a thousand years are but as yesterday" saw would expose us to those very snares & temptations from wch.. we prayed to be delivered. I earnestly pray that the God who heareth & answereth Prayer may bless this excellent discourse to my Soul's edification; may it be impressed on the minds of my dear Husband & Children & may all who heard it be led to lift up their hearts in prayer for a blessing on all their lawful employments & undertakings, thus may it work to our Soul's eternal good.

Tuesday 20th July Mrs Fanshawe called here. On this day

Mrs Ryder set off for Bristol - Miss Stow & Jane to meet her at Bath. Our Coach Horse, Colonel, died yesterday.

Friday 23rd July My dear Jane's Birth day. May God bless her in time & thro' eternity! May he suppress in my mind those anxious thoughts which tend to weaken my faith & trust in his gracious protection, and may I not only take her & all my Children to him, but may I leave them with him satisfied that they are safe in his hands, & that he will order for them that which will best answer the purposes of his wisdom & mercy!

Saturday July 24th William was sent for this morning to his mother who was supposed to be in dying circumstances; Mr H. took him in the Whiskey to Reading. The afternoon was spent in the Hayfield where we had the pleasure of seeing a fine rick made of Hay which had been cut more than a fortnight. The rain had injured but not spoiled it. Some acres are still standing, & the weather still cold & unsettled.

Sunday 25th July Mr Finch having sprained his leg, & Mr P. engaged at Fawley we had no morning service, we therefore went to Henley meeting, where Mr Esdaile officiated. His Sermon was on the Sacrifices of the Levitical Law compared with the one great Sacrifice of Ct. on the Cross. He observed that the first had no efficacy towards taking away sin but were only commanded as memorials of God's hatred of sin, & of man's deserts for his numerous transgressions, & to keep alive in his memory the punishment which the purity & justice of God required - that they also shadowed forth "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" - but that obedience to the moral law was rather enforced than set aside by the law of sacrifices & that they were therefore of no avail towards purging the conscience, or removing the guilt of Sin, which by the blood of the New Covenant was so gloriously effected.

Tuesday July 27th This day my two dear Boys set off by the Abingdon Coach to School, Tom for the first time. He parted from us in tolerably good spirits, my "heart yearned towards him", but I suppressed my feelings lest it should encourage him. May the blessing of God go with them both, may he guide & protect them in all their ways! May he their inheritance for them on earth, & may they be received to a participation of his glory in Heaven!

Thursday July 29th I heard this day of Mrs Ryder's safe arrival at Clifton. I heard also from dear Tom. He does not give a very favourable account of the state of his feelings so that I have thought it necessary to write him a serious, but I trust a very affectionate letter on the necessity of checking a disposition that will lead him to wish for indulgences utterly incompatible with his future good, & the cheerful enjoyment of life. I have shewn him the necessity of being instructed; & the importance of not yielding to a tenderness of nature which would disqualify him for usefulness as he advances in life, & lay the foundation of much unhappiness to himself. May he be enabled to see the affectionate motive which dictated this advice!

Saturday July 31 Miss Hodges & Miss Johnson with Miss F. & S. Jenkinson & their Brother John, dined here with our Children. Mrs Hodges called here in the morning with an invitation to dinner at Bolney which we have for the present declined.

Sunday August 1st Mr Finch gave us an excellent Sermon to day on the unprofitableness of our Services as they respect God, & their utter insufficiency of themselves to entitle us to the rewards held out in the gospel (St Luke 17 verse 10) He shewed first the two extremes which men run into of making good works efficient towards the purchase of Salvation; or of setting them aside as altogether unnecessary. He then taught that tho' they were absolutely necessary as fruits of faith, that they could not entitle us to any reward from God. He shewed us how unprofitable we are in the several relations in which we stand to God, as our Creator, our Father, Benefactor, or Master, which last is the relation particularly pointed out by the Parable - that the subject itself could only apply to those who were really Christians & living in the fear & service of God, & that even the best of these must, or ought to, be sensible how totally useless their best services were to a Being so independant, & glorious in all his perfections. We could neither add to his happiness or glory, as a self-existent & perfect Being, tho' he was graciously pleased to accept our services in this light when offered thro' the mediation of Christ, & by faith in his name. Indeed Mr Finch thoroughly established this important doctrine, that tho' a life of strict obedience is absolutely necessary for a Christian, that it is yet in its fullest extent no more than our duty, & cannot by any means entitle us to any of those high rewards promised in the Gospel - these have been purchased for us by Christ, we are entitled to them only thro' faith in Him as "our high God & Redeemer" that therefore our "Reward is not of debt but of grace".

Wednesday August 4th Myself & all the Children drank Tea at Col. Jenkinson's where we met Mrs Fanshawe.

Thursday August 5th Went to Reading to enquire the Character of Mrs Govier who has offered herself to us for a Schoolmistress, for this purpose I called on Mr Wm. Marsh who spoke all he knew of her, & this was in her favour. I never before conversed with Mr M. for more than five minutes. I find him mild & pleasing in his manners, which I am told are exactly descriptive of his mind; for tho' warmly attached to the interests of Religion he does not betray any of that ill-conditioned zeal which often injures the cause it is meant to support. He is fluent in conversation, without any cant or affectation in his mode of expression. Indeed he seems to be "an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile". Lady Marsh carries the sense & vivacity of her natural character into her religious one which gives a peculiar zest & interest to her conversation, & adds a lustre to the Christian character. I have not seen her (to speak with her) since the change which has taken place in her views. She told me, in reference to it, she was got "out of the Land of Egypt, but not out of the House of Bondage".

Friday Aug. 6th I had this day a melancholy acct. of poor Tom, who is greatly dejected, & has lost his appetite. Miss Fox is a tender Mother to him, & I trust that Time will reconcile him to a change so very necessary, tho' just now so very painful.

Saturday August 7th Betsy Allnutt spent the day here, we sent the Whiskey for her on acct. of her indifferent state of health. Our Haymaking finished this day, & a prospect of favourable weather to gather in the other fruits of the earth.

Sunday August 8th 1802 Mr Finch gave us this day an explanation of the 13th Chap. of the 2nd B. of Kings. He began by stating the difficulties it contained to those who read it cursorily, that he had himself been much struck with them formerly, & the Chap. having been read as the lesson for the day he thought it a good opportunity to endeavour to explain it. He began by speaking of the revolt of the ten tribes from Jeroboam, & of their consequent Idolatry & neglect of the worship established at Jerusalem, that it was to protest against this that a Prophet was sent by God, who to satisfy the King by whose authority he came was enabled to work a miracle both on the Altar & upon the King himself. This Prophet received an express command from God not to linger in this idolatrous place, nor even to take the least refreshment among the people, but to return another way than that by which he came. He accordingly refused Jeroboam's offer of going home with him to refresh himself, & set out to return, but being on his way he was probably seized with hunger & weariness, & sat down under a Tree to rest himself. Here came to him another Prophet, who dwelt in Bethel & he persuaded him to disobey the command of God & to return with him to his House, this disobedience was punished with immediate death. The difficulties Mr F. said were three - first, that a real Prophet (for such the one who lived at Bethel undoubtedly was) should be guilty of so great a Sin as to tempt another from his Duty, & to effect it by lying & deceit. He said that this might be explained by considering the prophetic character, which many misunderstood. That Prophets were not perpetually under the influence of Divine Inspiration; but in common concerns were left to the influence of common motives, & such assistances from the Spirit of Grace as are afforded to all who diligently seek them. That this man was probably not one who had properly improved those Gifts & Graces of God's Spirit, as might be proved from his living in Bethel, & from his having suffered his Sons to join in the idolatrous worship these practised, tho' he did not himself attend it. That such a Man, influenced by a strong desire to see & converse with one so distinguished by the Almighty, disregarded the means by wch.. it could be effected, & finding common persuasion would not do, scrupled not to utter a lie in order to serve his purpose. The 2nd difficulty he thought consisted in the "Man of God" yielding to such importunity. But we must suppose him herein left to his own conduct, that having delivered his message to Jeroboam, the extraordinary influences of the Spirit forsook him, & he was a mere Man in a common emergency. He felt the calls of hunger & the desire of repose, the joys of his faith & trust in God who would doubtless have sustained him under both, & he yielded to an invitation which carried on the very face of it an offence against God. The 3rd difficulty was why so small a transgression shd. be punished by so immediate & so terrible a death? For this Mr F. gave many reasons. It was not a small crime he said when considered as the transgression of an express command of God, a command which could not have been mistaken, because we must suppose that when the Prophets were favoured with Divine Revelations they had the most perfect conviction & assurance that they did come from God. It was also necessary in this case to make a signal example which should appear to the people to whom he was sent, for if he had been allowed to escape with impunity for a crime which he had openly declared against & had been sent to denounce vengeance upon, it could have exposed the decrees of God to contempt, & made his authority openly to be despised - death also, being

the common punishment among Men for rebellion against lawful authority was not in this case to be considered as so severe. Lastly that we are at liberty to suppose that the Prophet's death was a sufficient expiation of his fault & that he was by it rescued from any such further transgression as might have endangered his suffering eternal death. The inferences drawn from the subject were that we should not allow our faith to be staggered by difficult passages of Scripture, since they may often be cleared up by due enquiry & consideration; & if not, we ought to give our assent to these on the credit of the rest which we know cannot but be true from the stamp of Divinity which rests upon them. We must trust God for something as we do our friends when we think them entitled to our confidence. We should also learn from this story to put our faith & trust solely in God under all our difficulties; for tho' miraculous interpositions have ceased, God will grant help & strength to those who trust in him sufficient to sustain them under all the troubles with which in his Providence he sees fit to exercise them. (See his notes on this Chapter v. 23rd to the 32nd.)

Saturday 14th August The last week spent chiefly at home, after a long succession of wet, & cold, weather the sky is become clear & the air warm, the harvest has universally commenced with every prospect of abundance, & favourable weather for its being housed - so gracious is God in his providential dealings towards us! Mr Finch drove me this day to Reading in the Whiskey. I sat with Mrs Deane while Mr F. & Mr Ralph Deane walked about Reading & so returned home to dinner.

Sunday August 15th Mr Finch's Sermon this day was on the Parable of the unjust Steward, but principally on the application made of it by Christ in the last verse "make therefore to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness" etc. Some difficulties must always remain about this portion of Scripture, but Mr F. made it as plain as it will admit of. He drew a comparison between the exertions of worldly-minded men to secure to themselves a frail & uncertain inheritance, & those used by possessors to obtain "an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, eternal in the heavens". He shewed the extreme weakness of such conduct from the precariousness of all earthly good, & from the temptations to which riches & honour peculiarly expose those who are attached to them. He remarked that the commendation bestowed by our blessed Lord on the unjust Steward had no other meaning than in order to recommend the same activity & earnestness in concerns of so much higher moment. And he drew many excellent reflections & inferences from the subject such as were very naturally suggested by it. The Text he explained (as I believe is done by most Expositors) to mean that being possessed of riches (the mammon of unrighteousness) we should make them our friends by such a pious & benevolent use of them as would ensure to us a reward in those "everlasting habitations" to which we are all hastening, that whereas the unjust Steward had been wise only for time we might be wise for eternity. Tho' a good Sermon, very plain & well-arranged, it was not I thought equal to most of those we have heard from Mr Finch.

Monday Aug. 16 Mr Bell & Mr & Mrs Taylor drank Tea here. Mr B. appeared quite well, & shewed not the slightest mark of derangement either in conversation or manner.

Tuesday Aug. 17 Mary-Anne Nicholl spent the day here; she is on a Visit to Mrs Fortnam. Her Sister is very ill in London.

Wednesday Aug. 18 Another very sad Letter from my poor Tom, who says School becomes more & more uncomfortable. Tender Parents can alone judge of my feelings, but they must not be yielded to. His mind wants firmness, & this cannot be attained but by the endurance of some hardships, & the experience of a different mode of treatment to that which he is accustomed to at Home. As the body is enervated by too great indulgence, so is the mind by not being often called upon to resist, & to stand alone, without depending on others either for support or gratification. Nature must be resisted from the beginning to the end of life; tho' her dictates may be followed to a certain point, & the Character is unamiable & disgusting without it. But the grand effort of the judgement lies in distinguishing how far these dictates are to be obeyed, & where resisted. What our nature is most inclined to that we should apprehend the greatest danger; for a natural propensity, however aimable in itself, may by passing a certain boundary, enter the region of vice or folly, & of course be no longer praise-worthy or innocent. This sort of self-knowledge it shd. be the great object of young people to acquire & I earnestly pray my own dear Children may attain to it.

Thursday Aug. 19 A large number of morning Visitors, & a letter from Mrs Knight to decline coming to us at the approaching shooting season.

Saturday Aug. 21 Went in the Whiskey with Mr Finch to Reading to meet a School-mistress. She thought the allowance not sufficient, & declined the offer of our School, which we were not displeased at, as she did not appear to have the necessary qualifications. I passed half an hour very pleasantly at Mrs Tyndale's in connection with Mr Wm. Marsh, & Mr T. Tyndale.

Sunday Aug. 22 Mr Finch's Sermon this morning was upon our Saviour's pathetic lamentation over Jerusalem, on account of her not having perceived & improved "her day of Visitation". He took occasion to remark on the kind & affectionate conduct of our Lord on this occasion, & to recommend it to our imitation. He observed how different it was from the general practice of even professing Christians who much oftener laughed at, or exulted over, the ill conduct of others than made it the subject of their pity & prayers for them. He earnestly exhorted us all to make use of the "Day of Grace" afforded us, & to use it as a precious season offered us by God in which to work out our Salvation. He said that it was a set period, which if once allowed to escape should never again be afforded us, and he seemed to think that we were not to depend on the whole of life for it, but that it was limited to a particular period of it, when if we hardened our hearts, & shut our eyes to the gracious offer of Salvation made us, we became our own destroyers, & like the Inhabitants of Jerusalem were given up to final destruction. He remarked on the importance of Time to each of us individually, to himself & all who heard him. He said that Time would purchase all things, while there was nothing by which it could itself be purchased, the folly therefore of wasting it was what called for our peculiar consideration. Nothing could be more earnest, persuasive & affectionate than his address on the present occasion, it was perfectly

in harmony with that beautiful & pathetic exclamation of our Lord's on which his Sermon was founded. He observed the necessity of a renewal of the heart to holiness, a change in every disposition of the mind, a spirituality of temper & conduct, by which the Image of God should be restored in us, and this he said would be obtained from the Giver of all Good by watchfulness & prayer. How important the consideration!

Monday Aug. 23 Master Housman spent the day here. Mr & Mrs H. fetched him home in the evening. He is a high-spirited, but rather unmanageable Child, of quick parts, & I daresay, of good disposition.

Thursday Aug. 24 A somewhat better account of Tom.

Wednesday Aug. 25 Mr H. & M. & T. went in the Whiskey to the Reading Races.

Friday Aug. 27 Mrs Ryder & Miss Stow came in the Morning. They returned from Clifton on Wednesday. Mrs R. tolerably well, Miss S. but indifferent, especially from the dejection of her spirits. I have just finished reading the first Vol. of B.P. Beveridge's private thoughts, published after his death. They mark the piety & integrity of his mind, & that he was indeed desirous of serving God in truth. He first examines the different Religions which prevail, next the peculiar doctrines of Christianity which he states in the clearest & most methodical manner. I think their perspicacity is greater than I have anywhere else seen. He then examines into the requisites for leading a Christian Life & forms his Resolutions upon them. It is a standard by which every real Christian may with advantage try himself. Few, I fear, can reach it, but all should strive to do so. The higher is our aim the greater will be the elevation we shall reach. The regulation of the thoughts which he prescribes appeared to me very excellent, that of conversation seems to me scarcely practicable, & open to some exceptions. What he says of music I could not but read with approbation, because I am sure the delight which it affords is of a kind so peculiar, & so different from all other earthly enjoyments, that it is a capacity of the Soul granted for some, at present unknown but high purpose, & will have its full gratification in another world. He speaks also of Love as an affection of the mind which is always seeking a proper object to which to attach itself, & that this must be in exercise in order to our compleat happiness. God, of course, he proposes as the supreme object of our Love, but allows to inferior creatures their share. All he says accords with my own feelings, but I do not recollect having before met with ideas so strongly expressed & feelings so decidedly aroused on these subjects as in this interesting Volume.

In what way the high, or tender affections of the mind will be made subservient to the increase of heavenly enjoyments we have yet to learn; but doubtless if these have been employed on earth to subserve the purposes of piety; or if they have been subdued as they related to such objects which were incompatible with that entire love of God so necessary to the Spiritual Life, they must in their very nature enhance the joys of that everlasting state. What rapturous & heavenly emotions are excited in some minds by musical Sounds! How calculated are they in their own nature to inspire them! What vivid & elevated ideas are often excited by Poetry, & other productions of real genius! How much is the eye of taste delighted with beauty & harmony in the

works of nature or art! Can these feelings be given in vain? Surely not - the larger the capacity for enjoyment, of duty improved, & exercised on objects worthy of it, the more shall we be given to possess. Be the Vessel small or large, we have no reason to doubt but that it will be completely filled. What encouragement to aim at 'being perfect as our father in heaven is perfect!' - to bless our beneficial Lord for those high capacities of soul which any of us feel, & to furnish them with the noblest objects for enjoyment here by making His Will & Word & Ways our delight, & never ceasing contemplation! Then when Time shall be no more, & we are received into that glorious state where the golden harps of angels & the voices of glorified spirits are said to minister to the celebration of the glorious perfections of their God & Redeemer, we may be allowed to join this innumerable company in their eternal hallelujahs of worship & praise.

Sunday 29th Aug. Mr Finch being unwell Mr P. did the whole Duty.

Monday Aug. 30th Visited Mrs Wright, Mrs Fanshawe, Mrs Howman & took my girls to dine at Bolney.

Tuesday Aug. 31st Frances Owen Jane & myself called on Mrs T. Powys.

Wednesday Sept. 1st Dined at Mr Finch's on a haunch of Venison. Thursday Sept. 2nd Drank Tea with Mr Bell etc.

Friday Sept. 3rd Dined with Mrs Ryder, & left the Girls with my Aunt Hallifax to stay a few days. Received to day from Henry a better acct. of Tom.

Saturday Sept. 4th The Schoolmistress from Wantage came, but disliking the situation of the House went away immediately. My dear Owen the last week has complained of pain & stiffness in his right knee; of which tho' he is now better he has some remains - in particular that he is not able to straiten it like the other, & says that for many months this has been the case.

Sunday 5th Sept. Mr Finch's Sermon on 24th Verse of the 6th Chap. of St Matthew, "Ye cannot serve God & Mammon". In which he proved that it was our only true wisdom to give to God & Religion an undivided heart.

Tuesday 7th Sept. Went to day to fetch home my Girls from Reading.

Wednesday 8th Sept. Mr Hall very indifferent the whole day.

Thursday 9th Sept. Mr H. so ill as to be obliged to keep in bed, great degree of fever, & violent pain in his head, advised by Mr Finch to take a little emetic Tartar which he did.

Friday 10th Sept. Mr H. passed so bad a night that I sent for Mr Bulley early in the Morning. He came & found his pulse more than 120 in a minute. He bled him with Leeches in the temples, but finding no relief I was under so distressing an apprehension, when Mr Finch called, that he proposed my sending for Dr Taylor. I told him how averse Mr H. was to seeing him, but he said he wd. take it upon himself, & that he wd. go immediately to Reading, & speak both to the

Dr. & to Mr Bulley. The friendliness & sympathy marked by this simple action I must for ever gratefully remember! and his general conduct is of the same tendency. How much are we indebted to the good Providence of God for placing so valuable a character amongst us! Mr F. went to Reading, and he met Dr Taylor here in the Evening. Mr H. was so ill as to give Dr T. reason to fear a nervous Fever & he prescribed accordingly.

Saturday 11th Sept. Mr H. somewhat better.

Sunday 12th Sept. Mr H. much the same, but towards the afternoon a more considerable amendment.

Monday 13th Sept. My dear Husband much the same, with still an alarming degree of Fever. Mr Bulley therefore prescribed a dose of Calomel which Mr H. took in the night.

Tuesday 14th Sept. Mr H. made very ill by the Calomel but better after its operation.

Wednesday 15th Sept. Mr H. much better.

Thursday 16th Sept. Mr H. so well as to allow of my going into the parish of Swallowfield to enquire the Character of a Servant.

Friday 17 Sept. Mr Cope came to day, & Mr H. rode with him in the afternoon a little way, but was a good deal tired. His restoration is however as rapid as I have any right to expect, and I desire to bless God with all the powers of my mind for it. I never before knew the extent of my affection for him, but when the prospect of losing him was before me his importance to my well-being & happiness became strongly apparent, & but for my full conviction that all events are in the hands of Him who best knows what is for our real Good I must surely have sunk under the apprehension. Does my gratitude then, bear any proportion to my fears? I trust it does, and O, my God! may every dispensation of thy Providence bring me nearer to Thyself, & shew me that in thy Love alone is there unchanging stability, & that while the things of this life occupy my thoughts, & interest my feelings, those of another are of infinitely more importance, & should be attended to as such. Husband, & Children, & Friends are valuable & entitled to my tenderest regard. I love them as such, with a love that few can feel, but this love is increased by considering them as the Gifts of a gracious God, they are endeared to me by this consideration, (as a present is more or less valuable in proportion as the friend is esteemed who makes it), and being his Gifts I desire not only to love them for His sake, but to be satisfied to resign them to His Will whenever called upon, for I must be sure that his Will is directed by unerring Wisdom, & that I, who see but in part, cannot judge of what is proper for me so well as Him who has the whole before him, & who sees from everlasting & to everlasting.

Saturday 18th Sept. Mr H. out all day with Mr Cope, he appears rather languid, but is on the whole better.

Sunday 19th Sept. Mr H. went with us to Church, & is still better, tho' not quite well. Mr Finch's Sermon was from the Proverbs "Buy the Truth & sell it not". He explained "the Truth" as meaning all revealed truth, but in particular

that which is declared in the Gospel. In short, all that is comprehended in Christian Faith & Practice. The 2nd general head, was describing 'what was necessary to make the purchase' - the term 'buy' (which is also used by our Saviour in some of his parables, particularly in the 19th Chap. of St Matthew) , Mr F. remarked implied, that some sacrifice was necessary, some barter or exchange was to be made. This he explained to be by discarding everything which should oppose the reception of truth in the mind - undue attachment to the World, sensuality, covetousness, & particularly prejudice, & all those preconceived notions, which, he said, more than all other things, unfitted the mind for understanding & embracing the Gospel. These have their origin in pride, the greatest enemy which man has to contend with in his own bosom, & the most opposite to that temper & spirit which can alone qualify the mind to receive "the Truth as it is in Jesus". He concluded with a persuasive exhortation never to part with this blessed Truth when once by God's gracious influences imparted to us, but to consider it as "the pearl of great price", for the loss of which nothing could compensate. He considered those who had had opportunities of making the purchase as, those who by neglecting to do so "did despite to the spirit of Grace" & endangered the Salvation of their own Souls, who were therefore the persons implied in the admonition "sell it not". These opportunities are the means of Grace open to all in a Nation professing Christianity & who have the Bible in their hands. The study of this sacred Book with serious prayer he earnestly recommended, not doubting but that the blessing of God would rest upon it to the leading of the mind into all Truth.

Monday Sept. 20th Spent a great part of the Morning with Mr Finch who was in a state of embarrassment & depression respecting the Deanery of Exeter which has been offered him thro' the application of his Family, but to the acceptance of which he is very averse. He prefers his present retired mode of life as more suited to his health, temper & religious views, & therefore has almost resolved not to accept it, in spite of any solicitations to the contrary - as a selfish concern, I cannot but earnestly hope he may be steady to his resolve, for tho' we shd. not lose him entirely from Harpsden yet he wd. necessarily be much away, & he is too excellent a man, & too valuable a neighbour for us to think of this without feeling a more than common degree of regret. However we must submit in all these cases to whatever is the Will of God in his Providence.

Tuesday Sept. 21 A letter received this morning from Mr Purkis determined Mr H. & myself to go to Brentford, & send for Thomas, whom this letter described as in a state of uncommon dejection. We did so, & finding the account true, & that his health was likely to suffer from the melancholy wch.. had taken possession of his mind, we determined to remove him from Hammersmith & place him with his Brother at Clapham if we found Mr Davies had a vacancy. Accordingly, Thursday, we drove over to Clapham, & Mr Davies very liberally offered to receive him at 60 instead of 80 Guineas per ann: so long as Henry continued with him. Thus by a train of circumstances which at first seemed to oppose it, my dear Boy is placed in the situation wch.. above all others I wished for him, not from any disapprobation of his former situation, but because I saw the temper of his mind was such as to qualify him for deriving material benefit from living in a Family like Mr D.'s, and also that he

would never be quite comfortable away from all his Family to whom he is so remarkably & so affectionately attached, & on whom he is in some sort dependent. And this train of circumstances have been so ordered that without their actual existence in the very mode in wch.. they followed each other, the end could not have been attained. I therefore look upon them, as which are entitled to my gratitude & not in any way as subjects of regret. I apologized by Letter to Mr Newell for removing Thomas, assuring him that it was from no cause of complaint against the School, but merely a yielding to the disposition of a Child whose health seemed likely to sink under too great tenderness of disposition, & which therefore made it appear as a matter of necessity & duty. From Clapham we went to Walthamstow where we saw Mrs T. Hall in a very deplorable state with little prospect of recovery from her increased bodily complaints, but with a vigour of mind, & a state of animal spirits equal, if not superior, to any which I had ever witnessed in her. We slept at Walthamstow & on Friday morning returned to Brentford. Mr & Mrs Purkis had prepared us a great treat which was rowing up the River thro' Richmond Bridge to Isleworth where we dined on an Ait & returned home to a late Tea Drinking. I forgot to mention that on Wednesday Mr Dacey dined at Mr Purkis's, the rising Star in the philosophical hemisphere, on whom every body is gazing as a prodigy of genius, & at the age of two & twenty has attained to a situation of eminence & risen superior to all the disadvantages which an obscure situation & humble birth necessarily induce. His attention is principally given to subjects of Chemistry, & the Galvanic Electricity in wch.. he has made some considerable discoveries, in factitious airs too, he has also shewn great knowledge, & made experiments with them upon his own person to the endangering often of his life. He is now Lecturer in Chemistry at the Royal Institution with 200£ a year & handsome apartments, he is looked up to by the first scientific characters in the Kingdom; & if his head does not become giddy with the praise he receives, promises to recommend his Philosophy as much by his plain & unassuming manners as he advances real science by the depth of his discoveries, & expansion of his mind. He has also a taste for Poetry & the Picturesque; & has lately been a Tour into N. Wales with my friend Mr Purkis.

25th Sept. Saturday Returned home in safety, & with the comfort of improved health to my dear Husband, who has benefitted materially by the change of air & scene, which this little excursion has afforded. We owe much to the kindness & hospitality of friends & still more to the providential goodness of God, who out of apparent darkness has brought forth light & peace, & added to my other subjects of praise that of preservation in our journey, & the meeting with our Family in health & joy at home.

Sunday 26th Sept. Mr T. Powys did the whole duty on acct. of Mr Finch's being rather unwell.

Tuesday 28th Sept. Went to Henley Church to hear Mr Townshend's Sermon to the Mayor. The Text was from the 2nd Psalm " Be wise now therefore O ye Kings, be learned ye that are Judges of the Earth, serve the Lord." Mr T. first established the divine inspiration of this Psalm by a reference to the 4th Chap. of the Acts wherein it is quoted, & by which a peculiar testimony is given to it in a miraculous diffusion of the Holy Ghost upon those who attend, & those who received, it as a Truth. He then proved

that "the Lord" was peculiarly emphatical of Christ, and to "serve the Lord" was to promote the Kingdom of Christ & the Glory of God by every means in our power, that tho' we are in reality incapable of adding anything to the essential glory of God, that, as, nevertheless, he accepted obedience to his will & the serving him in the way he has prescribed as glorifying him, so we were justified in using this language, & it became our incumbent duty thus to endeavour to serve & obey him. This established, he spoke, in the general, of the way by which all were to serve him, & then in particular of those whose public situations called upon them for a more especial exertion of their influence. He shewed that those who make laws & those who execute them are peculiarly called upon to endeavour to serve God by regarding his will as the groundwork & rule on which all their conduct shd. be built, and after a compliment to our laws as made in conformity to the Scriptures, & with a view to enforce what they contained, he addressed himself with great seriousness & solemnity to the Magistracy of the Town on the particular purpose for which they were then met. He said that he spoke with boldness as an ambassador for Christ, not considering his individual capacity, & therefore hoped they would be as willing to hear, as he was desirous of enforcing what he thought, their duty, as implied in serving God. At the conclusion of the Sermon he particularly recommended the enforcing of the Laws against swearing & Sabbath-breaking; & while speaking of the latter referred his hearers to a passage in Isaiah which he said expressed his own idea of what was properly "keeping holy the Sabbath Day", & which from many other parts of Scripture he conceived applied equally to the Christian as to the Jewish Sabbath. If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath etc. (Isaiah 58, 13 v.) - this Mr T. said, he thought, was perfectly descriptive of that "hallowing" the Lord's Day incumbent on the followers of Christ who were looking to the enjoyment of a spiritual kingdom, & whose worship was not that of the outward act merely, but which was to be in spirit & in truth.

Wednesday 29 Sept. Called on Mr & Mrs Fenn who have brought one of their little Girls to Mr Allnutt to stay during their visit into Suffolk.

Friday Oct. 1st Dined at Mr Wright's.

Saturday 2nd Oct. Mrs Macalester & Miss Jones dined here on Thursday which I forgot to note.

Sunday Oct. 3rd Mr T. Powys did the whole Duty, Mr F. being in London on the business of the Deanery.

Monday 4th Oct. Mr & Mrs T. Powys & Mr Jones dined here, the Gentlemen having spent the morning in shooting.

Wednesday 6th Oct. Mrs Ryder & 3 of the Miss Parkinson's dined here.

Thursday 7th Oct. Went to Reading to call on Mrs Davison but found her in so weak a state as to forbid her entering into conversation. Called also on my Aunt, & Mrs Ryder.

Friday 8th Oct. Called on Mr & Mrs Goss who are just come to Henley. Mr Finch returned this afternoon.

Saturday 9th Oct. A fine rain, after a succession of very dry & warm weather. The Harvest of this year more generally

abundant than was ever recollected; but the price of the necessaries of life not much reduced by it. Thus are the bounties of Providence frustrated & marred by the iniquity of a lot of people who grow rich upon the distresses of mothers!

Sunday 10th Oct. Mr Finch has been steady in his refusal of the Deanery of Exeter, & is contented to remain plain rector of Harpsden, a situation which he makes honourable by his own exemplary conduct. He gave us this day a Sermon on Humility - shewing it, both as a moral virtue, & as a Christian Grace. In the latter he was particularly successful in his description of it, shewing its absolute necessity to the Christian Character, & proposing our blessed Saviour as the highest model of it for our constant example & imitation. And he concluded by a most beautiful & affecting admonition to cultivate it, by leading our thoughts to that eternal state when all distinctions but those of virtue & holiness will cease, & when the humble Christian will receive a reward to which the highest rank, attainments, knowledge or learning without it can have no claim. A man who thus holds the distinctions of life so cheap, & sits so loose to all its boasted advantages, is not likely to be tempted from his retirement by a dignity which can have no other real value than that of enlarging in some small degree his sphere of influence, & thus extending in the same proportion his powers of usefulness.

Oct. 11th Monday Went to Fairley in the Morning.

Oct. 12th Tuesday Mrs Norman & Miss Ward dined here. In the Evening we heard of a very sad accident which had happened to Roach who was thrown down by one of the Horses in driving Mr Finch's Waggon, and the Waggon itself went over him. He was taken to a Public House near where the accident happened, & he is in a very dangerous state.

Oct. 13th Wednesday William went to see Roach this morning, & found him much as was described. It is feared the Spine has received some injury as he is almost entirely helpless. I wrote immediately to Mr Finch who left his home yesterday with an intention of being absent for 3 weeks. We dined at Mrs Ryder's & staid in the Evening to hear Mr Jay (of Bath) at the Meeting. He gave us a very good Sermon, tho' with some little intemperance of language & spoke for an hour with great apparent ease to himself, & in a style of correctness & energy wonderful to those who are unacquainted with the power of habit of extempore preachers, & which gives them a command of language & a fluency of elocution scarcely credible.

Oct. 14th Thursday We went in the Morning to Exeter Street the place to which poor Roach was taken. We found him in a deplorable state, but with hopes of recovery.

Oct. 15 Friday Roach better & brought home in our Coach. Mr & Mrs Goss & Mrs Ryder called here.

Oct. 16 Saturday I was disappointed in going to see poor Roach this afternoon by the arrival of Mr Walker & his Son & Daughter to dinner, they slept here, tho', it is with difficulty I can put them to bed.

Sunday Oct. 17th Dean & Miss Walker left us this afternoon. Mr H. & myself walked to see Roach, who says he is much better, & Mr Coulson thinks him quite out of danger. I have

had a letter from Mr Finch, desiring Mr Grovesnor of Oxford may be sent for, but as he seems going on well, it is agreed to be unnecessary.

Oct. 18 Monday Went to see Roach in the afternoon, & notwithstanding Mr Coulson's opinion of his being better I view him as being in a very dangerous state. I found him out of bed, in the highest state of irritation yet extremely faint, his pulse very quick, his flesh sometimes hot, then very cold, his tongue dry, his eyes hollow, his wife told me he had had no sleep the whole night, & was totally without appetite. I wrote this acct. to Mr Finch, but told him at the same time Mr Coulson's opinion.

Oct. 19th & 20th Tuesday & Wednesday Roach much the same in my opinion, but in Mr Coulson's & Mr Powys' considerably better.

Oct. 21st Thursday Roach's pain & irritation somewhat lessened, but for near twenty hours he has been grievously troubled with a Hiccough. I mentioned it to Mr C. who considers it as of no consequence, but has sent him something to relieve it.

Oct. 22nd Friday Mr C. & Mr P. consider Roach as much better to day, & I myself perceive an abatement of some of the bad symptoms - the irritation is less, the hiccough better, & he lies more quietly in bed, but he gets no sleep & has no appetite, he appears still in a very doubtful state, but with an apparent amendment. He still looks very ill being greatly altered. On this day Mrs Hill of Wargrave the Miss Hills from Reading, & Mr E. Vansittart called on me.

Oct. 23 Saturday Mrs Roach sent to me to say her Husband was worse. I went immediately, & found him dying, his family around him in great distress & himself insensible (as I believe) of his approaching fate. I asked him if he could lift up his heart in prayer to God, & he said he could. I left him to the care of Mr Green, intending to return, but thought it better afterwards to send William to stay with him till the scene closed. It is an awful one, for alas there has been no preparation for death, no thoughts of an eternal world! But with God all things are possible, to his Grace Compassion & Mercy must we then leave him, praying that his last moments may be his best.

Sunday 24th Oct. Roach died at one o'Clock. William did not return till the morning. We had this afternoon an impressive Sermon from a Brother of Mr Fletcher's on the danger of apostasising from our Christian profession; in which he shewed the peculiar difficulties & temptations to which every professing Christian is exposed, the necessity of their being fully aware of, & courageous under, them so as not to look back after once putting their hand to the plow, and the conviction of his own mind that where a good work was begun in the heart, God would perfect it by his grace, so as to render it finally successfull, & productive of complete sanctification, & a meekness for the inheritance of the Saints in light.

Oct. 25th Monday Great exertions making to get our new building tiled in, it having been too long delayed.

Oct. 27 Wednesday Roach was buried this day, & followed to the grave by his wife & Children.

Oct. 28th Thursday Mr & Mrs Purkiss & Mary surprized us this morning by a visit, they eat some cold Beef with us, & in the afternoon returned to Marlow where they had slept the night before, being out on a Tour of picturesque observation. Margaret & myself called after they were gone on Mrs Roach, who was a good deal affected on seeing us. I pointed out to her the uses of affliction & endeavoured to direct her mind to the over-ruling providence of God in all the events of our lives, & to point out the necessity of being always prepared for death since the time of its arrival is so uncertain.

Oct. 30th Saturday Mrs Ryder dined here. Margaret very ill with tooth-ach ear-ach etc., the consequence, I believe, of a cold caught the Evening before, the weather being wet & cold. Mrs R. gives me a very indifferent account of Miss Stow, who is afflicted with some internal complaint.

Sunday 31st Oct. Mr Finch not being returned Mr P. did the whole Duty. At the Meeting in the Afternoon, all except poor Margaret.

Nov. 3 Wednesday Called on Dr & Miss Ord who are at Mrs Norman's. My dear Margaret much better. Received lately a most satisfactory account of Thomas from Mr Davies, describing him as a general favourite & very amiable in his conduct, & contented in his mind.

Friday 5th Nov. A Dinner given to the Workmen employed about our House to celebrate the covering in of the building, everything was conducted with great decency, & great mirth & harmony prevailed. Mr Knollis having called on us in his way from Tern Hill was detained here the whole of the day on acct. of the weather.

Nov. 6th Saturday Margaret being again ill with the Tooth ach, I persuaded her to walk with me to Mr Pring to have it taken out, which she did with great courage & alacrity. Finished lately reading the 2nd Vol. of Beveridge's private thoughts the last half of which I think very excellent, breathing a true spirit of piety & love of God.

Sunday Nov. 7th Mr Finch being returned he gave us this morning a very clear & excellent Sermon on Justification by Faith, reconciling the apparent difference in the statement of the doctrine by St Paul & St James, & shewing that they both rested on the same foundation, namely the merits & mediation of Christ. Mr F.'s Text was taken from St Paul's Epistle to the Romans, which being addressed to Jews who were in danger of trusting either to their own righteousness, or to the merit of their obedience to the Mosaic Law, it was necessary to overthrow by the most positive declaration opinions which were so adverse to the very design of Christ's coming, but St James's Epistle was addressed to Christians who professed faith in Christ, but were in danger of abusing the doctrine, & turning their liberty into licentiousness. To them therefore it was necessary to enforce the necessity of good works as fruits of faith, & by which alone it could be evidenced. St Paul always taught the same, but brought it forward in a different manner, & St James rested on no other foundation, tho' he saw the necessity of bringing forward with emphasis those works by which faith is evidenced. It was on the whole a very full statement of the doctrine, & made it as apparent to the reason, as it is clearly evidenced

in Scripture.

Nov. 8th Monday Dined at Mrs Norman's to meet Dr & Mrs Ord - Mrs N. very indifferent again with the complaint in her mouth.

Nov. 10th Wednesday Mr Finch dined here.

Nov. 11th Thursday Mr H. Frances Miss T Hodges & myself went to Reading to Mr Binfield's Concert. Margaret having been lately very indifferent with the head ach to wch.. she is so subject was afraid of venturing - the performance was tolerably good & very well attended.

Sunday November 14th Mr Finch's Sermon to day from the 1st Chap. of the 2nd Epistle of Peter 4th verse "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great & precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature". These promises Mr Finch shewed were principally three, all originating in the Gospel, & given by, & thro' Christ. 'Redemption from Sin; the gift of the Holy Spirit; & the rewards of a future State' - all these Mr F. observed were but indistinctly known, or understood till the coming of Christ; but during his ministry they were perfectly declared, & promised, to all those who received Him in faith, & performed those covenant engagements which a profession of being His disciples engaged them to - namely repentance, a forsaking of Sin, & a life of holy obedience; all of which they would be enabled to perform by those constant aids from the Spirit of Grace which would be afforded in answer to their earnest prayers. Mr F. in this Sermon made a full declaration respecting his sentiments of the necessity of divine assistance to enable us to perform every duty lying upon us; tho' he laid very considerable stress on our own endeavours & the capacity we have for rendering such divine impulses effectual. He probably inclines more to Carolinian (?) than Calvinistic sentiments; but he is a very evangelical teacher, and holds all the leading doctrines of the Gospel in a clear & distinguishing manner. His Sermons are to me highly interesting, and he states his subjects in a manner so clear & methodical & so peculiarly his own, that I feel very grateful to God for having placed me under his ministry.

In the afternoon we went to hear Mr Townshend at Henley. His discourse was, as usual, of the most awakening & impressive kind, aided by a delivery which seems to pierce to the very heart. His text was from Deuteronomy 4 ch. 29th Verse. "But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart & with all thy soul". After giving the primitive meaning of the passage, Mr T. applied it to our redemption from Sin thro' the mercy of God in Christ. He described in strong colours, the danger, the slavery, the odiousness, of Sin, & called upon all to pray earnestly that they might be saved from it. He pointed out the emphatical meaning of the word 'Thence' in the Text; that it meant that it was out of the depths of sin & misery that we were to look to God & be saved, that it particularly implied our being in a state of slavery & servitude to our sins, & as it were, subdued by them; & then being made sensible of our danger & misery we should from thence apply directly to Christ for Mercy & Salvation. He concluded with a most affecting appeal to the consciences of all present, whether they were indeed brought to this sight & sense of their sins; & if not, earnestly requiring them to beg earnestly of God that such convictions might be produced on their mind as would lead them immediately

to flee to the hope set before them, & obtain thro' Christ pardon & acceptance with God.

Mr Poston having now got a Living Mr T. will be enabled to place a Curate at Henley whose views & sentiments accord better with his own, a circumstance highly important, & no less gratifying to Mr Townshend's desires as an Ambassador for Christ.

Nov. 15th Monday Spent the day at Reading & dined with Mrs Ryder, who at the age of 75 enjoys a good health & the use of all her faculties - this appears the more extraordinary as she never had a strong constitution, & has always been subject to slight ailments, & symptoms indicative of decay.

The remainder of the week spent wholly at home in the cheerful enjoyment of the numerous blessings which by the bounty of Providence meet in my situation.

Sunday Nov. 21st Mr Finch did the whole Duty to day. His Sermon was from a Parable spoken by Christ to reprove the false profession of the Jews who demanded of Him the Authority by which he did the things which they witnessed, & by which their conduct was reprov'd. After answering them by the proposal of another question, he spoke this parable by which he censures in the severest manner a conduct made up of mere profession. The Text was from Matthew 21. "Which of these twain did the will of his Father" etc. Mr Finch applied his subject to the different characters, & ages, of his hearers, & pointed out in the general argument, how sinful those professors were who did not lead a life answerable to the profession they made; & how aggravated this sin would be to those whose opportunities & means of instruction had been such (particularly by a religious education) as to leave them without excuse. He especially reprobated the false plea used by too many, of the weakness & infirmity of human nature, when, as he said, the religion of the Gospel was peculiarly calculated to aid this weakness & help these infirmities, that it was in truth exactly suited to the nature of man, that while we have the atoning blood of Christ to plead & the assistance of the Holy Spirit granted, no human beings can justly plead, as an excuse for their neglect of religious practice, their own weakness & helplessness, because all needful helps are granted to earnest fervent prayer. He concluded with an exhortation to watchfulness, & prayer, & "perseverance to the end".

Saturday Nov. 27 This week has been spent with too little variety to demand any notice. My fears have to day been a good deal excited by an apparent indisposition in my dear Owen. He has not taken his usual exercise for some days, but to day he complained of giddiness in his head & want of appetite. Mr Hall too is but indifferent again & my Cook has been very unwell for more than a week. I have reason to be very thankful for the health I myself enjoy.

Nov. 28th Sunday Owen appears better to day in consequence of taking one of Ching's Lozenges last night. My dear Husband complains still of a great deal of head-ach. Mr Finch's Sermon to day was from a passage in the 2nd Epistle of St Peter, describing the final dissolution of the World. It was a subject particularly suited to his Powers, & he did indeed describe it in the most awful & affecting manner. He called upon us to join him in a meditation at once so grand & so important, in which the "terrible majesty" of God was so distinguishing a feature, at the same time that it was joined to noble displays of his wisdom & goodness,

that a "new Heaven & a new Earth would succeed" in which righteousness would dwell, so that the real Believer had nothing to dread, amidst the shock of Worlds, & in the dissolution of universal nature. He described very affectingly the destruction of all the works of nature & art, all the energies of Genius, all the labours of Knowledge, & the discoveries of Science, all distinctions of rank of fortune, & of every thing by which man as man is distinguished, all but his Soul, which was possessed in itself of a principle of immortality. But while all this excited feelings, powerful humiliating & affecting, yet nevertheless, to the true Believer they were attended with the highest degree of comfort, encouragement & hope, God was still exalted in wisdom, & goodness & majesty. The same qualities which had contributed to the Creation of the World were equally displayed in its intended dissolution, & would doubtless introduce such a new order of things as would redound to his own praise & glory, & the happiness of those whom he had created & redeemed. Mr Finch took occasion from hence to shew the superiority of the moral over the natural principle, of the spiritual over the earthly nature, that everything should be subordinated to the cultivation of the principles of piety & holiness. He further called upon us to reflect on the littleness of all earthly things in comparison to those which are heavenly & eternal - that pleasures, honours, distinctions of every kind would all seem at that hour as if they had never been, the hour of death was to each of us, the hour of the dissolution of the world. That all the distresses of life would then appear as a dream, wch.. vanishes in the light of the morning, these too would seem as if they had never been and tho' some remembrance of them would be retained, it would be such only as would add to the pleasure of having entered into rest. Mr F. concluded with an earnest exhortation to consider ourselves as strangers & sojourners on earth, & pass this life in constant preparation for entering upon that inheritance, which would be compleat in bliss, & eternal in duration.

30th Nov. Tuesday Miss Fox & the Miss Burns came to spend a little time with us.

Dec 1st Wednesday Spent in walking & conversation with our friends.

Dec 2nd Thursday Went to call on Mrs Ryder, whom we found so indifferent as to induce me to promise that Jane & myself shd. dine with her tomorrow.

Friday Dec 3rd Spent the day with Mrs R. whom we left rather better.

Saturday Dec. 4th Walked to Henley, the remainder of the day at home.

Sunday Dec 5th Mr Powys did the whole duty on acct. of Mr Finch's absence.

Monday Dec. 6th Mr H. & Miss Fox went to Reading. Mrs Ryder better. Owen who has given me some uneasiness on acct. of his health for the last fortnight appears to day a good deal better, may it please God to perfect his recovery!

Dec. 11th Saturday The week spent entirely at home (diversified only by an occasional dirty walk) but with such peaceful enjoyment of the society of my Friends, whose minds being so congenial to my own are capable of communicating

& receiving every pleasure which social intercourse offers. The Miss Burns & myself went this morning to Reading to see Mrs Ryder, & found her very weak & indifferent. I have omitted to mention that about ten days ago I heard from Mr Hansell of the death of his wife in a consumption. She has left two little Girls, and her Husband seemed deeply affected at her loss. So uncertain & frail is human bliss!

Sunday 12th Dec. Mr Finch gave us to day a continuation of the subject on which he discoursed the Sunday before last. He now described the final judgement as far as he was authorized by the account given of it in the Scriptures, & carried our imaginations to scenes of awe & majesty such as were sufficient very deeply to impress the mind, and tho' he acknowledged the insufficiency of language to give any adequate idea of a subject surpassing the heart of man to conceive yet the description was solemn & affecting in an high degree. He shewed the importance of being "wise betimes", lest that tremendous hour shd. come upon us unawares; & pointed out the awful account we must render to our judge of our time, talents, influence, fortune, & every other gift which we have received at the hand of God. He adverted also to the dreadful consequences of being found guilty before God, & endeavoured "by the terrors of the Lord to persuade man", who refused admonition in a milder way. May it be blessed to the Souls' good of all who heard it!

Dec. 13th Monday Our whole party walked to Mr Finch's in the morning, & afterwards to Henley, where, having asked permission to see the Dairy at Paradise House, Mrs Innis herself most obligingly shewed us all over her Gardens, & afterwards took us into her House, & pointed out to us a Cabinet of Curiosities, with some other things, that were pleasing & interesting to us all.

Dec. 14th Tuesday A Coursing Party in the morning; & Mr & Mrs Powys with Mr T. Hedges dined here. In the Evening we went to the Town Hall at Henley to see the new-invented Magic Lanthorn called the Phantasmagoria, with some other curious deceptions, & sleights of hand, which were indeed more unaccountable than anything of the kind I ever saw.

Dec. 15th Wednesday Our friends the Miss Burns left us to day to go to Abingdon. Jane B. a good deal indisposed with Tooth ach.

Dec. 18th Saturday The remainder of the week spent entirely at home, partly in preparation for mourning for Mr Brooksbank, an uncle of Mr Hall's by his first marriage.

Sunday Dec. 19th Mr Finch to day gave us a Sermon from a part of the prophecy of Malachi, descriptive of the coming of Christ in the Flesh. It was a very suitable discourse as preparatory to the approaching Festival of Christ's Nativity, & was connected with an elucidation of many other of the prophecies respecting our blessed Saviour, & John the Baptist the last of whom is predicted under the name of Elias or Elisha from his possessing much of the same character & spirit of this ancient Prophet, & from resembling him in many particulars of his life. It was a Sermon that shewed much acquaintance with the Sacred Writings, & was summed up with a very admirable practical admonition to receive this glorious Redeemer thus manifested, "The testimony of Jesus being the Spirit of Prophecy". In the afternoon we went to Henley Church to hear Mr Townshend.

His Sermon was from the 55 ch. of Isaiah, 8th & 9th verses "My thoughts are not your thoughts etc.". The subject was well & forcibly illustrated. He instanced it by shewing how different the conduct of God would be, & how much higher his thoughts & ways, than that of any human Being under the same circumstances first, by considering our conduct towards those of our fellow Creatures who had offended us. We are apt to resent & revenge affronts, & can seldom be brought to forgive them cordially, while God who is entitled to our highest love & obedience not only forgives our ingratitude, & manifold transgressions, but is the first to make offers of reconciliation, & to desire to restore us to his favour. The second instance Mr T. brought was in the Scheme of Redemption which as far surpasses the thoughts of man as "the heavens are higher than the earth". He compared also in this view the conduct of Man with that of God, that Man, in order to make his peace with his maker, would have contrived some way of establishing his own righteousness, would have thought of something he could do to compensate for his Sins, but God's offers were those of free grace, pardon & justification by the death of Christ, & imparted righteousness from his having fulfilled the whole Law in our stead. Mr T. concluded by an address to different descriptions of persons, earnestly persuading all to embrace the great Salvation offered without money & without price, & to adore that God whose knowledge & wisdom surpass our highest ideas, & exceed our most enlarged expectations.

Mr T. spent the Evening with us, & delighted us all by his cheerful & animated conversation, at once so interesting & instructive. I had this day a Letter from Mr Hansell in which he sends me a character of his late wife written by some unknown friend. I here transcribe it - "The soundness of her judgement, the liveliness of her imagination, & her correct & cultivated taste fitted her to have assumed a station of considerable eminence among those females whose literary productions have done honor to themselves & their country; such a prospect however, she readily relinquished when she considered herself as called upon to devote the whole of her time & her talents to the faithful discharge of conjugal & maternal duties; from these no allurements of gay dissipation, no feebleness of bodily frame, not even the fatigue & oppression of her last lingering disease, could ever withdraw her anxious attention. Thro' life she conducted herself in a manner equally decorous & pleasing, equally becoming the woman & the Christian; & at her death she displayed an enviable strength of mind, resting upon the basis of piety & of faith".

She was certainly a woman of uncommon powers of mind, but of a weak bodily frame, indeed the tenement always seemed too frail & fragile for the spirit that inhabited it, which was always soaring to something beyond its earthly capacities. She was not a woman exactly suited to Mr Hansell's turn of mind, but I believe, it did not interfere with their mutual concord. He felt himself indebted to her for a degree of affluence he could not otherwise have attained, & she had sense enough to respect virtues which were of a growth not exactly similar to her own. Thus I have reason to believe it was such a union of hearts, of minds, & of interests as must make the shock of separation severely felt.

January 21st 1803 The progress of my Journal having been interrupted for more than a month, by the distressing circumstance of our dear Jane's most dangerous illness from the Scarlet fever, I resume it with an expression of thankfulness to my "merciful & compassionate Lord God" for having not

only rescued our beloved Child from the jaws of death, but for having supported the minds of her Father & myself under the prospect of so heavy a trial. I record, with gratitude of the most heartfelt kind, that except at short intervals, & especially after the first two days when her danger was first apparent, my mind was kept in a state of comparative tranquillity by being able to apply all the valuable promises contained in the Word of God to the afflicted & grieved, to Children and to the believing Christian whose mind is stayed on God. I was then able to yield up my Child to the Will of God, recollecting that our blessed Saviour took little Children in his arms, & said that of such is the Kingdom of God, and that if taken, it was in all probability "from the evil to come". These & such considerations enabled me to bear with composure the expected stroke; tho' there were moments when the strong feelings of nature, & tender affection, revolted & shrank from an idea so painful, but the voice of God was heard in the midst if the cries of Nature, and "It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good", never wholly lost its efficacy over my mind. For his strengthening & assisting Grace given in answer to earnest Prayer, be the Praise! And may the remembrance of his various mercies, enable me for the time to come more assuredly to trust in Him, & to confide myself, & all most dear to me, into his hands, assured that he will do better for us all than I can either ask or think, or am worthy to receive. In regard to the compassion shewn in sparing the Life of my Child, I would wish that it should lead me, & all whom I am concerned for, to devote ourselves more openly to the service of the living God, & thus in the truest manner to commemorate the being answered in "the desires of our heart, by him in whose hands alone are the issues of life & death". The dear Child was taken ill on the very day of Henry's & Thomas's return from School; as soon we found it was the Scarlet Fever we sent all the other Children (except Henry) to Mr Painton's at Henley, whose Lodging was then vacant, & they have happily escaped the disorder. William alone has taken it of all our family which we should much lament, but that, as minds under the influence of gracious principles find good in everything, he has also experienced very sensibly the goodness of God in supporting his mind during his illness, & dissipating that dread of death which he always before fancied he should experience at its near approach. Thus to the true in heart "light ariseth out of darkness", & the most gloomy dispensations "work together for their good". Among the many outward comforts I have to be thankful for, in this my late season of trial I must especially notice the having Miss Fox with me, whose affection for the dear Child & friendship for Mr H. & me, led her to take her full share in the task of nursing, & she was able to be with her in those moments when the heart of a Parent would have been too deeply wounded by the sight & sense of her sufferings. The Servants too were all attention to her, & us. And our kind & excellent neighbour Mr Finch was quite a Brother to us, visiting her often twice a day, & that for hours together, often in the Child's room, & assisting us with medical advice, as good as that we received from Dr Taylor himself. Thus has a circumstance replete with distress & apprehension on its first approach, changed its aspect, & become, in its event a subject of praise & thanksgiving!

Sunday 23rd Jan Having the last two days been much indisposed with a pain in my head & face, I did not think it prudent to go out to day, indeed the pain in my head has been so severe as to incapacitate me for giving attention

to anything. I am this Evening better & hope to be soon well. Last Sunday afternoon we were at Henley Church & heard a Mr Guilleband preach whom Mr Townshend has some thoughts of taking for his Curate. I was not greatly pleased with the style of his preaching, there was doubtless much good in his Sermon, but there was also a great deal of irrelevant matter. The arrangement was not good, nor were the arguments so close & perspicuous as they might have been, but it would be unfair to judge of a Person's abilities by one Specimen, & therefore I hope he will improve upon a second hearing, should Mr T. be induced to place him in a situation so important.

Tuesday Jan. 25th All went to dine with the Children at Henley on a fine Turkey sent us by Mr Finch, who is this day set off with his Brother for Warwickshire. The Weather being very severe we left Jane & Lucy to sleep at Mr Painton's meaning ourselves to come tomorrow. Jan

26th Wednesday Mr Hall set off at nine o'clock with his two Boys in a Post Chaise for Clapham, where they expect to arrive by 3 o'clock. Tom (whom I have scarcely seen anything of) parted from his Sisters with tolerable composure, shedding only a few tears as he got into the Chaise; but he knows his situation to be so comfortable a one, & the partiality shewn him by Mr Davies is so marked & gratifying, that it can be little more than an exchange from one valuable Home to another, such at least must be his reflections if he reflects at all; & such must be ours who know how to estimate the value of one situation by comparing it with another. It is my earnest prayer to Almighty God that he will give to my dear Boy, & to all my Children, hearts to value & improve the advantages which by His good Providence they are put into possession of, that they may make proper returns of love & obedience to God as the "first great Cause" & to others as his Instruments who have taken the lead in informing their minds, & directing their steps into those paths which lead to comfort here, & happiness hereafter. Miss Fox & myself are now come to Henley, to spend the remainder of the week while our House is ventilated & fumigated, so as to render the return of the Children safe & proper.

Saturday Jan 29th Having had a violent Tooth ach for four & twenty hours, I sent to Mr Pring to take it out, this was done, and I soon found ease.

Sunday 30th Jan. A letter from Mr Hall this morning brought me the sad intelligence of Thomas's being taken with the Scarlet Fever. Mr & Mrs Davies were, however, so kind as to insist on nursing him in the House, & the symptoms appeared favourable.

Monday Jan 31st It has pleased God to afflict me still further by the illness of Frances, who, this morning, was seized with the same complaint. I brought her immediately home, gave her an emetic of Ipecacuanha (the first thing regularly prescribed in this disease) & sent for Mr Bailey. He has been here & gives me great encouragement, saying that he thinks she will have the disorder in a very mild way. Her spirits are good, & the Fever very moderate.

Tuesday Feb. 1st Frances better than could be expected, & a good account also this morning of Thomas.

Thursday Feb. 3rd Except a very troublesome Cough

Frances is so well that Mr Bailey has taken his leave & prescribes no more medicine, instead except one bottle of mixture & a Gargle. She has had nothing but wine & water with Biscuits, & broths from her first seizure.

Saturday Feb. 5th Mr Hall returned this day in health & safety, having left Tom making a rapid progress towards his usual health & spirits, and he has left him with satisfaction & full confidence to the care of Mr & Mrs Davies, whose attention to him has been highly affectionate & kind. Frances's Cough gives me some uneasiness, but I trust that a blister which I mean to put on, will remove any cause of alarm from my mind, indeed when I reflect on God's sparing mercies to me, in carrying three of my dear Children so well thro' this dangerous disorder, & a faithful Servant also who, in his station, is so highly important to my comfort, I have only to charge my Soul to "bless the Lord" & never to forget his loving kindness & tender mercy thus exercised towards me! These reflections, too, are brought home with double force upon my mind when I hear from different quarters of the mortality with which this disease has been attended. But God's "compassions fail not". To his faithful Servants he will ever with the temptation make a way to escape, & lay upon them no more than he will enable them to bear. Mr Townshend writes me word of the death of a Mr Parry, son to the East India Director of that name who was at Cambridge prosecuting his studies with unremitting diligence, & whose youth gave the promise of a manhood which would have been distinguished no less by Christian attainments than Classical erudition. He was an only Son, & fell a sacrifice in a few days to the malignant Scarlet fever! How light my own trial when compared with this! But Mr T. adds that he has seen a Letter from his Father, written since, which breathes such a strain not only of pious resignation, but of holy exultation in the prospect of his Son's admission to a state of Glory & Blessedness, as makes him no longer an object of compassion, & places him, even, beyond the reach of sympathy, unless from those holy & exalted minds who have attained to an equal degree of faith & hope, & who can thus realize to themselves the joy of a glorious immortality. There is but one source from whence such noble views, & such blessed consolations can be derived, but it is a source to which the Christian has free access. The cries of nature are loud & importunate, they often pierce very deep into the heart of the Parent. What a conquest, then, is it, when the voice of God is heard in the very midst of them, & has power to silence all the pleadings which the fondest recollections can suggest. These commands of God's sovereign Will, nothing but God's sovereign Grace, can enable us to obey. This is seen in those many instances which occur among unregenerate persons - their conduct on such occasions, is often that of madmen, the most extravagant expressions of grief, lost to all sense of comfort, finding for a time no good, or pleasure in anything, then, perhaps, launching out with all the extravagancies of dissipation, till their feelings are benumbed, a total forgetfulness of themselves & their grief succeeds. I speak of such afflictions as that experienced by Mr Parry - for there are many seeming griefs, & there are many seeming sufferers, griefs which affect not the mind, & sufferers who have no sensibility to suffering - but where the affliction is acute in itself, out of the common course of nature, & falls on a mind alive to all the sensibilities of humanity, the shock cannot be sustained, so as that the person shall remain firm, upright, unappalled, but by the assistance, by the whole support of a Divine Principle.

Philosophy may brave the storm, but while the Trunk stands, the Sap shrinks & no support to the vital principle is conveyed. Sensual enjoyments may call off the attention, may stifle the claims of nature or of conscience, but they merely lull & stupify, they are the cradle of a distempered soul by which it is rocked into a fatal sleep, but Religion - they who lean on Him, who, being touched with the feeling of our infirmities, knows what relief to give & how to apply it - they are able to sustain the severest stroke of his Providence, they find themselves borne up by a Power not their own, they are able to say in the language of faith, & with the feelings of trust & hope "It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good". These are, in great measure, the convictions of my own experience, they are truths established by observation. God grant that in every future Trial they may be realized to my Soul's comfort & everlasting Good! Nor let it be forgot that Prayer is the mean by which these blessings & supports are commonly conveyed. "Is any man afflicted let him pray" - pray, not merely at stated times, but whenever a sense of his grief presses down his spirits, then let him lift up his thoughts to God in silent Prayer, who is always found of them that seek him; & who never refused to hear & answer the prayer of faith, especially when offered in a season of trouble. If He sends afflictions he will give strength to bear them, they are sometimes intended as corrections, sometimes as trials of our faith & patience, sometimes to keep us humble, but always for our Good. God knows best what we require, & if we have but the privilege of calling him Father (a privilege which can only be properly attained by an union with Christ), we may be sure that he is a tender & loving Father, & that all his corrections are sent in love, & for purposes the most beneficial to our own eternal interests.

Tuesday Feb.. 8th Frances is this day so much recovered as to be able to walk down Stairs, & her spirits & appetite nearly as good as usual. Her Cough (which proved a violent Cold) is much mended, & the hoarseness in a great degree removed. The other Children continue well at Henley.

Wednesday Feb. 9th The accounts from Thomas continue favourable, & Frances still mends. I received this morning kind letters from Mr Finch, Mr Townshend & Mr Cooper to enquire after my Children, & to express their sympathy in my trouble.

Sunday Feb. 13th The remainder of the last week spent at home, with a mind full of gratitude to God for having restored my dear Children to such a measure of health as gives me reason to confide in their perfect recovery. Mr F. not being returned Mr Powys did the Duty, & on account of a sudden Thaw we did not go out in the Afternoon. Mr Townshend writes me word that he has appointed Mr Guilleband to the Curacy of Henley; & he has great confidence that his choice has been directed under such influence & by such motives, as will eventually prove it to be right, & the best that could have been made.

Sunday Feb. 20th Another week spent like the last, in which there has been nothing new to note. Thomas we hear has been to Church, & Frances has been once out, both nearly restored to health. Mr Finch not being returned Mr P. did the whole Duty to day, & I was indeed grieved to hear such sentiments from the pulpit, whereby human reason, & human nature were exalted to a place, which the Almighty alone can fill - both were described as competent,

if duly cultivated, to make us good & happy here, & capable of purchasing a reward hereafter - not a single word of redemption by Christ, of the Grace of the Holy Spirit - indeed his system seemed to render both unnecessary. May God enlighten his mind in the way of Faith! and cause the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ to shine into his heart!

Monday Feb. 21st A most grievous discovery of innate depravity has been this day made in the person of Nelly Tegg, whom we have discovered to have been in the habit of taking money from the Children's Pockets after they were in bed, and in whose Boxes were found 28s. & 6d. so obtained, besides a gold Seal, several valuable Trinkets, a new Pocket Handkerchief, Ribbon Lace Tape etc. etc. all stolen from me, & some out of a Bureau, to do which she must have got the key into her possession. What has added to the crime, is the lies she persists in telling, & those which she has before told in reference to her general conduct; & her having begged things of me, complaining of want, when she had abundance - and above all the instructions, advice, & encouragement she has had both here & at home, sufficient to have kept her from such shameful practices, had not her heart been dead to every virtuous principle. Margaret returned home yesterday, but Owen is to remain at Henley a little longer.

Sunday 27th Feb. Another week has passed with no variety of occurrence, but God's mercies are still present with me, & subjects for praise & gratitude have never been wanting. My dear Children are restored to their usual health, & no further cause for anxiety has at present appeared. Mr Finch not being yet returned Mr Powys again did the whole Duty. This is the first day of Mr Guilleband's entering upon his important situation as Curate of Henley. But we went to the Meeting where Mr Scholfield delivered a Sermon in reference to the removal of Mr Hewitt & his Family to America whither they are going to settle for the remainder of their lives. The Text was from Exodus 33. 14th & 15th verses. Mr S. afterward addressed them with a solemn & affectionate leave-taking, which tho' I did not think strictly proper (as it rather tended to encourage such emigrations) yet it was, I daresay, interesting to them, & the congregation at large who are much attached to them, & among whom they have been very useful in spreading the truths of the Gospel. They expect to sail the 7th of March.

Thursday 3rd March As Life & Death, Good & Evil, Prosperity & Adversity are often closely connected in our experience, so Birth days, & Seasons of awful solemnity tread sometimes on the heels of each other. It is thus at the present period - yesterday was the anniversary of my dear Margaret's birth; to day is the anniversary of my beloved Father's death! The one has been fifteen years entered on a world of care & trial, the other, fourteen years entered into Rest, and to a state of unmixed joy, yet one period is remembered with pleasure, the other, perhaps, recollected with regret - so much at variance in this instance are the claims of nature & truth! So different is the happiness of sensation from that of reason & reflection! While we are inhabitants of the earth, we partake of its nature & qualities - matter is inert & cannot rise till impelled by some vivifying power out of itself, superior to it. While we partake of flesh & blood, animal nature will also make its claims upon us, & the tender ties of husband & wife, parent & child will be strongly felt. Whatever therefore unites, whatever separates these interesting & dear relations will affect the heart with

either pain or pleasure. But these sensations are wholly at variance with the nether part of our nature, its spiritual faculties. These speak a different language, "Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward", "the days of man are few & full of sorrow" and on the other hand "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, he shall rest from his labours". The righteous die, they are taken from "the evil to come", a crown of joy is their inheritance, their birth-right if heirs of God & joint heirs with Christ. Why then, call together our Friends to celebrate with festivity & joy the days of our birth, & put on mourning, & wear the garment of heaviness, on the days of our friends' decease? It is because the human nature has superceded the divine in our composition, the love of self, the love of present self, its transient gratifications, its vanities, the dread of pain & suffering, these tho' all natural, & irremediable, yet prove the degeneracy of our nature, its loss of the divine image & character, originally enstamped upon it, and shew that man left to himself would never recover from that state of Sin & Suffering, & abandonment to his depraved appetites, into which he has fallen. We cannot, it is true, call the tender & natural affections of our nature Sin or Depravity, there is a sort of necessity in them, we are tied & bound by them, but their indulgence, their mere prevalence, to the overthrow of the higher, & better, the fundamental principles on which our existence is built, strongly argues Sin & Depravity. Could faith be acted upon, could love to those most dear to us be freed from the corruption of selfish, animal passions, the death of our friends would be rejoiced in almost equally with their birth (on the supposition of their meetness for such a change) but this now is far from being the case, even among the very best of men. The true Christian will resign a beloved object, because he knows God is faithful to his promises, he will perhaps resign this object with something like cheerfulness, he will strive that "the will of God" shall be accomplished in his heart & affections, "as it is done in Heaven". And he will moreover be enabled to "rejoice in tribulation", but all this will be in the midst of strong emotions of a contrary tendency, it will be with a severe pressure on the animal spirits, and it must also be with helps & assistances totally independent of himself & which are only granted to earnest Prayer. The Father of spirits, He also who knows what is in train, who having been touched with the feeling of our infirmities, & having been in all points tempted like as we are, He will give his Holy Spirit to those who ask it; He will succour us when tempted, He will comfort us when afflicted, He will lead us beside the still waters; and will inspire into our hearts that high hope (the best of all others) which is full of a blessed & glorious immortality. Better, then, if we could but think so, is the day of our death than the day of our birth, better for ourselves, better for those we love, not that I would undervalue life, or encourage a weariness of living. By life we are fitted for death, or rather by our mortal life we are qualified for that which is immortal. Its importance therefore is obvious. But we should look upon it more as a period of trial, than of enjoyment, of duty than of self-indulgence. Life, thus considered, will enable a man so to number his days that he may apply his heart unto wisdom. Whether his days are few or many, whether his lot in temporal things be prosperous or adverse, his spirit will be under the influence of that wisdom which is from above; he will live in the cheerful exercise of his various duties, or he will die in the humble hope of attaining a far better inheritance among the Saints in light.

Friday March 4th I forgot to mention that on Wednesday I brought Owen home, on acct. of his having a Cold now prevalent, & which I thought required better nursing than I could give him at a distance. He is better, & Jane also, who appeared to have the same complaint, but to day, Mr Hall, Miss Fox, & Lucy are all indisposed with it, & we have reason to suppose it will go thro' the House, as we understand this is generally the case when it once gets into a Family. May it please God to carry us all well thro' it. Mr Brown of Tadley called to day.

Saturday March 5th Miss Fox in bed all day, Margaret beginning to be ill with the same complaint, Lucy also very indifferent.

Sunday 6th March Miss Fox better, but Margaret a good deal ill, with faintness, head-ach, want of appetite & other symptoms of Fever & Cold. I have not been able to go out all day.

Monday Mar. 7th Our invalids better, but very low in their spirits, & Miss Fox distressed by giddiness & other symptoms of weakness.

Wednesday Mar. 9th Frances indisposed with apparently the same complaint, Lucy & James both ill with it.

Thursday Mar. 10th A new Schoolmistress arrived, recommended by Mrs Purkis. She brought me letters from Mr Purkis informing me of the death of Mrs Ansell (Mrs P's Mother). She was taken with this complaint & died in two days. Her sister now lies dangerously ill with it; & it has proved very fatal among people in advanced life thro' the whole neighbourhood. Our own Family much better to day. Mr Hall went this morning on Horseback to London to settle finally with Mr Jones about furnishing our House.

Friday Mar. 11th I have just finished reading Gisborne's Sermons. & have been, on the whole, much pleased with them, they are very clear & very conclusive; & the language & style of composition is what one should expect from a Scholar, a Gentleman, & a Christian such as Mr Gisborne is. They speak plainly, & explicitly, but never offensively, they sometimes, I think, want emphasis (if this can be applied to style as well as manner) but this is compensated by the purity of language, & freedom from any affected phraseology which is always apparent, & which cannot fail to please a pure taste, & uncontaminated judgement, & is particularly calculated for the class of readers into whose hands these Sermons are the most likely to fall. The half-religion so common in the world is admirably exposed, & people are left without excuse if they read such serious addresses & use as means by which they may be rendered profitable to them.

Saturday Mar. 12th Miss Fox wishing to return home on acct. of her Sister, attempted to get a place in one of the Oxford Coaches, but could not succeed.

Sunday 13th Mar. I went this afternoon to Henley Church, & was much gratified by the manner in which Mr Guilleband went thro' the whole Service. He reads with devotion & propriety; and his Sermon was an address to his hearers at once faithful & affectionate, shewing the prejudices wch.. were too often conceived against the Truth, & the ministers

who preached it; but that these prejudices were founded in ignorance, & should be thrown aside, if any advantage is expected to be derived from an attendance on the Word & Ordinance of God.

Monday Mar. 14th Mr Hall set off this morning in the Whiskey with Miss Fox for Brentford, and took Owen with them by way of indulgence. Miss Fox much better but not well. The Children nearly well, & walked with me to Henley in the morning; when I called on Mrs Norman & Mrs Guilleband.

Tuesday Mar. 15th Mr Hall & Owen returned home this Afternoon in health & safety, and left all our friends at Brentford well; except Mrs Jodrell, who still lies in a dangerous state to the great distress of Mrs Purkis.

Wednesday Mar. 16th Walked again to the School to day, & am of opinion that our new School-mistress will suit her situation very well. The Weather is now getting very fine, after some of the sharpest Cold we have experienced thro' the Winter. It is hoped this may tend to check the epidemic complaint which is become so universal, & from which scarcely a Family is free. There was never known any complaint of such general prevalence; & it is one in wch.. the constitution requires to be supported from the first seizure.

Saturday Mar. 19th Mr & Mrs Guilleband called this morning. They promise to prove agreeable acquaintance to us, should they continue in Henley. A Letter from Miss Fox brings nothing but melancholy accounts of the effects of the pestilential disorder which so universally prevails. Mr Finch is still detained in London by the same illness. In short I do not hear of a single Family who have not suffered from it more or less.

Sunday Mar. 20th Mr Powys gave us this morning a very plain & satisfactory Discourse on the Atonement. He placed the doctrine in a true scriptural point of view; (tho' strange to say!) in flat contradiction to what he had advanced from the same Pulpit only the Sunday before. He now spoke of the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross as the only atonement for Sin; and that it was on this alone we must depend for acceptance with God, that while many were inclined to trust some intrinsic merit in themselves which should entitle them to Heaven, we should place our dependance on Christ alone, who having bought us with a "price" was alone capable of purchasing for us so great a blessing. Last Sunday we were taught that a sincere tho' imperfect obedience to the Law of God would not only be accepted by Him, but would entitle us to the joys of Heaven & qualify us for them - that allowance would be made for the frailty of our nature, & that nothing but the natural indulgence of sin would deprive us of the favour of God, without a single mention of the name, or the slightest reference to the work of Salvation by Christ. This was altogether set aside; nor could be understood as necessary by the whole tenour of the discourse. It thus appears that Mr P. is governed by no system of opinions, that his religion is built on no settled foundation; and that his Sermons are taken from the writings of others, sometimes according to one scheme sometimes to another. May it please God to open his eyes, & shew him the only true foundation on which a Minister of the Gospel should build, that thus being taught himself he may be the

better enabled to teach others the way to everlasting life!

Wednesday Mar. 23rd Went with Mr Hall to Reading, called on my Aunt, & dined with Mrs Ryder. Mr Hall this day dismissed Mr Jones having been ill used by him on acct. of some part of his engagement to finish the House. Mr Finch returned home yesterday.

Friday Mar. 25th This day's Post brought me a melancholy Letter from Miss Fox, containing an account of the death of Mr Randall. He was seized with the prevailing complaint at Mrs Ansell's Funeral, & died only a week afterwards. A most awful event when all circumstances are considered! Miss Fox adds that her Sister is taken with the same complaint; & that she is herself far from well.

Saturday Mar. 26th Mr Townshend came to us to dinner & means to stay till Monday morning. His company is always a great pleasure to us, as well as an improvement.

Sunday March 27th Mr Finch's Sermon to day was on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. He spoke of it chiefly in its general application, as referring to the conduct of two descriptions of persons who were born with equal advantages, but whose conduct under them had been widely different. He thus shewed the manner in which the Sinner abuses the gifts & talents of his Creator & Father, & the natural progress of vice, to ruin, infamy, & the dereliction of all good principles. The Prodigal first left his Father's House, this Mr F. considered as analogous to the sinners forgetfulness of God's presence, which, tho' it could not all times prevail, was yet generally induced by the neglect of private prayer & of public worship, & then by an abandonment of himself to all sinful gratifications. He next gave himself to fulfill all iniquity with greediness, and having wasted all his resources, being lost to every religious consolation & religious privilege, he was left to feed on husks, to the lowest of all possible employments & the most degrading of all animal gratifications, after adverting to the natural & necessary consequence of a vicious course of life Mr F. spoke of the still more fatal effects of thus living as without God in the world, by the deprivation of all the means of Grace, of all the comforts, all the encouragements of religion, of all those spiritual enjoyments so necessary to the Soul in the troubles & trials of life. The 2nd part of the discourse was to shew the wonderful mercy & compassionate goodness of God in being so willing to receive his penitent Children, & answering them from the very first dawn of repentance, in the full desires of their heart - no sooner had the Prodigal determined to return to his Father, & make confession of his guilt than the Father saw met him when he was yet a great way off, & he was received, & forgiven with a joy & welcome that his conduct but ill merited, but which it was the Father's gracious will to bestow. In the afternoon we went to Henley Church. Mr Townshend's Sermon was on the concluding verses of our Saviour's Sermon on the Mount. The subject on the danger folly & wickedness of professing to believe in Christ without leading a life answerable to such a profession. That such persons would be disowned by Christ in that day when the solemn reward was given; that he would then say "Depart from me I never knew ye". He proved from Scripture authorities, that a Person might be able in the name of Christ to cast out Devils as Judas had done, to work miracles, & to prophecy as Balaam & Caiphas had done, but yet have no such faith in Christ as would save them, not being connected with holiness of heart &

life. He concluded with a solemn exhortation to all closely to examine themselves whether they were indeed Christ's disciples, which could only be proved by doing his words as well as hearing them. He contrasted the design of Christ's first & second coming, so as strongly to increase the effect of both on the mind. One he said was to draw sinners towards him, the other to bid those who remained impenitent to depart from Him - a dreadful sentence - but which all are liable to who do not repent in time, & "do works meet for repentance".

Friday April 1st Having been made very uncomfortable for many weeks past by a constant pain at the back of my head I sent to Mr Bulley for his advice. He recommended a blister to me which I have now on, & which I trust, by the blessing of God, may be the mean of removing so troublesome a complaint. If this is not the case I desire to be resigned to whatever is the will of God concerning me. It is possible to be too anxious for the common blessing of health. I think I have been so myself, especially for my Children. I have made a sort of idol of it; & therefore, probably, I may not have been allowed the full possession of it. My peace has been perpetually broken in upon by the illnesses of my dear Children (those whom I love even better than myself) & this may have been in mercy; to shew me that nothing must be desired in comparison with the favour of God, nor sought anxiously but his loving-kindness - this is indeed "better than life" or health, or any other enjoyment if we could but so esteem it, and I beg of God to make me sensible of this, & to impress it upon the minds of all whom I love & pray for.

Sunday April 3rd Having continued very unwell the whole of yesterday, & my head ach increasing thro' the night, I sent again for Mr Bulley this morning. He came & prescribed to me a dose of Calomel, which I determine to take tho' I have hitherto entertained some prejudice against it. I went to Church in the morning, & heard from Mr Finch a very affecting & persuasive discourse on the circumstances which preceded our blessed Lord's Crucifixion. He described in most pathetic language the grief & consternation of Christ's disciples on being told of what he had to suffer, & what they actually witnessed of his sufferings; & contrasted it with our feelings on the same subject - to us it was full of comfort & hope, while they followed him sorrowing to the Grave. We could see the wrath of God & the condemnation of Sinners buried with him in that Grave; they could only weep over their friend, & Master thus (as it appeared to them) by an untimely death snatched from them. How then should we evince our love & gratitude to our Saviour & Benefactor? It can only be done by leading a life of faith on the Son of God, "the righteousness which is by faith" should be our aim, & under the influence of the blessed spirit may be attained. Mr Finch pointed out in an especial manner the humility of our Lord, in his birth, in his life & in his death, adding "So low did he lay the foundations of that Church which was to be raised so high, & which will continue to be built upon till Time shall be no more."

Monday April 4th I thank God that my head is to day much relieved, & that I am much better for the means which I have been using, for the cure of my complaints. When I contrast my present feelings with those I have for some days experienced, I can only bless God for having been so much "better to me than my fears" suggested, & acknowledge the weakness & infirmity of my nature which allowed such fears

to take possession of my mind. Yet they were not the fears of dying (for I trust that, thro' Christ, my peace is made with God & that an entrance would be ministered to me into the everlasting Kingdom of my Lord & Saviour!) but they were fears for those I love - fears that they would too much grieve for the loss of me, fears for their sufferings which I could too well anticipate. Yet I recollected the many kind promises of God, & I endeavoured to realize them to my mind, but while the spirit was willing, the flesh was weak, & subdued for a time that faith on which alone my hopes could be founded. I can only pray to have my faith & trust increased in every future trial.

Tuesday April 5th A night fall of rain determined me to take the advice of Dr Taylor. I went to him at Reading, & he treats my complaint as rheumatic. I have been cupped, & am to take Tincture of Gerinacum.

Wednesday April 6th I passed last night better than many preceding ones, & am on the whole better to day.

Thursday April 7th My head is again very troublesome, & I have to day written to Mr Knight to ask his advice, nothing having relieved me which has been hitherto tried. May the Great Physician point out the means of cure, or sustain me & mine in the conflict, that we may "come off conquerors" in the hour of trial!

Good Friday (April 8th) Mr Bulley breakfasted here this morning & continues to assure me that the pain in my head is only rheumatic, & that there is nothing at all to alarm me in it. I have bathed my head with hartshorn & brandy which has given me some relief.

Sunday Ap. 10th Mr Finch's Sermon to day was from the 10th Verse of the 3rd Chap. of the Epistle to the Phillippians, "That I may know him & the power of his resurrection". He laid great stress on the powerful evidence which the resurrection of our Lord afforded to the truth of Christianity, indeed he seemed to think it superior to all other. He spoke of the power of Christ's resurrection as consisting principally of four things - first its practical use which is often enforced by the apostles in their writings, that being buried with Christ in Baptism we should also rise with him to heavenly-mindedness & a holy life of conversation, that the very mode of administering baptism in the primitive times was indicative of this. 2ndly the proof, the undeniable & most important proof, it afforded of the truth of Christianity, & that Christ was indeed the Saviour which shd. come into the world. 3rdly the hope it affords amidst all the sorrows of life & in the prospect of death, such as cannot be equalled by any other consideration to the new believer, and 4thly the power was signally manifested in the bestowal of the supernatural influences of the Holy Spirit by which alone the heart could be renewed to holiness, & the soul supported & encouraged in a religious course of life. "When Christ ascended up on high he led captivity captive, & gave gifts to men" - these were the gifts, they are of the first & highest importance to our spiritual & eternal welfare. Mr F. concluded with an earnest exhortation that we would strive to attain to a knowledge of the excellency of Christ Jesus, so that we may know him & the power of his resurrection & the saving of our Souls.

Tuesday Ap. 12th I recd. a Letter from Mr Knight this

morning recommending me to put my legs into warm water for half an hour & to take while in the water 12 Grains of Dovers Powder.

Wednesday Ap. 13th I have tried the above prescription with success, & find myself much benefitted.

Thursday Ap. 14th Miss Lee dined here, & Mr & Mrs Guilleband drank Tea with us. I find Mr G. a man of well-cultivated understanding, & of just & correct sentiments, & possessed of such qualities as cannot fail, I think, of subduing any prejudices which may have been raised against him on acct. of the strictness of his religious practice. Mrs Townshend & Mrs T. Powys called on me yesterday morning.

Friday Ap. 15th The pain in my head is considerably relieved, & I trust I shall soon enjoy my usual health.

Sunday April 17th Mr Finch's Sermon this morning was from the .. verse of the 14th Chap. of St John - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid". From this most beautiful & interesting passage in a discourse of our blessed Lord's to his disciples, Mr F. addressed us in language the most appropriate to convey ideas the most tender & affecting. He spoke of this Divine Legacy as indeed the kindest & best that could be bestowed on creatures such as ourselves, who, being by the construction of our nature "born to trouble as the sparks fly upwards" require some counteracting principle to secure our peace amidst the outward storms & troubles of life. He contrasted this blessed Peace bequeathed by Christ, & ensured to all his faithful followers, with those pleasures honours & profits which the world has to bestow; he shewed the uncertainty & insufficiency of the one towards the attainment of peace, while the other met all our wants, & was calculated to fill all our desires. From hence he shewed the importance of obtaining an interest in the favour of God, thro' faith in Christ, by which this peace could be alone secured, & enjoyed. This he enforced by the strongest arguments, & then again reverted to the leading subject of the Text - That "peace of God which passeth all understanding" was bequeathed by Christ, thro' the influences of his Holy Spirit. He purchased Salvation for Sinners, & he bequeathed peace to all who should by the "obedience of faith" become his disciples. Life is full of sorrow & trouble, it is exposed to suffering from a thousand causes, but the peace which flows from Christ, from our union to, & interest in, him, is sufficient to mitigate, if not to cure, all these ills. It points to the end, the purposes, of suffering. It shews that "affliction cometh not forth of the dust" but that it is sent by a merciful Father, to correct, or to try us, & that we shall by the help of his gracious spirit come off conquerors, & more than conquerors thro' him who has loved us. "He maketh all our bed in our sickness", his peace soothes all the sorrows of our hearts. It is of the nature of the Soul, & becomes after a time incorporated with all its powers, & when we lie down on the bed of death it will diffuse a calm, a confidence that cannot be disturbed, and it will pass with us to the realms of everlasting bliss! O blessed Peace! that can thus subdue the sorest griefs to which humanity is liable. O kind & compassionate God & Saviour thus to bestow on us so precious a gift! May we pay thee our highest & best adoration! May we love thee with our best & purest affection!

Monday Ap. 18 Mr Clarke came from London to survey our new building, & to form his judgement as to the proper mode of finishing it.

Wednesday Ap. 20th Mrs Ryder & my Aunt dined here.

Thursday Ap. 21 The Children dined at Mr Guilleband's & I went in the afternoon to Tea that I might return with them. The weather is now become very cold again, & I find a return of pain in my head, but not to any great degree.

Sunday Ap. 24th Mr Finch took again the whole duty upon himself in order to allow of Mr Powys's going to Fawley. His Sermon this morning was from the 1st Chap. of the 2nd Epistle of St Peter 5,6,7th verses. It was like most of his discourses, clear, forcible, instructive, & full of that affectionate persuasion by which the feelings are subdued, if the understanding is not always convinced. Mr Hall thinks him the finest Preacher he ever heard - without a single exception - I think him the most interesting one I ever heard. There is a tenderness of manner, a something in the very tone of his voice wch.. according with the general strain of his discourses tend so to soften the heart, that it is prepared for every impression which the words themselves are intended to make on it. The words, too, are so exactly appropriate to convey the sentiment, & his quotations from Scripture selected with such admirable precision & judgement, that the ear, the heart & the understanding are equally pleased & gratified. His favourite topics (or those I should rather say on which he is more especially eloquent) are 'the blessedness of a future state; the peace of mind which religion gives; & charity, or that extensive benevolence which is the link of union between man & man, & at once regulates the judgement & softens the heart. He considered the passage on wch.. he founded his Sermon to day, as containing the sum & substance of Christian virtues built on their only true foundation, Christian Faith - Faith in Christ as a Redeemer & Sanctifier, & thro' whom alone we can obtain acceptance with God, & admission into Heaven. In describing the blessedness of this faith Mr Finch connected it, in a manner not quite common, with the hope of a joyful resurrection, as the chief end of the believer's faith. The salvation of our Souls is doubtless "the end of our faith", but it is not the sole & ultimate end; an idea which his words rather too strongly conveyed. Doubtless "a hope full of immortality" is the noblest idea that can fill the mind, & it is also an idea that nothing but the faith of the Gospel can yield; but faith is also connected with the Glory of God & the real Believer will have this as much at heart, as the independant consideration of obtaining for himself a state of final happiness. Mr F. spoke upon each of the virtues & qualities as they are arranged by the apostle; which arrangement he particularly approved - he marked with great precision the use of knowledge both in the forming religious opinions, & the regulation of christian practice. He said that 'temperance' would be the only necessary personal qualification, if life offered nothing but pleasures & enjoyments; but being exposed to various trials & temptations "patience" became a necessary & indispensable qualification, but it must be Christian patience. Mr Finch marked the distinction between "brotherly kindness" & "charity" - the first he said applied to our fellow Christians, the other included all mankind. And here he expatiated on the extensive law of kindness which these terms implied, & he shewed that while brotherly love bound us by the closest ties of amity & friendship, charity required of us to do all the

good in our power to mankind at large without distinction of Country, of Party, or of anything by which separations are too often made. And that it must extend even to our enemies, so far as is consistent with prudence, & the honour of God.

We went in the afternoon to Henley Church - Mr Guilleband's Sermon was from the 7th Chap: of the E. to the Romans "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death!" It was not a very impressive discourse. His style is too diffuse, & his matter not well arranged or clear, nor is he sufficiently close in his application, hence his Sermons pass over the understanding without impressing it.

Friday Ap. 29th The week has passed without a single occurrence to note; unless to acknowledge the mercy of God (which I do with a most thankful heart) in preserving us in health & comfort. May it please him to continue these his mercies to us.

A part of my time has, indeed, been delightfully employed in reading the first Vol. of Hayley's Life of Cowper which contains a large number of the private Letters of the Poet to some of his most intimate friends. And I shd. stop here, also, to acknowledge the goodness of God in having given me a capacity for the enjoyment of so much intellectual pleasure. It is what I would not exchange for all which the world has to bestow. Many a dark hour has it enlightened, many a sad feeling has it subdued. Indeed the exercise of that portion of intellect which God has given me both in reading & writing has been one of the highest enjoyments of my life, & has certainly been more than sufficient to balance the pain which a too acute feeling (intimately connected with the gift itself) has sometimes occasioned. I now read on subjects of Religion with as much pleasure as I formerly did on those of mere amusement. And when these are combined with strength of intellect & beauty of composition - when I can trace them in works of a glowing imagination & even in the playfulness & gaiety of a private correspondence, my imagination is immediately lighted up to a full participation of all the writer felt, & all he has the power to communicate. This brings me back immediately to Cowper - Hayley appears to be a very judicious Biographer - there are many circumstances of this amiable Poet's life that were not fit to be laid open to the public eye, these are not wholly suppressed, but touched upon with that delicacy & tenderness which they required - mental derangement in the abstract excites nothing but pity, in the detail it might awaken a different sensation. He appears to have been a man of an excellent temper & disposition, humble, affectionate, benevolent. From his youth possessed of feelings too strong for any powers of reason to subdue, and of an imagination, which could not but terminate as it did in sublime flights of Poetry. As a young man he appears to have escaped all the vices of his age, & not to have been misled by any habits which should contaminate the purity of his moral principles. His malady threw him into the society of some eminently religious Characters, & thro' their instrumentality he became what many of his Poems describe him - a true Believer. When under the influence of his disease, his mind was affected with the deepest melancholy, but even then he thought clearly, & expressed himself correctly upon every subject on which he exercised his pen. Many of his Letters in the first Vol. are upon religious subjects, & shew him to have been indeed the enlightened professor, no less than the humble believer. Many of his others are upon subjects intimately connected with his own circumstances

& feelings and seem a perfect portrait of his mind at the time they were written. There is a sweet & tender cheerfulness in most of them, with an air of gaiety & playfulness in many, that render them peculiarly interesting - the style is perfectly easy & natural, highly tender & affectionate where he addresses those of his female relations & friends who stand high in his esteem, with a general urbanity towards all, so as to shew him to have possessed a mind no less sensible of what is great & good in the characters of others, than compassionate & charitable to those, of a weaker sort. The susceptibility of his temper is evident throughout; and it would have become a very dangerous quality had it not been checked by that humility, self-knowledge, & self-abasement which religion taught him. To it he was perhaps indebted for all his excellence as a Poet, for the same channels by which all the tender sensibilities which form his character as a man, found an entrance, the higher susceptibilities were admitted which characterize all his glowing descriptions in his various poems, & distinguish him no less as a faithful & animated painter of nature in all her varieties, than a lover of moral & religious truth in its most sublime & elevated combinations.

Sunday May 1st Mr Finch being indisposed Mr Powys did the whole Duty. In the afternoon we went to the meeting, & heard from Mr Scholfield a very good Sermon on that growth in Grace which shd. be the high aim of all who sincerely believe the doctrines of the Gospel.

Wednesday May 4th I have now finished the 2nd Vol. of Cowper's interesting & most affecting life. This also contains a large number of his Letters, but they are not on the whole so pleasing as those in the former Volume - they relate chiefly to his translation of Homer, & many of them might have been better omitted - they mark an increased anxiety for the success of his work, an anxiety easily accounted for by that strength of feeling, & ardour of imagination which have led Men to attach an undue degree of importance to things not in themselves entitled to it - but for this, I shd. wonder at it still more; for it seems to be somewhat inconsistent with those established principles of religion by which his conduct was almost invariably regulated. Nor is there, in these Letters, so much ease & vivacity as in his former ones. His malady began to increase, & all the cheerful powers of his mind were enchained by it. But on the whole his Letters are certainly not only the model, but the finished exemplars, of all epistolary writings - graceful, elegant, lively, humorous, yet so perfectly easy & natural, that there is scarce a single expression to be found but what might make a part in a familiar, enlightened conversation. Tho' his imagination was of that creative kind as to be perpetually sending forth new ideas, even upon old subjects, yet the expression is always so natural, as to convey them in the most plain & pleasing manner to the mind of his readers; nor is this the peculiar excellence of his prose writing, it extends in a remarkable degree to his Poetry, where it becomes a still more distinguishable talent; because obscurity is here somewhat of an allowable fault. For tenderness, & true pathos which must always be marked by a dignified simplicity of expression, Cowper is not to be excelled. It is to be found especially in his Letters, & Verses, to those of his female Friends who were particularly endeared to him by the ties of gratitude & esteem. Of his translations I cannot judge - to read merely, they are far inferior to his original productions; and I cannot but lament that so much of his valuable time was devoted

to this species of composition. At the close of the second volume, a very able character is drawn of of his style, & comparative excellence as a Poet, by an unknown hand. Hayley was however well qualified to estimate the extent of genius & talents which he must so often also have brought into comparison with his own - tho' not perhaps so well able justly to appreciate some other parts of his character. He writes very feelingly, & I doubt not, very justly. I had only one circumstance to lament while reading his narrative; & that was, the idea which seems to have prevailed among so many of his Friends that his melancholy was increased by his attention to religious subjects. Religion had certainly very little to do with it. It was constitutional, & affected him before any serious views had occupied his mind. When these had taken place, it is not to be wondered at that, in some gloomy moment, his mind should receive an unhappy impression even from what in its own nature is calculated to inspire cheerfulness. In worldly minds the gloom of insanity fixes on worldly objects, in religious ones, on those of a religious nature, because whatever most occupies the thoughts will become the subject of it. And it appeared to me from the Letters of Cowper that his happiest hours were those which he spent at Olney in the full exercise of all his devotional & religious propensities. There is nothing of despondency in the Letters to his relation Mrs Cowper tho' they are expressly on religious subjects; nor could I observe any, in those addressed to other correspondents at that time. It is true that with his disposition, & constitutional tendencies, it was necessary to draw him out of himself & to fix his attention on what wd. at once interest & amuse, but I am much of opinion that had his studies been directed to something which would have assimilated more nearly with the leading features & tendencies of his mind - moral excellence, & religious truth, that he would have suffered less from that marked depression of spirits which swallowed up so large a portion of his latter years. There seems, in this account of Hayley a break, a chasm, in his religious pursuits, which even the genius of Homer could but ill supply. On the whole, however, these Volumes give a minute & faithful portrait of the mind & genius of this admirable Man & excellent Poet - there is a perfect accordance between the narrative & letters, & they elucidate each other. We can also follow him from very early life to the last stage of his painful existence, & trace in his private conduct a perfect consistency with his sentiments & principles. All we can say of him is, that he was not quite perfect; but his excellencies as a Christian, & a Man were such as few have reached to, & fewer still surpassed. If I were to criticize the style of the narration I shd. say it wanted purity & simplicity & was too much inflated by a desire of exalting the object of its admiration & praise.

Sunday May 8th Mr Finch gave us this morning a very good Sermon on the Duty of Parents towards their Children, from the Epistle to the Ephesians "Parents provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture & admonition of the Lord". It was occasioned by some improper conduct which he had seen occasion to notice in one of our School Children; & which bad conduct seemed to have arisen from neglect of the Parents in the use of necessary correction. While he reprobated the practice of correcting Children with severity for every trifling fault, he shewed the necessity of using it on occasions of importance. He pointed out the indispensable obligations which Parents are under to be very watchful, & circumspect in their own conduct,

and, above all, to give their Children religious instruction, bringing them up in the nurture & admonition of the Lord.

Sunday May 15th We went to our Parish Church both parts of the Day - Mr Finch read Prayers but Mr Powys preached. In the afternoon I walked to see Dame Perry who is now declining very fast. She has been confined to her bed about three weeks, & a mortification has already begun in her Foot, tho' its progress is very slow.

Monday May 16 Mr Finch dined with us to day.

Sunday 22nd Mr Powys being absent Mr Finch did the whole Duty, & not having been at all well for some days preceding, he was so much fatigued as to be near fainting several times in the course of the day; & was obliged to put off the Evening Service. His long stay with us in the morning prevented our going to Henley Church in the afternoon, which we had intended on acct. of Mr Townshend's doing the Duty there. Mr Finch's Sermon was on the office of High Priest as undertaken by our Saviour, compared with the same office under the Law; in which he explained what he conceived to be the signification of those expressions used in comparing Christ with Melchisedec - "without beginning of days etc. etc." - he supposes these expressions to apply altogether to his priestly character & office, in which having neither predecessor nor successor, he might be said to be without beginning of days etc. & so on in other particulars; & he seemed to think it a purposed omission that his parentage was ascribed to the Type, & that He was introduced in the sacred writings in so abrupt, & mysterious a manner, & that his real character & descent was left in obscurity. I cannot pretend to judge in a matter which involves so many critical difficulties, & on which learned & pious men so widely differ. It is a matter wherein there is great cause for thankfulness that those truths necessary for Salvation & those precepts by which our conduct is to be guided, are so plain that "he who runs may read"; & therefore we may with entire satisfaction leave the others to a further explanation when the whole word & will of God will be made apparent, & "we shall know even as we are known". It is often our truest wisdom to leave our doubts & difficulties to be then resolved; for we may surely trust God for the exercise of all his Holy attributes no less in what we cannot than in what we do comprehend - for if we see wisdom, truth, & goodness, prevail in all which it is of importance for us to know, we may be satisfied that all his other ways & works are distinguished by the same adorable attributes & properties. In the latter part of Mr F.'s Sermon he touched with much judgement, & delicacy, on the Priestly office as it is now exercised, and on Church Government, particularly in reference to our Established Church. And he remarked in conclusion that a needless separation from a Church so constituted was not so light & unimportant a matter as by too many was understood, but was of the nature of those divisions reprobated by St Paul. We should doubtless "try our own spirits", & be well assured that what we do in these respects is from a pure motive, or we certainly cannot be justified in separating from an Establishment, which if not perfect in point of organization & discipline, approaches nearer in respect of doctrine to what appears to be the doctrine of the Bible than any which has ever yet been framed - whose Liturgy is compiled from the Scriptures themselves, with scarcely any admixture, & whose articles & Creeds (much as they have been, & are still by some, abused) appear to have been the

means of preserving the nation at large from actual apostasy, & of keeping those at a distance from her Communion who would have laboured to corrupt the doctrines of Christianity, & to have invaded the peace of the Church.

Monday May 23rd Dined at Reading to meet Mrs Merlott & Miss Crosse, called on the Wellmans (as a visit of condolence on the death of Mr Much) and in our way stopped at the Parsonage to ask after Mr Finch who was very indifferent.

Tuesday May 24th Mr & Mrs Guilleband & Mrs Wilson with two of their Children drank Tea with us. A Letter from my Brother to acquaint me with the intended marriage of his Daughter Emma to Mr E. Batten - a very eligible connection & which gives them all much pleasure. My Brother is going shortly on a Tour to the north of England & Scotland - to be absent from Home three months. I have just finished reading a Treatise of Mr Bicheno's on the restoration of the Jews, & the further Conversion of the Gentiles. It throws some light on the scripture Prophecies in general, & brings together those which elucidate & confirm the particular subject on which he writes - nothing, I think, can be plainer than the prophecies which relate to this subject, nor can they want any explanation except to those who doubt the meaning of the plainest declarations, hence it affords no great accession of knowledge to those who read the Scriptures with an unbiassed mind.

Thursday May 26th Mrs Merlott & Miss Crosse with Mrs Ryder dined here to day.

Saturday May 28th Went to Whites to see Mr & Mrs H. Hall who are staying there with their Children. Returned in the Evening, having met with Mr & Mrs Townshend as we passed through Maidenhead.

Sunday May 29th (Whitsunday) Mr Finch's Sermon this morning was taken from part of the 2nd Lesson - "Of a truth God is no respecter of Persons". He described in few words the character, but especially the conduct, of Cornelius as it had reference to the preaching of Peter, & then deduced from it four observations. Cornelius he said was what the Jews called a "Proselyte of the Gate", he was born of Gentile Parents, but became afterwards so proselyted to the Jewish faith as that he believed in one only & true God, prayed to Him, & performed such things as he thought would be acceptable in his sight. His heart, it is evident, was sincere & upright; & he practiced all that he knew. It is evident because God accepted his Prayers, & performed a miracle in his behalf. He sent an angel to him to say that his prayers & his alms were come up as a memorial before him; & he further directed that he should send to Joppa for Simon Peter who would speak to, & further instruct him. The points to be established from this history, were first, that a sincere & earnest desire to please God never fails of acceptance; 2ndly that, nevertheless, works of the law cannot justify, nor be pleasing to God but thro' faith in Christ; 3rdly that Conversion is usually produced by the common means & ordinances of Grace; 4thly that morality avails nothing unless springing from Faith in Christ; & is rooted & grounded in love.

If prayers & almsgiving were not in themselves acceptable services (Mr F. observed) when offered in sincerity & truth with a view of pleasing God, we cannot suppose that

Cornelius would have been so favoured as to have had a supernatural communication from Heaven. He took occasion from hence strongly to recommend both, at the same time guarding against any dependence that might be placed in them as necessary for the attainment of Salvation. This Mr F. observed (2ndly) could only be done by faith in Christ, & an immediate application to him for all the blessings purchased by his Cross. For we were to observe that the Angel was not sent to tell Cornelius that his good deeds were sufficient, that he might rest in them, or expect Salvation by them etc., but that they were so far acceptable to God, that he would direct him to the means of serving him more effectually & of obtaining that knowledge which should indeed save his Soul - this was a knowledge of Christ, who being "the way, the truth, & the life" none could go acceptably to the Father but thro' Him - Mr F. here made an exception in favour of those benighted regions on which "the dayspring from on high" was not yet risen - but in a Christian Country like our own, he said there was not the shadow of an excuse for ignorance, & that where it prevailed, it must be "because men love darkness rather than light". He pointed out the necessity of an acquaintance with the doctrines of Christianity, & that leading one, in particular, of faith in the atonement & merits of Christ.

The next observation which he deduced was, that God seldom, or never, departs from the use of appointed means to effect the Conversion of Sinners, or to shew to them the error of their ways. He remarked that Cornelius was directed to send to Peter, an appointed minister of His word, that from him he might receive the instruction he wanted; [To this instance he added that of St Paul who was directed to go to Ananias to be told what he should do.] and Peter was also informed of the same, & desired by an express message from God to "go down to him, nothing doubting". And herein Mr F. observed was that glorious promise made good to Peter of being "the rock on which the Christian Church shd. be built - to him the keys were given & by him it was first opened - to the Jews first by the Conversion of 3000 of persons, & on the present occasion by the conviction & conversion, thro' the power of the Holy Ghost, on all both Jews & Gentiles who were on the present occasion assembled to hear him. After this period it is supposed that the other apostles were equally favoured with this evangelical commission, & that their preaching was attended with the same divine power. The keys, by which admission to the Church of Christ was obtained, were no longer confined to Peter, but were equally in the hands of all the apostles. (This, at least, I understood to be Mr Finch's meaning). Under this head of the discourse he took occasion to remark on the nature of the conversion, & how far we ourselves are enabled to forward it. He admitted that it could neither be begun, nor compleated without the grace of the Holy Spirit; but he contended for that freedom of will which has respect to outward actions - the heart he said could be renewed by God alone, but that we had certain power over our external conduct - for instance a man might direct his feet to Church instead of to an alehouse; he might read the Bible, instead of an obscene song; he might listen to the counsel of wise & religious people instead of the profane jests of bad men - as much as this he contended was in our own power, & if to this was added fervent prayer, prayer for an increase of light, knowledge, & grace he said he did not doubt but that, like the prayers & alms of Cornelius, we should so far be accepted of God as that further means of instruction would be granted, & an increase of that Grace which should lead us to the true knowledge of God in Christ

Jesus. "To those who have shall be given". This he said was several times repeated by our Lord himself; and it was to be understood of Grace, which if used would be added to, if abused would be withdrawn. The conclusion of the Sermon was to shew the insufficiency of moral conduct, to procure us acceptance with God - he reprobated in the strongest terms the folly of that conduct wch.. seemed to rely on, what he called, the "civil duties" as being all that was necessary; for that there could be no acceptable obedience but that which sprang from faith in Christ, & Love to God - and that even our alms must have a higher aim than mere benevolence, for while they are done as expressions of love & compassion to our brethren they must also be shewn as acknowledgement to our blessed God & Saviour of all which he has done & suffered for us, & gratitude to Him must mingle with kindness to our fellow creatures. Thus he said our alms would be rendered "a Sacrifice of a sweet-smelling savour".

Tuesday May 31st I went this morning to the meeting to hear Mr Collison of Walthamstow, who being a man of superior attainments, & real piety is much approved as a Preacher. Being myself much pleased with his Sermon I have procured from Miss B. the following notes which she took of his Sermon, my own memory being too much clouded to allow of my writing even the Divisions of the Sermon with complete accuracy. The Text Hebrews 12, 9th verse "Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of Spirits & live?" "Various are the methods which infinite wisdom has suggested to lead our minds into the way of peace. This deserves our attention & gratitude - he knows our frame, more easily wrought upon by example than precept, he teaches us accordingly, hence the Patriarchs are given for an example, yet we are warned of their mistakes & follies, how impartial is the Bible! This Chap. is an inference drawn from the epitome contained in the preceding, of the lives & sufferings of primitive believers - the apostle supposes all Christians assembled in one great amphitheatre - those who are on the Lists, & those who have fought the good fight seated around as spectators & examples - but as there are spots in the brightest human examples he directs our attention to Jesus Christ - the Bible alone possesses a perfect example. Christianity was embodied in its divine Author. The apostle reminds the believing Hebrews that tho' they were overwhelmed with afflictions, yet these were but fatherly chastisements, that since their Father's hand guided the rod, they need not fear. The subject not recommended by novelty but by importance - it is Subjection to God - we notice it in a fourfold view.

Ist The glorious Being to whom we should be subject. The Father of Spirits - no unmeaning epithet is ever applied to the Holy Spirit, God may be called the Father of angelic Spirits - angels, Cherubim & Seraphim were all created by him - he is the Father of Spirits in Heaven & on Earth. Man is a compound Creature, composed of matter & intellect, the superior principle is immortal - God is the Father of the Spirit of Man as it most resembles Deity, man was created in the Image of his Maker but the image does not consist in his erect form or the features of his face, but in the intellectual faculties, as his creatures we possess some degree of likeness to him, also as we are immortal, however perfect intellect may be in brutes it very soon arrives at its standard after which it never improves, nor is it improvable, but to the human mind it can never be said "hitherto shalt thou go & no further", & here shall thy thoughts & researches "be stayed".

Man is capable of being subject to a moral Law which is given by his creation, this is holy in its requirements, & good in its tendency. Some reason on the immortality of the Soul from its immateriality but there is a stronger evidence of its immortality in its resemblance to its maker, not that man bears that moral resemblance to God which he did - the image of God in righteousness & true holiness is gone, the crown is fallen from the head, sunk & degraded as man is (& this truth who that knows his own heart will deny) faint as the impression is, it is yet perceptible. God has made the provision of a Father for our Spirits, he remembered us in our low estate "because his mercy endureth for ever". He planned, he accomplished the work of. Salvation. Are we enveloped in darkness? he sends the light of life - Jesus, the brightness of his Father's glory & the express image of his Person. Are we sunk in guilt & misery? He sent his Son mighty to redeem. Are we impure? He has promised the Holy Spirit to renew & sanctify, to restore the divine image, & make meet for Heaven. Are we subject to trials & sorrows? He gives exceeding great & precious promises to comfort & support us. The more we know of the Father of Spirits the more we shall love him. What a beautiful what an endearing character!

IInd The nature of the subjection we owe to God. To be viewed in a threefold light;

1st Subjection to his mode of Salvation

2nd Subjection to his Law as a rule of life

3rd A submissive temper of mind under all the dispensations of his Providence.

First, Subjection to his mode of Salvation is both our duty & happiness. It is reasonable to expect that if God reveals a way of salvation, his Creatures are found to embrace it; yet, astonishing to tell. to the generality, all the scripture promises, calls, & invitations, are in vain; such is the blindness & depravity of human nature that they love darkness rather than light. We need not bring proofs of human depravity from Heathens; in the rejection of God's way of Salvation, & rebellion against his laws, among Christians the strongest proof is contained - it is positive, it is unanswerable. The Scripture affords some strong examples of subjection to God, the subjection of the mind & understanding no less than the actions, which are indeed implied in the Duty. For when the immense disparity between the faculties of God & of Man are considered, we are not to measure the works or will of God by the narrow span of our own comprehension, but are to yield implicitly to the whole of his revealed will - this is the obedience of faith, & is implied in the subjection of man to the father of his Spirits. Among the scripture examples of this is the lifting up of the brazen serpent in the wilderness. When Israel travelled thro' the desert, in consequence of their base ingratitude, God raised up fiery Serpents, & the People were stung by them. They cry to the Lord. He commands Moses to make a brazen Serpent & set it on a Pole, & commands the People to look at it that they might be healed. This was a fine opportunity for infidelity & rebellion to come forward with reasonings & speculations - a philosophic Israelite might say 'Does the man mean to insult us? Is it not enough to endure this tormenting pain, but must our understandings be insulted also? What efficacy can there be in looking at this brazen Serpent?' Those however who in this instance subjected their understandings to the will & command of God were healed, they looked & lived. Here we have "an ensample that we shd. follow their steps". Salvation depends alone on Jesus Christ, his blood atones, his righteousness justifies, his spirit sanctifies - is there

anything really so hard to be in subjection to this? It is hard only to human Pride, (that fruitful source of all evil), to those who go about to establish their own righteousness, & will not submit to the righteousness of God.

Secondly we are bound to live in subjection to God's Law as a rule of life. A man lives either to himself, or to God, he will either obey God's commands, or his own sinful inclinations. On which side his duty lies is apparent to all who understand the relation between God & his Creatures. O how I love thy holy Law says David. I delight in the law of God after the inward man said Paul. That man can have no just views of Grace who denies the Law as a rule of life. The true Believer will regulate his whole conduct by it as a perfect standard, not as depending on it in the slightest degree for his Salvation, but as being the best evidence he can give of his faith & his love.

3rdly a submissive temper of mind under all providential dispensation is another branch of that subjection which we owe to God. Jesus is head over his Church, he over-rules all for their good, he determines the nature, extent, & duration of our trials. We must therefore be submissive under them in each of these respects. Can we doubt his fidelity & goodness? Has he not said 'I am thy God & I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee'. Has he ever given us reason to doubt his veracity. Has he ever forfeited his word? Surely not, he reigns, & will make all things work together for our good. A Christian ought to be calm, tho' the whole world is in commotion. He may/should be so, because he knows that "the Lord reigneth". Are we then subjects or Rebels? There are but two Classes - the man that rebels against the Law or the Gospel is "an alien to the commonwealth of Israel". The other Class are Children & heirs of Glory. And does it become them to distrust the goodness or the love of their heavenly Father, their merciful Redeemer? Has the blessed Spirit been given as the earnest of our heavenly inheritance, & shall we not in due time be called to the enjoyment of it, Even here a foretaste is often granted. Let us then say with holy Job, under any affliction we may be tried with, "It is the Lord. let him do what seemeth him good. And again with David "I have set the Lord always before me; because he is on my right hand I shall not be moved". This subjection we owe to God whether we are Christians or not, God's claims are not altered by our refusing to acknowledge them, nor does our rebellion annul our obligations to obey.

IIIrd The Apostle intimates that the subjects of God shall live, perhaps here is an allusion to Deut:21st/18th & following verses. Life, here includes all the blessings of Salvation. The man is no longer under condemnation, he is justified & accepted. The Law which we violated having been satisfied, it pronounces us just, it has no unanswered claims upon us. We shall live, this includes a life of sanctity & devotion, a life of obedience, studying to adorn the doctrines of God our Saviour in all things, a life of devotion & communion with God, wch.. is the beginning of life eternal. Life is evident; it grows from infancy to Childhood; from Childhood to youth; from youth to the venerable character of "Fathers in Christ", ever growing till meet to be translated into Paradise, & then presented faultless before the throne of his glory with exceeding joy. The man that does not begin to live on earth cannot live in Heaven; or if he could, it would be a miserable place to him; he could neither enjoy its society or its employments. The Christian is training up for a life of unmingled felicity.

IVth The apostle reasons with us. Shall we not much rather be in subjection? We have had Fathers of our flesh etc. God

has a superior right to our obedience - the right of Parents is but a delegated one, while God's is a supreme underived right. The motive too is superior which actuates the Father of Spirits in his corrections - earthly Parents often correct more for the gratification of their own irascible passions than for the Child's good - but His corrections spring from pure love. How different also the manner of correction - so much anger & unkindness is often manifested that they give a strong proof to their Children how unfit they are for the task of managing them. Now the end for wch.. God corrects us, is to make us partakers of his holiness. Shall we not then be subject to him, & live? Let us bow before him & acknowledge his right to govern us in all things. If believers, let us remember that our trials are proofs of our Sonship, and if sons than heirs, we may perhaps soon be convinced that our fairest fruits of glory sprang from our sharpest sorrows. Tho' we now say "all these things are against me" we may hereafter be satisfied that the most afflictive dispensations of God's Providence were proofs of the tenderest compassion to our Souls. Finally let us all become willing subjects to the Father of Spirits - let us not be found among the rebels to his authority who shall perish, & be dashed in pieces like a Potter's Vessel. We can never lift our hand against omnipotence with impunity. How delightful to be Sons & Daughters of the Lord Almighty, training up for glory - to have all our worst afflictions overruled for good - to be followers of them who thro' faith & patience inherit the promises, ever looking to Jesus who is both the Author & the Finisher of our Faith.

Trinity Sunday June 5th Mr Finch's Sermon to day was taken from the 7th Chap. of John 17th verse "He that doeth the will of my Father shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God".

It was a very able & excellent discourse to prove that the best means of obtaining a spiritual acquaintance with the doctrines of the Bible is to walk in those plain precepts which it enjoins. If a man walks steadily in the path of Duty & prays with an humble & unprejudiced mind to be further taught, God will not only meet & bless, but will also manifest himself unto him; because he has engaged himself so to do, & what God promises he will assuredly make good to those who trust in him. In allusion to the Day introduced his Sermon by observing on the difficulties of Scripture, & in particular on the mysteriousness attached to some of its doctrines. He observed that in the O.T. God describes himself as surrounded by clouds of darkness, & that secret things belong to Him, & in the New we are told that great is the mystery of Godliness, & that at present we can see but imperfectly, as "thro' a glass". This concealment is not only natural & necessary, from the imperfection of our faculties, but useful & instructive also, as it serves to keep us humble, & is an exercise of that faith so absolutely necessary to our pleasing God, & rendering him an acceptable service. But while Mr F. taught that it was our incumbent duty to do the will of God, he observed upon our own insufficiency without the gracious aid of the Holy Spirit, & for this he directed us to seek, by earnest prayer. He then spoke of obedience in general, & he considered faith as constituting a large part of it. He said that we were equally bound to obey God in the faculties of our mind, as in external observances, that an exercise of faith is therefore an exercise of obedience - because God commands us to believe in Him, & in Je. Christ whom he hath sent. Thus there is an obedience of the mind which is "the obedience of faith" & a practical

obedience wch.. has a reference to the preceptive parts of Scripture. These follow indeed as fruits of faith, & a genuine & steady faith will never fail to produce them, but it shd. never be forgot that "to him who hath shall be given", & that therefore a weak faith may, & will, be strengthened by "waiting on God" in the way of his appointments & in studying with all simplicity of heart & humbleness of mind to "do his will".

Monday June 6th Mr H. Hall called upon us this afternoon & informed us that his Daughter Mary was ill at Whites with the Scarlet Fever which wd. prevent their coming to Henley as they had intended.

Friday June 10th The weather has been the last three days so wet & stormy, that we have only been able to take one walk the whole time, which was to see Dame Perryman. She appeared very ill & scarcely knew me, and I have heard this day of her death at the age of 88. Her dissolution was hastened by a mortification in her left Leg, & which was preceded & attended with violent pain. I called this afternoon on Mr Guilleband who accompanied me to the House of Mrs Ayriss, with whom he held some conversation. She has been long ill, & I hoped I saw in her some symptoms of her affliction having brought her nearer to God; & that she was willing to enquire what she should do to be saved.

Sunday June 12th Mr Finch being from home Mr Powys did the whole Duty. The Girls & myself went to Henley Church in the Afternoon where we heard (as usual) a very excellent Sermon from Mr Townshend. It was on pride of heart; the text God's expostulation with Pharaoh.

Mr T. took occasion from it to shew that man in his natural state is no better than Pharaoh, & would ruin himself by the same rebellious spirit did not the grace of God intervene to change his heart, & bring him to see his natural sinfulness & depravity. He even taught that Pharaoh himself would be found more excusable than those persons, who living under the sound of the Gospel refused to listen to what it taught, & were not humbled by a sense of those sins which nailed our blessed Saviour to his Cross. He brought a variety of examples to prove the truth of what he advanced, examples evidently drawn from real life. He first described the man of decent morals & integrity - a kind husband & good father - & then a variety of others, down to the robber & murderer; all of whom he shewed would be found with excuses in their mouths to justify themselves, when desired to try their conduct by the principles of the Gospel; & who would refuse submission to God's way of Salvation, by every plea of self-justification, which the pride of the human heart is so ready to frame. These excuses he described in such language as he had, doubtless, in his ministerial capacity, often heard; & they were such as everybody must know to be genuine who has ever examined their own hearts, or been enabled to study those of others. He concluded with a solemn exhortation to close self-enquiry & an affecting prayer that all who heard him might be brought by the grace of God to that humility of mind which might terminate in sincere repentance towards God & faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thursday June 16th The Children spent the day with Mrs T. Powys, & I went in the Afternoon to drink Tea with her.

Friday June 17th Mrs Ryder dined here.

Saturday June 18th The wetness of the Day prevented my going to Reading as I intended. There has been an unusual quantity of Rain the last month; whole days entirely wet, wch.. is not very usual at this season of the year. The War with France being again renewed, there is of course, a great addition of Taxes, which has determined Mr Hall to finish his House only in part, hoping for better times in wch.. he may be enabled to compleat it. May it please God to send us again the blessing of peace!

Sunday June 19th Mr Finch not being quite well, Mr P. did the whole duty - he dined with us, & we all went to Church in the Afternoon.

Monday June 20th An incessant rain thro' the whole day.

Tuesday June 21st Mrs Fanshawe & Mrs Howman called on me.

Wednesday 22nd June I had the comfort of meeting my two Boys this Evening at Henley in health & spirits. They came by the Henley Coach, & we all walked to meet & welcome them, on their return home.

Thursday June 23rd Margaret & myself drank Tea at Mr Guilleband's where we met Mrs Trotman & her Son & Daughter. Mrs Wilson is still there & her three Children, very anxious on account of her Husband's detention as a Prisoner in France. He was travelling for his health, & being at Paris when the war broke out, Bonaparte detained him, with many others, as Prisoners. Their confinement is however slight, being boarded in private Families where they have every accommodation, & want for nothing - but liberty.

Friday June 24th Mr Finch drove me to Bolney Court & Fawley in our Whiskey, & he afterwards dined with us.

Saturday June 25th Again drank Tea at Mr Guilleband's in order to go over the Parsonage House with them, that I might give my opinion whether it could be made to accommodate their Family.

Sunday 26th Mr Finch being unwell (tho' at Church) Mr Powys did the whole Duty. We went in the Afternoon to the Meeting, where we had a Brother of Mr Fletcher's as the officiating Minister. It has been one of the reflections of my mind this day, the stress which is usually laid on preaching by the lower class of people in general, & by every class of persons among the Dissenters. Doubtless it is a most useful part of public worship, & among those who have but few other means of instruction, a highly important part, but why so great a stress should be laid upon it by those who are well informed, whose knowledge of their duty is clear & correct, & who may actually go before the Preacher in all his statements of doctrine & practice, it is difficulty to account for. To them, I should think, that the grand object of public worship would be prayer & praise. They seem to deduce their arguments in favour of it from the New Testament, where there is such frequent mention of preaching, but it shd. be remembered that the state of Christianity at that time was very different from what it is at present. There was then no written Gospel, consequently the grand mean under the Divine Blessing was preaching. This preaching was attended by a demonstration of the Spirit, such as we are not now to look for, & it was indeed effectual for instantaneous

conversion. But now, that our very nation is Christian (tho' sad to say more so in word than in power) now that we have our Bibles, & helps of every kind, for the understanding them, it seems as if a Christian assembly shd. meet rather for worship, than instruction tho' if both are combined it is certainly preferable. I only mean to remark on the common prejudice of looking to the Preaching more than to those other parts of Public Worship, by which God is more especially honoured, because it is in them we acknowledge our entire dependence upon him for all the good we want, & praise him for all that we enjoy. It is a prejudice that carries away many from the Church, because they would rather hear preaching than join in prayer. It is doubtless a powerful mean of Grace, & to ignorant & unconverted persons a matter of the highest moment to be well instructed from the Pulpit, but, as I said before, it seems as if the object of the real Christian would be, a communion with his fellow Christians in prayer & praise. It is very possible that both in preaching & in hearing Sermons much evil may lurk - there may be a mixture of unworthy principles & dispositions - there may be on the one side, vanity, self-indulgence, self-seeking. On the other - partiality, personal attachment, fastidiousness or a spirit of criticism - but nothing of this sort can attach to prayer or reading the Scriptures, or, at least, not in the same degree - it should therefore seem that a pious mind would be full as likely to derive comfort & edification from these parts of public worship as from the best Sermon that was ever written delivered in the best manner. And indeed no one who can read, or who has a desire to learn their duty need in this country be ignorant of it, so as to make it of indispensable necessity to attend chiefly on Sermons merely to understand it. God giveth grace to the humble; & those who ask it will be sure to have it. The first part therefore of a Sinner's duty is Prayer; & this once practiced, & practiced in faith & sincerity, no doubt can be entertained but that the best of God's blessings, the blessing of his Grace & Holy Spirit, will be given in answer to it. I would then not only say with the Apostle "Is any afflicted let him pray", but I would add Is any ignorant let him pray, Is any cold & heartless in the service of God, let him pray - Is he in darkness, in difficulty, in error let him pray. In short he should pray even for an inclination to pray & this will be the most effectual mean of obtaining what is more valuable than the best of earthly blessing - Spiritual Life.

Monday June 27 Myself & all my Children, except Henry spent this day at Reading. We dined at my Aunt's, & called on our return home at the Crown Inn to meet Mr & Mrs Davies on their way to Bath.

Thursday June 30th In the midst of making Hay at the Farm. Drank Tea there yesterday afternoon where Mr Finch joined us.

Friday July 1st Rachel Hall Miss Lea, & S. & M. Allnutt dined with us. Frances being very indifferent with a pain at her stomach attended with fever it was but half enjoyed by any of us.

Saturday July 2nd Frances still indifferent.

Sunday July 3rd Mr Finch's Sermon this morning was on the apostolic admonition "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall". It was admirably enforced by the strongest arguments drawn from Scripture, & was intended

to guard against two common errors - the one which leads to trusting in our own exertions without a due dependence on the grace & assistance of the Holy Spirit, the other which would lead to indolence & inactivity by falsely supposing that all our own endeavors are useless, because God is said to be the Author & Finisher of our Faith & that we are under an irresistible influence & agency. He then described with true doctrinal precision, what is in this respect the real point of duty.

Monday July 4th Frances still continuing ill I sent to Mr Bulley to see her. He views her complaints as trifling, but has left some directions about her.

Tuesday July 5th Frances being no better I have put her on a blister which I trust will relieve her.

Wednesday July 6th Frances is much mended, but this morning Owen, & our faithful Servant,

William, are both taken ill, with Fever, Head-ach, & other complaints.

Thursday July 7th After a very restless night both my patients are, I thank God! much relieved this morning. Rhubarb, Castor Oil etc. have been the means which it has pleased God to bless for their relief. Frances is nearly as well as ever.

Saturday July 9th Owen, & William, having had a return of Fever with considerable pain in the side I had a blister put on them both last night, which seems to have relieved them and I trust it is an amendment which will continue. Owen is of that timid mind, & delicate nervous system, that he had nearly fainted when his blister was first dressed.

Sunday 10th July Mr Finch's Sermon to day was upon the Love of God as the supreme affection of the Soul. His text was from the 12th of St Mark 29th & following verses. In the afternoon we heard Mr Townshend at Henley, who delivered a very faithful & energetic discourse on the command given by our Lord to his Apostles as recorded in the last Chap. of St Mark - Go ye into all the world etc. He first shewed what the Gospel was; & that this was to be preached to persons of every description throughout the world, because all were alike Sinners in their natural state, & therefore equally interested in the Salvation of Christ. He remarked that moral discourses or such as merely shewed the distinction of right & wrong, addressed to our natural reason, was not 'preaching the Gospel' the meaning of which was, those good tidings brought by Christ to a lost world. He then shewed the importance of faith, & its connexion with baptism, or regeneration, which in this place he said was implied, & that our Salvation entirely depended upon it. He described what was included in a genuine faith - said we shd. carefully distinguish between that, & a merely nominal belief, which like the faith & baptism of Simon Magus would entitle us to "neither part nor lot" in the matter - and he then pointed out in most solemn & affecting language the dreadful state of those who rejected the Gospel - that they became doubly obnoxious to the anger of God; for they not only renounced the Law, but despised the Gospel. Mr T. concluded with a very strong application to the conscience entreating all present to consider that they had now heard the Gospel faithfully preached to them, & were answerable for their rejection of it, and finally prayed that they might

so hear, & receive, the Word of Truth that at Christ's second coming to judge the world He might meet them in his presence & acknowledge them as his "hope, & joy & crown of rejoicing".

Monday July 11th S. & M. Allnutt with their Brother & Mr Hall & Anna Fenn dined here.

Tuesday July 12th Thomas & Jane are now ill with this new complaint.

Wednesday July 13th The Children rather better.

Thursday July 14th Jane again so ill that we sent for Mr Bulley.

Saturday July 16th Jane after being a little better yesterday (when my Aunt spent the day with us) was taken so ill again this morning that we sent again for Mr Bulley. He prescribed Rhubarb for her in small doses, thinking that her Bowels were in a state of irritation which increased the Fever that attended her other complaint. We put her to bed & towards the afternoon she seemed relieved, but her pulse was very quick & her flesh feverish.

Sunday July 17th Jane has passed a tolerable night, & seems better this morning. I have been to Church & heard from Mr Finch a very good Sermon from the 10th Chap. of the Hebrews 26 & 27 verses. He proved that the persons here intended were apostates from Christianity, & not those Christians who may have unhappily disgraced their Christian profession by some single acts of wilful sin. In short he treated the subject so much in the same way as it is understood by Scott, in his commentary on the Passage, that I cannot but suppose this was indeed the real meaning of the apostle. He concluded by an exhortation not to absent ourselves from the public worship & ordinances of God (this being a sort of outward apostasy) since by doing so we deprived ourselves of the means of Grace wch.. might be blessed to the Salvation of our Souls. For he observed that tho' such desperate & sinful apostasy could not be the crime of the present day as in the times of the Apostles, yet there were many temptations to be guilty of it in a proper sense if we listened to the infidel discourse of unbelievers, or were tempted to read any of those loose & impious productions which they sent forth into the world to loosen the bonds by which Christians are united. He said that what made apostasy so difficult of cure, was its incapacity to receive the only medicine by which it could be effected - unbelief shuts the apostate out from all the means of Grace, & nothing but an especial act of Providence sanctified by Grace was capable of reclaiming him. It was therefore a Sin more than all the others to be prayed against & avoided.

My dear little Girl has passed a better day than I could expect, & I trust is in a way of recovery. Thus has a good God relieved my mind again from many anxious & distressing fears; & I must humble myself before him for having indulged them. These sins of infirmity are a great bother to me, & they are also a great hindrance to me in the path of duty. I pray God to enable me to subdue them. Of myself I can do nothing. May his strength be made perfect in my weakness!

Monday July 18th My dear little Girl so well recovered as to allow of my going to Reading this afternoon on a little business accompanied by my three Boys & Margaret. Such is

the state of political affairs, & so filled with the expectation of an Invasion are the minds of all descriptions of People, that the most alert & vigorous measures have been proposed by Government, & are adopted by the nation at large in order to a competent defence. Besides an Army of Reserve, the people at large are to be furnished with arms in order to use en masse should Bonaparte attempt to land amongst us. And a regular plan is laid for opposing him, & for the security of the property of persons of those who may be most exposed, should his attempt be in any way successful. Mr Hall[page cut out]....concluded that a military life, if entered upon among respectable men, will do more to correct this natural bent of disposition than any other in which he could be placed. Mr H. himself, having suffered so much from the indulgence of such a temper is the more desirous that his Children should avoid it - the proposal therefore, came from him, & the determination will be ultimately his. For my own part, I perceive clearly that it will have many advantages, but I see also some disadvantages; the temptations to which he will be exposed are many - perhaps more than in most other situations - but temptations abound everywhere to young men, & it is by the Grace of God alone they can stand. It shall be my earnest & increasing prayer to the Giver of all Grace to keep my Child under his especial protection - to save him from Danger & from Sin, & above all to lead him thro' this difficult & dangerous warfare in the world, to paths of peace & salvation. As he will swear allegiance to his King may he never forget his allegiance to the King of Kings! May he be brought into subjection to the Father of Spirits, & live! While he fights for his Country, may he enlist under the banner of the great Captain of his Salvation, & resist, steadfast in the faith, all those enemies which may oppose themselves, & be enabled to subdue them. And may he use all the influence which such a situation may give him to uphold the cause of God in the World, & to shew that, in the midst of every temptation to the contrary, a man may, by the Power of Divine Grace, be true to his Religion to his country & to Himself. This Grace, then, I will earnestly solicit for him. And O may it please God to pour out upon him a spirit of prayer & supplication that he may soon solicit it for himself!

Friday July 22nd Mr Macalester (who is now a cornet in the 13th Reg. of Light Dragoons) came to us this afternoon, in order to converse with us on the subject of Henry's entering the Army. He speaks highly of his own Regiment, in respect to discipline & good conduct, & as we have reason to believe him a young man of good principles, we have determined to purchase into this Regiment, & have written to Mr Knight accordingly.

Saturday July 23rd Mr M. left us at 12 o'clock to day & we feel more at ease in our minds since the conversation we had with him, & since our determination was formed.

Sunday July 24th At Church both parts of the day - Dr Inglis (the Master of Rugby School) who is now staying with Mr Finch preached. It was a Sermon on the duty of subjection to Civil Governors, & was so far very applicable to the present state of things. He reprobated in strong terms that fondness for change which was inherent on the human mind, & shewed that it ought to be checked at an early period. He remarked on the advantages of Civil Government, of the mischiefs arising from its overthrow, shewed that our blessed Lord had in a most remarkable manner taught subjection

to Civil Governors, & that his apostles had done the same, both by their precepts & example. He asserted, also, that amidst all the persecutions to which the first Christians were subjected, none were ever tempted to a conduct by which they could themselves be accused of offences against the State, or government under which they lived; & those who suffered martyrdom, or who were otherwise punished, suffered it only because they would not renounce their religion, or "deny the Lord that bought them". I am not fond of political discourses from the Pulpit; but perhaps the Times might just now authorize such an address.

The Gospel appointed for the day was the miracle of the Loaves & Fishes. It suggested a remark to my mind which may perhaps be profitable. There were many to be fed; the provision was small; but by the blessing of Christ (as God) upon it, it became sufficient, & more than sufficient, to supply all who, at that time partook of it. The Soul who hungers & thirsts after righteousness, is sometimes apt to complain of the want of suitable & sufficient provision - the means of grace perhaps are few; the bread of life is dispensed but sparingly. What is to be done in this case? Go to the Miracle & let us spiritualize it. Small as the provision is, by the blessing of Christ upon it, it is increased to the satisfying of the Soul - the spiritual life is strengthened, & refreshed, hunger & weariness have ceased, & at His command fragments may be collected of the gracious repast by which to strengthen others. What then is the improvement to be gained? It is addressed to those who having partaken of the bread & water of life, wish to have it more abundantly, who being placed in situations where the means of grace are not adequate to their wishes, where their ministers are not so faithful to their commission & trust as they ought to be, dispensing provisions for the Soul with a sparing hand, or with an admixture which a palate truly spiritualized cannot so well relish, where religious society is seldom to be attained, & religious friends scarce. In such a situation what can the hungry Soul do better than by applying to Christ for a blessing on the smallness of the provision, obtain that full supply which will assuredly be granted where it is earnestly desired. And spiritual food thus obtained will be more pure, more satisfying, more delightful, than all which can be had by the intervention of means or instruments, tho' of the first class and highest kind.

Thursday July 28th Mr Fletcher's 8 Children & Miss Barn spent the day here.

Friday July 29th I have been reading Horne's Commentary on the Psalms - they are full, I think, of sweet & pious meditations; & have a peculiar tendency to tranquillize the mind & to carry the thoughts by a direct yet easy transition from the cares of this life to the joys of the next. They also exalt the Saviour in a very remarkable manner, & perhaps it is his being so identified in all that is the source of much of the peace & pleasure which the mind desires while reading them. The author I understand was a truly religious Character, & a most excellent Man - mild in his temper, gentle in his manners; & of a true Christian spirit.

Saturday July 30th The news Papers to day mention that a rebellious spirit has again shewed itself in Ireland; & it is much feared that a large part of the People are disposed to act in concert with the French in conquering this Country. The period is an alarming one, & sufficient to strike terror into the mind, but for the consideration that "the Lord reigneth",

& that nothing will be permitted which will eventually be injurious to the interests of his people. We must "tarry, & wait patiently", we must "be still & know that he is God". We must endeavor to know this experimentally - we shall then "watch & pray that we may enter not into temptation" & confide in that blessed assurance that "all things shall work together for the good of those who truly love God".

Sunday 31st July Mr Finch being not quite well Mr T. Powys did the whole morning Duty. The four eldest Children went in the Afternoon to Henley Church to hear Mr Townshend. Mr H. with myself & the two little ones went to our own Church.

The Holidays for our Parish School commence tomorrow.

Saturday Au. 6th The week has been passed under some anxiety for my little Jane. On Tuesday Mr Hall went with Tom to London, by the Henley Coach, & sent him from thence to Clapham. He took leave of us all with great fortitude; & did the same of his Father in London. On Wednesday morning early Lucy went home in order to be present at the marriage of her Sister the following morning, this led to our having Jane here with us, & the first night I took her to sleep with me. Her extreme restlessness could not but make me uneasy, & especially as she appeared to have some little heat about her. This has been her state ever since; & it is only surprizing, & indeed a matter of great comfort, that her spirits continue good, & that she appears on the whole free from disease, tho' she certainly cannot be in that state of entire health which an anxious Parent is apt to desire with, perhaps, too great earnestness, but I desire at the same time to be submissive to God's will, & I desire also to remember that He does not afflict his people but with some view to their final good.

Sunday August 7th Mr Finch gave us to day a Sermon on that self-deception so natural to the human mind, & which was exemplified in the character & conduct of Hazael. The moral improvement he deduced from it, was, to shew the necessity of self-examination, & the manner in which it should be performed. The most useful & striking part of the Sermon was the caution he gave to those people, who, in order to palliate their own vices, draw a comparison of themselves with those whose conduct they conceive to be worse than their own. He reprobated this practice in the strongest terms, as tending not only to the most dangerous self-deception, but also to a breach of that love & charity which we are bound to shew towards others. He advised, in the stead of this, to compare ourselves with those who were most exemplary among our acquaintance - with scripture characters who were eminent for piety & virtue, but above all with the great standard of all excellence, our blessed Redeemer. Here he said comparisons would be useful, & produce that humility & self-abasement with which every Christian ought to be distinguished.

Monday Aug. 8th Mrs Ryder called here, Having returned from Farnham a week before she intended. She said she was well, but appeared more weak & languid than usual.

Wednesday Aug. 10th Mr Finch & myself in one Whiskey, & Mr Hall & Henry in another, went this day to dine at Bray. We were overtaken by a violent storm of rain on our way thither which wetted me nearly to the skin, we had however a dry ride home, & none of us took any cold.

Friday Aug. 12th Went to Reading in the afternoon & drank Tea at my Aunt's. Instead of the Levy en masse it is now determined to encourage the people to volunteer their services, & then Government will accept two thirds of the people of a Parish instead of the whole which they conceive will afford them all the aid they shall require - they are to be trained & disciplined in companies of about a hundred each, & to be called out only in case of actual Invasion. May God deliver us from so great a calamity! for vain is the help of man unless acting in subserviency to His Will. It is rather an awful circumstance that Government should have legalized the breach of the Sabbath by requiring the people at large, under this Act, to train & exercise on Sunday Evenings - those who object to it on scruples of conscience may indeed be excused, by taking an oath before a Magistrate, but this does not remove the stigma which must forever attach on a set of people who could venture thus to infringe on the Law of God which says "Thou shalt keep holy the Sabbath Day". It constitutes to increase (as Mr C. says) the Christian's Burden. He must however bear it patiently, & wait God's good time for the removal. "The Lord reigneth"; this (Mr C. also says) is his matter, & serves to banish all those distressing fears, which the present awful crisis would naturally excite - the time is hastening on when "the kingdoms of the earth shall become the kingdoms of the Lord & of his Christ".

Saturday Aug. 13th Mr H. the three Girls & myself called this Evening at Mr Benwell's who, with Mrs B. & his whole Family of Children, are now at Henley. We did not see them as they were gone out.

Sunday 14th August Mr F. being indisposed, Mr P. did the whole Duty. He gave us a good Sermon on the words "The Law was given by Moses, but Grace & Truth came by Jesus Christ".

Monday Aug. 15th Mr & Mrs T. Powys & their 3 Children spent the day with us. Mr Benwell called in the Morning.

Tuesday Aug. 16th Ourselves & the Powys's dined with Mr Finch on a haunch of Venison.

Wednesday Aug. 17th Went with Mr F. to Reading to hire a Servant for him. Spent all my time with Mrs Deane who told me of the death of Col. Lambert.

Thursday Aug. 18th Not very well to day with head ach & pain in my stomach. Mrs Ryder, with Mrs Trotman & her Daughter called on me. Also Mr C. Ord, Mrs Macalester Mrs Lea & Miss Jones.

Friday Aug. 19th Drank Tea with Mrs Benwell.

Saturday Aug. 20th At home all day.

Aug. 21st Sunday Mr Finch's Sermon to day was from these words from Matthew 24 "But as the days of Noah were so also shall the coming of the Son of Man be". The first observation was on the practice of our Lord in making use of every passing event or incidental remark to convey important instruction to his followers. Thus he described the awful discourse which Christ now held with them to have been occasioned by the admiration expressed by his disciples of the magnificence & beauty of the Temple.

Instead of humouring their innocent partiality to this splendid edifice, he used the opportunity of conveying, with all the force of contrast, those prophetic denunciations by which its total destruction was foretold. The disciples alarmed asked when these things should be, & what would be the signs of their approach? To these questions our Lord gave replies of a very comprehensive nature, & of various signification. They respected both the destruction of Jerusalem & the end of the world - some of the passages were distinct prophecies of each - in some they were united - but Mr F. confined himself chiefly to the exposition of the words of the text, wherein the destruction of the world by water is to be understood as typical of the final destruction of the World. He drew a comparison between what were to be the signs of the latter times, & those which had preceded the general Deluge. He shewed that the Sins of the Antideluvian World consisted in Atheism, & sensuality, in their various forms & degrees; & he described the sins of the present day as fast approaching to the same. He remarked especially on the Apostacy which too generally prevailed from the Truth of the Gospel, that tho' it was so generally professed, it was ill understood, & less practiced - that whole nations had departed from it, except in name; & that it was indeed an awful warning to the people of this Kingdom to beware of retaining "the form of godliness" without possessing the power. Noah was a preacher of righteousness - time was allowed for repentance - but the minds of the people were so darkened & their lusts so prevailing, that they were under a general infatuation, & but a small remnant were found who believed his words, & entered the Ark along with him - so, it is said "When the Son of Man cometh shall he find faith in the earth?" Before the universal spread of the Gospel by some glorious appearance of the second coming of Christ, it is predicted that there will be a general apostacy from the true faith, & but a few "according to the election of grace" will be found to bear testimony to the Truth. Tho' the Gospel may, & will be preached universally so as to fulfill what is promised that it shd. be "carried into all lands", "even unto the ends of the earth", yet it will be accepted but by few, till that great & glorious manifestation of Christ's power & presence which, it is supposed, will precede the restoration of the Jews. Under this head of the discourse Mr F. remarked that Idolatry the Sin to which the Jews, & other (?) of the faith were so much addicted, was not known till after the Flood. I cannot recollect what led to the introduction of an excellent observation he made in describing the process of this Idolatry - but the observation itself was this - "fear - unsanctified fear, is the parent of superstition, & superstition leads directly to Idolatry".

He applied his subject in a very close & affecting manner. He said we were all called upon to think seriously & frequently upon these important subjects. That however distant the end of the world might be, it was near to all its present inhabitants, because the hour of death was to them the end of the world. That if Religion was anything, it was everything, and that lukewarmness in so important a concern was very little better than absolute indifference. May these be my own views, & the views of all those with whom my tenderest affections are united!

Saturday Sept. 9th An interval of three weeks having elapsed in my Journal it will be in vain to attempt recollecting any but a few prominent occurrences; & these indeed force themselves on my mind unsolicited. Two of them, full of much interest & importance to me, immediately occur -

the appointment of Henry to a Cornetcy in the 13th Regt. of Light Dragoons; & the departure of my sweet Owen to School. The first was obtained thro' the interest of Mr Knight, without purchase; & the last took place in consequence of an engagement made with Mr Davies that Owen shd. succeed his Brother, at his House. In both these arrangements, I hope we have consulted the good of our Children, tho' to our own present discomfort; for many anxieties are awakened by the one; & many tender solitudes & fond regrets occasioned by the other. This life, being however, but a preparative state, it becomes us to act upon such principles as will best enable us to fulfil our engagements in it; & instead of being drawn aside by listening to the suggestions of present feeling, or selfish gratification, to walk on our path with firmness & fortitude, looking to the End, & depending on that alone for the final accomplishment of our chief good.

Mr & Mrs Knight spent the first four days in this month with us, but were obliged to return to London on the fifth.

Sunday Sept. 11th Mr Finch's Sermon to day was from these words "Serve the Lord with fear, & rejoice unto him with reverence". He opened his Sermon by observing on the propriety & necessity of forming a just idea of that great Being who was at once the object of our imitation & of our worship. It was therefore necessary to consider his attributes, to form a just & consistent estimation of them, & then to strive both to imitate & to pay him that homage which is his due. He considered God as an object of our Fear & of our Love. He is an object of fear, in that he is a just, & an almighty Being. He is an object of love, as he is merciful & compassionate - not to fear Him therefore was folly, not to love him was ingratitude. The most perfect feeling of the mind he conceived to be where fear & love were blended - it was such a feeling as a dutiful Child must experience towards an affectionate & just Parent - filial fear grounded in duty & tempered with love - and this feeling wd. lead to such a worship as he requires of us, we should serve him in fear, & rejoice towards him with reverence. Mr F. shewed how much more we were enabled to rejoice in God under the Gospel Dispensation, than under the Law. The claims upon our love & gratitude are so much greater. He observed that now, many as might be the trials of life, that hope of a joyful resurrection which was brought to light by the Gospel, was fully adequate to tranquillize our minds, & produce a peace & joy in believing. This he said might often be hindered by Sin, or impeded by disease, but that the mind duly influenced by this filial fear, would be "grounded in duty, refreshed by hope, & made perfect in faith & holiness" to the praise & glory of God.

I felt to day (what I have sometimes experienced before, tho' never in the same degree) a great pleasure in that communion of worship which is afforded among Christians by the use of a Liturgy, or common form of Prayer. It was a delightful thought to me that so many whom I loved were reading the same passages from Scripture, & were joining with me in offering mutual prayers for ourselves & all mankind. I knew how they would be affected by some particular passages, & I thought too that my dear absent Children were lisping out those same prayers, tho' little understood by themselves, yet not unacceptable to Him who has said Suffer little Children to come unto me.

Many doubtless are the arguments used in favour of extempore Prayer; but while such a form of worship is preserved as that used in our Established Church, they must yield to the superior excellence & dignity of so pious &

noble a Service. Extempore Prayer is perhaps preferable for Families, if the speaker is well informed, & duly impressed with a sense of his own wants & the wants of others - but in a mixed congregation, a form in which all may take a part by knowing beforehand what they are to ask, together with a large portion of the Scriptures used to them, is certainly far preferable, not only as it is a more ancient custom, but as it secures to a congregation "a form of sound words", & such as cannot but tend to edification in every mind which is disposed to receive it.

In the Gospel for the Day, I remarked the mutual compact between God & Man, between faith & obedience. Ten Lepers come to Christ to be healed, he bids them go & shew themselves to the Priest. He commands, & they obey - the blessing did not come till they had shewed their faith by their obedience - "as they went they were healed".

Monday Sept. 12th Henry was this day to have joined his regiment at the Hounslow Barracks; but is prevented by some boils on his Leg which disable him from the practice of anything that would be there required. Mr T. Bulley is accordingly to write to the Colonel stating the circumstances.

Tuesday Sept. 13th Henry has this morning received a very peremptory summons to join his regiment. He is accordingly gone this morning by one of the Oxford Coaches. Mrs Benwell took me this day to Remenham to see little Catherine Powys in the absence of her Mother who is gone into Norfolk with Mr P. & the other two Children, & to whom I have given a promise to see her baby twice a week.

Thursday Sept. 17th The week has been chiefly spent in preparations for Henry's new establishment, for having gone in a great hurry, & not knowing till he got there what he would want, much has been left undone that ought to have been prepared. A Letter from him this morning says that his boils are better, & that he thinks, after he is become a little more acquainted with his associates he shall like his situation very well. May he be preserved from becoming a prey to vice or intemperance in the midst of the sad examples which he will see exhibited; & may that Grace which is effectual to redeem & save us, be bestowed upon him for his preservation both in body & soul! It is a pleasing reflection that the first Gentile Convert we read of in the Gospel was a Soldier by profession. May my dear Son prove another Cornelius! I am told also of many religious characters being at this time in the Army. It is an encouraging consideration. May their number be greatly multiplied!

18 Sunday Sept. Mr Gore did the whole morning Duty. He delivered a discourse on Death that was very well liked by many, & therefore I daresay had some merit, that I did not sufficiently distinguish.

Wednesday 21st Sept. Dined at Mrs Ryder's, & the Children went into the Fair. William went on Monday to the Barracks with a Horse for Henry, & brought us a favourable account of him.

Thursday Sept. 22nd The Children dined at Mrs Painter's on account of it's being the Fair. Mr H. & myself drank Tea with Mr Bell, & Mr & Mrs Taylor.

Friday Sept. 23 The Girls & myself called on Mrs Hodges.

Saturday Sept. 24 Mr Townshend & Mr Finch dined here, the former purposes staying with us till Monday morning. There has been scarcely ever known such a succession of dry weather except two days at one period, & one at another, there has been no rain since the beginning of Hay Harvest, the crops are very abundant & well got in, & tho' there are frosts of a morning, the weather is at this time as beautifully clear & fine as can possibly be. What objects for gratitude to the great Giver of all Good!

Sunday 25th Sept. Mr Finch's Sermon this morning was on the Parable of the Great Supper, & especially on the latter clause of sending out to the highways & hedges compelling those to attend who had not been asked, & the rejection of those who had been bidden, but refused to obey the call. It was a very good discourse, but explained in the usual way, & without any reference to that compulsion which the Master of the Feast directed to be used, & which is the part of all others that seems most to require explanation. Mr Townshend returned to us this Evening. The Children only attended the afternoon Service at Henley.

Monday Sept. 26th Mr T. left us this morning but with a promise of coming to us again on Wednesday, with a view of trying some Psalms & Hymns which he wishes to introduce at Henley when the Organ is erected. I went to Reading soon afterwards, called on the Miss Davisons & the Miss Hills, & brought home Maryann Nicholl to spend a few days with us. In the afternoon Mr Bell drank Tea with us. He appears rather altered, & to have become more childish in his manners, & his powers of reflection to be weakened.

Wednesday Sept. 28th Mr & Mrs Townshend & Mr Guilleband dined with us. Mr Hamburger, & Hobbs (the Parish Clerk of Henley) came in the afternoon, & a great many psalm tunes were played & sung. The Evening was, on the whole, very agreeably, & not unprofitably, spent.

Thursday Sept. 29th Mr & Mrs T. left us in the morning & Mrs Ryder came to dinner.

Friday & Saturday Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 Spent at home & alone, with the exception of M.A. Nicholl.

Sunday Oct. 2nd This being a day appointed for the administration of The Lord's Supper Mr Finch gave us a Sermon, expressly upon the subject, the nature, & institution of the Ordinance, its uses, & the qualifications necessary for a worthy participation of it. His views on the subject seem in perfect conformity with those of our excellent Church. He urged frequent & regular communication as necessary to every description of persons, who were truly desirous of growth in grace, making at the same time faith, repentance, holy obedience, & charity, as requisites for the worthy & profitable receiving of it. But, then, he very properly observed, these were equally necessary for our performing any, & every, religious service in a manner acceptable to God, & profitable to ourselves. He considered the institution not only as a memorial of Christ's death, for the remission of sin, but that it was especially intended as a mean for promoting that spiritual union & communion with Him so necessary for the support of spiritual life. Christ being the

Head, & the Church the Body, we might expect to derive especial grace of those reasons, while faith was in exercise, in the participations of those symbols of his Body & his Blood.

As a visible Church too we not only hold Communion with our blessed Head, but with our fellow members of the same body, & therefore charity was hereby strengthened, and such a public profession made of our attachment to our religion, as would oblige us to know our resolution of obedience to all God's commands, & be binding upon us to walk worthy of the vocation whereby we are called. Mr F. considered the best (& only necessary) preparation to be a regular & pious life - such a life as would qualify us to meet death, come when it might, without fear or dismay.

Gracious God! enable me to consider the fresh obligations I have laid upon myself to continue thy faithful servant; & may the sense of what Christ has done for me oblige me to do daily more & more for him.

Monday Mr & Mrs Purkiss & Mary came to us yesterday Evening. The Day being very indifferent, the chief part of it has been spent at home. Mr P. drove me to Remenham to see Mrs P.'s Baby.

Tuesday Mr & Mrs P. took a drive this morning to Henley Park & Fawley Parsonage - we walked after dinner.

Wednesday Mr & Mrs P. & myself drove to Blounts Court thro' Caversham Park to Shiplake.

Thursday Mr & Mrs P. left us this morning.

Saturday Having caught cold, & my throat being a good deal inflamed & tender I have thought it prudent to stay at home the last two Days, to nurse it, & it is now much better.

Sunday Oct. 9th Mr Gore did the whole Duty, Mr F. (tho' at Church) not being quite well. There being now no Evening Prayers, we went in the afternoon to the meeting.

Monday Made a visit at Fawley; & called at Remenham.

Tuesday Mr Hall went to London in search of a Horse for Henry.

Wednesday Took little Jane with me in the Whiskey & called at Crowsley, & at Mr Howman's Drank Tea at Mr Guilleband's & called afterwards on Dr & Mrs Ord at Mrs Norman's.

Friday Mr H. came home this morning, having had no success in the object of his Journey. He saw Henry who is well. The expected invasion from France supposed to be very near, & preparations of every kind making for it. Mr T. Hall just got to his new House in London. Mrs H. very indifferent, & one of the Children ill with the Scarlet Fever.

Saturday Dr Ord dined here. Jane not quite well with pain in her bowels.

Sunday Oct. 16th Mr Finch's Sermon this morning was from this text "Wo unto the world because of offences - it must needs be that offences will come, but wo unto that man by whom the offence cometh". In thinking on the subject he

adverted to the verse which precedes this. He first explained the meaning of the word 'offence' as it is here used. He said that in the original it was synonymous to snare, temptation, or stumbling-block, & was the same with the many others in the Scriptures which are so translated, as, in the Psalms, "Let his table be made a snare unto him" and in Leviticus "whoever shall put a stumbling block in the way of the blind". So that, what a snare or a pit was to animals or a stumbling block in the way of a blind man, such we are to consider the offence here spoken of, as thrown in the way of our spiritual progress - & wo therefore to that person who should either by example, precept, or inconsideration become an offence to the weakest believer in Christ, or to any of those persons whom our example could influence. The reflections arising from hence he said, were, that the utmost watchfulness & circumspection were necessary over our own conduct in reference to others, & that even in matters perfectly harmless, we should deny ourselves (upon the apostles' maxim) if they were liable in the slightest degree to offend, or stumble our weak brother - that keeping the Glory of God & the good of our fellow-creatures constantly in view, we shd. so order our conversation as to follow that which should best promote these two great ends of our Being.

Mr F. then divided his subject into three general heads.

1st That in the world we must expect to meet with offences, or hindrances, to our faith & practice.

2ndly That these were necessary.

3rdly That a heavy woe attended those by whom these offences came.

First he enumerated among the dangers of the world the Examples of profaneness & infidelity - those who had no religion, & those who embraced a false one - places of public amusement, & resort, evil company, & evil books - these he said were among the chief of those things which made the world a snare, & a stumbling block to all, & to young persons on their being first left to themselves in particular. On this account he particularly exhorted us all to beware of them, & to arm ourselves against falling a prey to them - he recommended that we shd. first assure ourselves that such things would daily arise - that we should then prepare to meet them, by due reflection on the danger, & a proper care to avoid it, by all the exertions of human reason, & by all the aids of earnest & constant prayer to God in Christ, who having promised that the Grace shd. be sufficient for us, would doubtless make his promise good (if we failed not on our parts) & with the temptation would make for us a way to escape. As Parents & Masters of Families he especially exhorted us to train our Children & Servants in the principles of true religion; & in the choice of situations in after life to be especially careful that we placed them in such as will least expose them to make shipwreck of their faith or lay them open to temptations which youth & inexperience are ill able to withstand. (My heart burnt within me as I reflected on Henry at this moment). The second part of the subject went to prove that offences of this kind are indeed prevalent, & not only prevalent but necessary. They are necessary as exercises of faith & self-denial - they qualify the Christian for his future inheritance; & are therefore no impeachment either of the wisdom or goodness of God. He has implanted in the human mind principles sufficient to counteract those tendencies to evil, because he has promised the aid of his Holy Spirit to enlighten & to guide us. Man is a free agent, & therefore is left to his choice of good, or ill. The Agency of Satan is very powerful, & he is beset with evil Spirits from this Prince of Darkness - but then the Agency of God by the

Spirit of Grace, & by the intervention (as we have reason to believe from some passages of Scripture) of good angels is greater, & will in the end prevail, if Man does not resist, or squander these gracious designs in his favour; & refuse the offers of Salvation held out to him, thro' our Redeemer. Satan is allowed to take possession till driven out by the voice of the Son of God; but when Christ is once received in the heart by faith, the snares & temptations of the World, & all the delusions of the Wicked-one will be overcome, tho' the conflict will be perpetual, & preparation for it never to be relinquished. The 3rd division of the subject was to shew the Sin of, & dreadful consequences that would follow, the throwing any hindrances in the way of those who were walking in the paths of religion & virtue. Mr F. remarked on the very emphatical language which was used by our Lord to demonstrate this - that it were better such a man should be cast to the bottom of the sea never to rise again. Nothing could more strongly mark the Sin, & Danger of throwing temptations in the way of others, or of putting stumbling-blocks in their way who were walking onward to everlasting peace. This part of the subject was particularly addressed to those who had influence in life, who, by the allotment of Providence, held situations where their example would have weight, & their instructions be demanded. And the dreadful doom which awaited such despisers of God's word & ways, & who shewed so little regard to his Glory, or the best interest of their fellow creatures, must be apparent when the design of the Gospel was considered, or the glorious attributes of its Author & Finisher were allowed their due operation on the mind.

Monday Mrs & Miss Ord called here, also Mr & Mrs Goss & their two Daughters. My dear little Jane very indifferent, as she has been for several days past.

Tuesday In expectation of Mrs Yorke the whole morning, she having appointed, some days before, to spend this morning with me. Mrs & Miss Hedges called & paid me 5£ as a subscription to our School. Mr Bulley came to see Jane, who continues poorly.

Wednesday 19th Oct. The Day appointed for a general Fast. It was accordingly observed here with more than usual attention as I never saw our Church so full on such an occasion. The Services were on the whole very good - the selections from Scripture remarkably appropriate, and the new Prayers of a more evangelical cast than we have of late seen on such occasions - they breathed more humility, more self-renunciation - and it was, indeed, throughout a very solemn Service. Mr Finch's Sermon, & a suitable prayer before its delivery, were of the same cast. The Text 'O that they were wise! that they would think on these things, that they would consider their latter end!' He said that interpreters were not agreed as to the exact connexion in which this passage stood - whether Moses uttered it in reference to the heathen nations around him; or whether it was a solemn & affectionate ejaculation in behalf of the people of Israel. It was plain that its application was to the nation at large in either case; for tho' it might be used, by accommodation, to the circumstances of individuals, yet it had in its original meaning a much more comprehensive signification, and expressed an earnest desire that the people at large should be brought to serious consideration on their sins, & on what would naturally & necessarily follow from continuing in them. 'O that they were wise! that they would think on these

things, that they would consider their latter end!' that is, that the consequence of an abandonment to wicked & sensual indulgencies; or an apostacy from God, as in the case of Israel, would necessarily bring down the judgement of God upon them, which would end in the total ruin & destruction of their nation. The remarks which might be drawn from the subject consisted principally, in three. First that God desired the happiness of all his Creatures - not of Israel only tho' they had been selected by him for purposes of of mercy to the rest of mankind - but of all the nations of the Earth; especially those who were in Covenant with him by embracing the religion of his Son. 2ndly that it was no less our interest or privilege, than our duty to obey the word & will of God, & to walk in the paths of virtue & religion; & 3rdly that those nations who apostatised from the Faith or by lukewarmness in religion countenanced practices dishonorable to God & injurious to themselves, must expect the fate of all those nations which had preceded them, & would be given up to destruction. He exhorted us then to consider these things, & the 'latter end' of them; that we might not for a moment delay turning to the Lord our God, with repentance & deep humiliation, praying that we might be converted from the evil of our ways, & that God would turn away his anger from us, & remember no more our iniquities against us.

Sunday Nov. 6th The last fortnight has so passed that little is furnished to note in my Journal. The Dining twice at Mrs Ryder's to meet Mrs Merlott & Miss Crosse forms the most prominent feature of the whole period. My two Girls passed a night at my Aunt's in order that Frances might go to Mr Binfield's Concert, & Jane & myself fetched them home the next day.

Last Sunday Mr Finch was too much indisposed to come to Church. To Day he took his usual share of the Duty. His Sermon was on the Sins of Excess; particularly in eating & drinking. He described in strong terms the unreasonableness, & danger, of such indulgencies of appetite, how much they contradicted the intention of the Creator in giving us appetites, & how injurious they were to ourselves & others when brought into habits. His arguments were of a very common & obvious kind, but enforced in a manner peculiar to himself.

The rain at length begins to descend after many months of unusual drought. From the beginning of Hay Harvest (the middle of June) there has been in this part of the kingdom only two days of rain - the springs are in many places quite dry, & the pumps of course have failed. On the hills people have been obliged to fetch water 3 miles, in the vallies the scarcity has been both alarming & troublesome, and the face of the Country is without verdure. The grass has not grown at all, & there is a great failure in the Turnips - nothing therefore can be more welcome than the present prospect of rain which is now descending in mild & gentle showers - and I trust it will please God to grant us a continuance of it to renew & fertilize the earth. "Thou sentest a gracious rain upon thine inheritance & refreshest it when it was weary". Happy for those who can apply this in a spiritual sense to themselves in seasons of drought, or discomfort!

Monday Mr & Mrs Goss etc. called to take leave of us, as did Mrs Merlott & Miss Crosse.

Tuesday Jane not appearing quite well, I gave her last night one of Ching's Lozenges, which appears to agree with her, & she seems much the better for it.

Saturday The rain having continued almost thro' the whole week, I have neither seen anybody or been out, except a walk yesterday to the School, in which I had a very interesting and satisfactory conversation with my dear Margaret. She has (I trust) engaged in that "Service" which is indeed "perfect freedom", tho' too often looked upon by young people as a sort of gloomy slavery. The paths of religion are indeed paths of peace, when fully understood & steadily pursued, and I cannot doubt but that my dear Child will in time find that there is a "peace & joy in believing", which far surpasses anything in the power of the world, to bestow. It is my earnest prayer that she may "go on her way rejoicing", that she may grow in Grace & in the knowledge of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, & that she may bring forth those fruits of faith (namely good works) which are by Christ Jesus to the praise & glory of God. A consistent Christian is the noblest character on earth. A Christian who exhibits his principles in his practice; & who, while he maintains the glorious doctrines of the Gospel, adorns them by a departure from iniquity & by leading a life of holiness & obedience to all its precepts.

I called this morning with M. & F. on the Miss Davisons; I went afterwards to Mrs Cadogan, to request that she would introduce me to a Family lately come to Mount Pleasant, & whom I thought it might be desirable to know. She kindly accompanied me to call on Mrs Riddell, whom I found a very sensible & agreeable woman, and her daughters appear to be unaffected & amiable. They have been brought up in habits of piety, & are besides well educated; so that I hope my dear Girls will find their society an agreeable acquisition. It should be one of a Mother's leading objects, to find out proper companions for her Children.

Sunday Nov. 13th Mr Finch's Sermon this morning was on the Sin of Swearing - the Text from our Saviour's Sermon on the Mount "Swear not at all". It was an excellent practical discourse - very plain & enforced upon strong arguments. In the afternoon I went with Mrs T. Powys to Henley Church. I like Mr Guilleband better in the desk than in the pulpit - he reads with great feeling & devotion; but his Sermons are too diffuse, and the application not sufficiently close. The Text was from the 8th Ch. of Ecclesiastes 11th v. "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily; therefore the heart of the son of man is fully set in them to do evil".

Tuesday Mr Hall & myself dined at Mr Finch's where we met Mr Wright, & Col. & Mrs Jones.

Wednesday Hearing on Monday that Mr H.'s name was set down to serve the office of Sheriff for the County the ensuing year, I wrote to Mr Addington begging his interest to get him excused; but without success. Mr A. thinks the reasons alledged (namely his education as a Dissenter & his natural shyness etc.) not sufficient ones to urge as excuses. Thro' Mr Finch an application will now be tried thro' the Duke of Marlborough, & I hope, it will be attended with better success.

Saturday The three last days varied only by a walk to Henley in the mornings. To Day Marg't. & Frances dined at Mr Guilleband's after having been to dancing in the morning.

Sunday 20th Nov. Mr Powys did the whole duty this morning, tho' Mr Finch was at Church. In the afternoon we went to Henley Church where we heard from Mr Townshend a Sermon from the following words Isaiah 55. 7v. "Let the wicked forsake his way, & the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return unto the Lord for he will have mercy upon him, & to our God for he will abundantly pardon". He spoke first in general terms of the duty of repentance, & of the mercy of God in receiving Sinners who were truly penitent, that this peculiar & favourite attitude of the Almighty was of so comprehensive a nature, that the vilest of Sinners would not be rejected; that tho' their sins had been multiplied beyond all calculation, that his mercy & grace would abound & be multiplied in proportion, if they really repented & turned to Him. Mr F. next shewed in what repentance consisted - first in forsaking the ways of sin, next in the total abandonment of all sinful thoughts, that the eye of God was particularly directed to the heart, & that therefore it was necessary that this fountain of all impure desires, & wicked conduct, should be cleansed. We were next to turn unto the Lord our God - to leave all wicked ways, & deny all sinful thoughts & go to God thro' faith in our blessed Redeemer. This was the appointed way; the way of access to God, the only way by which Sinners could expect to receive forgiveness - it was therefore to be considered as one of the necessary fruits of repentance; & of indispensable obligation. The 2nd part of the subject he particularized by bringing proofs of God's readiness to receive sinners who thus approached him in repentance & faith. These proofs were principally drawn from the gracious invitations given both in the Old & New Testament, in which the great God, & our Saviour Jesus Christ declared that God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they should turn from their ways & live. And considered in this point of view Mr F. made a most serious application of the subject by asking if there was any one present who could hear such declarations, & yet be insensible to them? And if there were any such whether they might not be considered as the vilest, most ungenerous, & ungrateful of creatures? And whether their condemnation would not be just? That those who had heard the sound, & received the invitations of the Gospel, were deserving of much severer punishment than others. He desired therefore that each person would strictly examine themselves on this important point. To others (he said) who had indeed repented & returned to God in his appointed way, the words they had just heard were full of comfort & encouragement, that they would indeed find that God was a God of mercy & grace, & that all those who sincerely turned unto him he would truly reward & abundantly pardon.

Tuesday Henry came to us this Evening by the Henley Coach, to stay till tomorrow afternoon. He is well & likes his situation.

Wednesday Henry left us this Afternoon at 3 o'Clock.

Thursday We all (except Jane) dined at Mrs Ryder's this day. I did some business in the Town, & called on Mrs Macalester.

Saturday Mr Guilleband sat with me an hour this Morning, & before he was gone I was greatly surprised by a visit from Mrs Wm. Burwell who is staying with the Miss Rich's. She was well, & in good spirits. She staid with me rather more than two hours, but the time seemed short, there were so

many things to be crowded into it, not having met these four years. The account of Miss Loveday is of a very distressing kind, only that one's pity is so mixed with admiration of her extraordinary patience & fortitude, that one almost forgets her sufferings.

Sunday Nov. 27th Mr Finch being in London, we had Dr Cole (a friend of Mr Wright's) to take the whole Duty this Morning at Church. We were very well pleased with his manner of reading, which marked both attention & devotion. And his Sermon we thought of a superior kind; especially in the matter it contained. It was intended to give a comprehensive view of the blessings of the Gospel, and this it effected; for our minds were indeed impressed with the glorious privileges & supereminent advantages which it was described as holding out to us, if, by faith, we were led to make them our own. The Text was "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy". The subject was divided into four parts

1st The accession of light & knowledge derived from the Gospel Revelation

2nd The blessings of Redemption

3rd Peace & Consolation under the trials of life, and

4th The triumph over death.

Under the first head was shewn the state of darkness the human mind is in by nature, & the insufficiency of reason to enlighten it in any of those respects most important to our real happiness. This was clearly evinced by all past experience, for the wisest of the heathens were in profound ignorance as to the nature & attributes of God; & of a future State. All this the gospel revelation by the coming of Christ, cleared up. The veil thus taken from prophecy, the dayspring arose from on high & brought life & immortality to light. The clouds & thick darkness which before surrounded the Throne of God were now in a measure removed, & his attributes of goodness, & love, & mercy were fully disclosed, knowledge of the most interesting kind was communicated to the benighted Soul, & the tidings of great joy were published to the everlasting comfort of true Believers.

2ndly The blessings of redemption were pointed out under the next general head; & among these were included the Gift of the Holy Spirit by which the human mind is renewed & sanctified, & brought into a state of meetness for the heavenly regions. This change from darkness to light was very beautifully described - man's depravity was first shewn; the tendency of his mind to evil; yet that his original creation had left within him powers that qualified him to become a temple of the Holy Ghost, & to be made a habitation of God thro' the spirit. His superiority over the inferior creation was also shewn: his intellectual capacity, the power of conscience & many other things by which he is distinguished from them - these being marked & perfected by the influence of the Holy Spirit imparted thro' Christ's death, the image of God is restored, & the blessings of Redemption appear in the most glorious point of view.

The 3rd general head was to shew the peace & consolation afforded to the mind by the clear discoveries of the Gospel. These were many, but the two most prominent were the discovery of God's providential government & the assurance obtained that the troubles & sorrows of life were in reality dispensations of love. By the conviction that God ruled the world by a particular, as well as a general, Providence the most comfortable assurance was obtained that nothing was permitted but what is wisest, best, & most beneficial to the whole Creation - and that to those who love God all things

would work together for their Good. And the satisfaction of mind arising from this idea, was aided by the further conviction that all our sorrows & sufferings were needful to us, & intended only as fatherly chastisements, from which the greatest good might be derived. Dr C. observed that the human mind was so compounded as to make a mixture of prosperity & adversity needful to us, that there would be no exercise for some of our noblest faculties without it - this mixed state of things was therefore necessary to us, tho' it might be considered as the natural result of the introduction of Sin by the transgression of our first Parents. It was not only useful in a moral sense, but especially & principally, afflictive dispensations were necessary to prepare the mind for spiritual enjoyment, to weaken its attachments to this world, & to fix its hopes on a better.

The last division of the subject was to shew that the hopes of the Gospel enabled the Christian to triumph over death. Christ came to destroy him that had the power of death, even the Devil. There is in every man naturally a fear of death, & this was much added to by the darkness & uncertainty in which a future state involved till our blessed Lord's triumph over it by his resurrection. The hope full of immortality being thus opened to view, the sting of death is not only taken away, but that natural fear & dread is removed by which many have been all their life time subject to bondage. Nor is this all; the Christian may not only triumph over his fears, but he may indulge a lively hope & a joyful expectation - death & the grave are no longer his enemies; they are his best friends - they introduce him to that blessed inheritance prepared for him before the foundation of the World, to the society of angels & the spirits of just men made perfect, to a joyful meeting with those dear connections from whom he had been separated, and above all to the presence of his God & Saviour, in whose glorious "light he shall see light" & at whose right hand are pleasures for evermore. Dr C. closed his Sermon by what he called a few words of warning & admonition - these were, that tho' the Gospel was preached to all, it would not be those tidings of great joy to all adverted to in the text. It must be cordially embraced before it could prove so to any one. Christ must be received in faith, sin must be repented of, & utterly forsaken, & a life of holiness on earth must be introductory to a life of happiness in Heaven.

Saturday The week has passed much as usual, with very little to note. Mrs Ryder called upon me on Thursday. Jane has not appeared so well for some days as for the last two or three weeks, & yet with no such symptoms as to occasion alarm (except to such a weak & timid mind as my own) nor with complaints to mark any particular disease. Paleness & langour are chiefly apparent, & she has once or twice felt pain in her bowels.

Sunday Dec. 4th Mr Finch being still in London Mr Powys did the whole duty this morning. His Text "Let the same mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus". We were at the meeting in the Afternoon. Ann Spindler lies very dangerously ill of the Scarlet Fever, which again prevails very much in Henley.

Monday Mrs Ryder spent the morning with me. Jane appears to day as well as usual.

Thursday Hearing that Mrs Ryder was but indifferent Mr H. & myself in the Whiskey went to see her. We found her

better, tho' very weak, & with giddiness in her head. Joseph & Rachel Spindler have now caught the Fever, but all are in a way to recover.

Saturday A Letter this day from J. Burn informs me of the alarming illness of her Mother; an affecting circumstance to the Family.

Sunday Dec. 11th Mr Scobel did the duty this morning at our Church. His Sermon was from a part of the Gospel appointed for the day, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" He remarked on the enquiry & the reply. The first he said might excite some surprize. The Baptist must have known that Jesus was indeed the Christ. He had baptized him, when the spirit descended upon him & a voice from Heaven was heard This is my beloved Son etc. He had also heard of his miracles, if not witnessed them, & his internal convictions must have been of the strongest kind that our Lord was indeed "he that should come". Consequently it was not to satisfy his own doubt that he sent to make the enquiry; but in order to resolve those of his disciples, whose mistaken views, & prejudices were such that (it may be supposed) they refused to receive John's testimony concerning him, but required other evidence which their Master knew would be obtained by their going immediately to Christ himself. In the reply given by Him to their question there was much, Mr S. said, to be remarked, both in the manner & matter of it. He made no positive declaration of his being indeed the Messiah, but left this to be deduced from all which they saw & heard. Thus they could answer themselves, & by that means were probably left to fuller & clearer convictions than, in the then state of their minds, they could have obtained by the strongest asseverations even from Christ himself....[the faith which they desired to obtain & which was then to be granted them was upon external evidence, upon outward testimony, therefore by leaving it to themselves to draw their own conclusions, they were at liberty to obtain this faith in a more free & voluntary manner - the faith which is "the gift of God" they probably afterwards received, that faith which could alone change the heart, & enable them to believe to the saving of the Soul, - "with the heart man believeth unto righteousness" - and herein we see the distinguishing characteristics of the disciples of John, & those of Christ - a distinction which may be brought down to the present day. John prepared the way by human testimony, by earnest persuasive preaching - he convinced the understanding; thereby leading his disciples to search the Scriptures, to enquire after the Saviour that was to come, the Messiah therein foretold. So much can faithful ministers do in the present day, and those who attend upon their ministry may be brought to a conviction of certain truths which depend on the understanding alone for their reception & acknowledgement - but, beyond this, ministers cannot go, beyond this John could not go - and if the disciples of either stop here, it is to be feared that all they have learnt will avail them but little - but from hence they must go immediately to Christ, of him they must beg that faith which is His gift; that faith which will enable them to understand his miracles, to know him as the true Messiah, & to receive him as their Lord & King, then indeed will they be a joy & crown of rejoicing to their ministers; & they will themselves experience a great "joy & peace in believing...but to return to the Sermon. Mr S. pointed out the wisdom in our Lord's reply to the enquiry made of him, in particular that it was compounded of the prophecies made of him in Isaiah,

which were also especially connected with those given of John in the same book - by which it might be supposed their convictions would be assisted, while their prejudices were made subservient to their faith. He concluded by a sensible & useful application of the whole, pointing out wherein all these Scriptures were written for our admonition.

Sunday 18th Dec. The week has passed without a single circumstance to vary it. The weather has been such as not to allow of our going out of doors, almost incessant rain, and we have, of course, seen nobody. We have not however found the time heavy on our hands, but have looked within doors for that cheerful enjoyment which was not to be found without. I had indeed forgot that I rec'd. on Wednesday 500 Tracts I have had printed of Hornes Preface to his commentary on the Psalms which I have abridged, or rather made a connected abstract of. The idea of printing it arose from the desire I felt of contributing my mite to the large treasury opened for religious information; and having myself recd. considerable instruction . mixed with great delight, from reading this valuable work of Bishop Horne's, it appeared to me that this might in part be communicated by inviting others to enjoy the same, which I thought these extracts from the Preface exactly calculated to do. I thought also that a useful purpose might be answered to the Society for the propagation of religious knowledge if they approved it sufficiently to print some to bind up with their cheap Prayer Books, to be placed immediately before the Psalms, as it could not fail to set people on enquiring after the several meanings pointed out, even tho' their capabilities were not sufficiently informed to relish, or to discern all the beauties which others see in these pious & highly spiritual compositions. It is, at least, an humble attempt to honour God, & I trust that if my judgement has failed in the means, it will be accepted by Him who looks rather to the motive than the act.

Wednesday 21st Dec. My two dear Boys have come home from School by the Henley Coach this Evening. It was a joyful meeting among the young ones but I myself attended with as much pain as pleasure. Owen's feelings so overpowered him that he cd. hardly speak to us, & his looks were of that timid & embarrassed kind as became distressing in the extreme. We hope, however, that after a night's rest he will feel more confident & assured, & be satisfied that he is indeed under the roof of the most affectionate of parents.

Friday Our dear little Boy seems now nearly restored to his usual spirits, and it is indeed so great a comfort to see my dear Children all around me joining in each others sports & plays, that it puts me in mind of the Psalmist's expression (tho' he used it I am sensible in a higher sense) "the voice of joy & gladness is in my dwelling". May it please the bountiful giver of all Good to continue to me & them the enjoyment of this felicity, or to support our minds when deprived of it. "If one of thine hands lies hard upon me let the other support & bear me up with the more firmness & stability!"

Sunday Christmas Day Mr Finch being returned gave us a Sermon suitable to the Day.

Monday I find myself to day a good deal indisposed from a Cold I took yesterday. The weather, tho' warm for the time of year, is extremely wet & damp & scarcely allows of our going out at all. Our usual Xmas Party drive to day.

Thursday My Cold being better I ventured this morning with all the Children to Reading, having some business to do there. I called on Mrs Ryder & Mrs Deane, & also on my Aunt, but the rain was so incessant, that we were obliged to go from place to place in the Coach. On our return home we found here, to our great surprize, Mr Walker. He is come, we find, to stay a few days with us.

Friday Mr Finch dined here.

Sunday January 1st 1804 My mind & thoughts are here arrested by another period in the evolution of time which seems to call for more than common attention. Months & Years do indeed glide on with an almost imperceptible rapidity, but at the close of one year, & the beginning of another, a sense is excited, by which the lapse of time is made apparent, & its importance, as a medium by which we are carried on to Eternity, is pressed home with double feeling, to the heart. When I look back on the years which are past; when I bring into the retrospect the various events by which joy or sorrows, hope or regret, were excited, when I reflect on the turbulence of my passions & feelings in youth, & the more painful anxieties of succeeding years; when to these I add a long series of sins, & folly, of vanity & dissipation, there is nothing which I can wish to perpetuate in my recollection, but the goodness & mercy of God that has still followed me all my life long, & brought me on to the present period with a prospect of futurity opening on my view far beyond anything which my past experience has afforded. For many years I "walked in a vain shadow, & disquieted myself in vain". Yet even then the eye of God was upon me for good. I was preserved, in sickness, in sorrow, in trouble, in temptations from within, & from without, in seasons of elation & prosperity, no less than in those of adversity & anguish. Here then I can trace a golden thread of mercy interweaving itself with all the dispensations of providence in my past life, which enables me to look back upon it with a pleasure which the circumstances themselves could not afford; & by which such profitable instruction may be derived, as may serve to direct my future life, & to illuminate the path of present duty. "Bless the Lord, O my Soul; & all that is within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord O my Soul, & forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases, who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness & tender mercies". May I be enabled in all my future years (if any such should be granted me) to go on "redeeming the time", & be enabled by the Grace & Favour of God to rejoice more & more in His Salvation; may I be daily advancing in a meetness for that blessed inheritance by which the labours of Time are crowned; & the Soul of the humble Believer finally rewarded.

Mr Powys being in Essex, Mr Finch took the whole duty upon himself. He have us a most earnest & affecting exhortation to call our years to remembrance, & to begin a fresh period of time with new resolutions of leading a holy & religious life, & to think with seriousness on that "one thing needful" whose importance so infinitely surpassed all other considerations. His Text was from the 1st Chap. of the 2nd Epistle of St Peter "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give all diligence to make your calling & election sure; for if ye do these things ye shall never fall". Mr F.'s main object was to prove the necessity of exertion on our parts (that is

on the part of all those who have an interest in the calling & election here spoken of) that the Grace of God is not bestowed upon us in vain; but that we bring forth in our lives those fruits of faith which shall be visible to all men, & thus adorn the doctrine that we profess. He shewed that while God bestows Grace & Faith on us, we are on our parts bound to work out our Salvation with fear & trembling, & to fulfill our part of the Covenant by adding "to our faith virtue & to virtue knowledge etc. etc." which he considered as the precise meaning of the passage under consideration. He also pointed out the necessity of using great diligence in this important concern, for that the object could not be attained without it. He shewed the infinite disproportion between the concerns of time & those of eternity, & that yet those of the latter were treated with supineness & indolence, while those of the other were pursued with avidity & zeal. This he said was to be attributed solely to the corruption of our nature by the Fall, our will & affections being now no longer under the control of our reason are enslaved to our appetites & lusts, & "when we would do good evil is present with us". From this state we can only be recovered by a vital & abiding faith in Christ, which, if genuine, will teach us to deny ungodliness & worldly lusts, & to live righteously soberly & godly. But this cannot be attained but by earnest & zealous endeavors, by the assistance of the Holy Spirit, & by such convictions of the magnitude of the object we have in view as shall make it earnestly & steadily desired, & with preserving diligence so sought as that it may be obtained. The folly of neglecting to work out our Salvation, & to obtain the great object & end of our calling Mr Finch pointed out in the strongest language, summing up his discourse with a most persuasive exhortation to us all, to make this the great object of our future life, to set about it immediately, & thus to make all the employments of time subservient to the interests of eternity.

A Letter from Jane Burn to day speaks of her Mother as in a very precarious state, with little prospect of recovery.

Sunday 15th Jan. Last Tuesday our dear Owen was taken suddenly ill in the morning, without sickness at his stomach, giddiness or other unpleasant symptoms - in the course of the morning he found his Throat sore, & the Scarlet Fever rash shewed itself. We sent for Mr Bulley who came immediately & encouraged us to hope for a favourable termination of the disease - this we still hope, tho' he has got a great deal of Fever, no appetite for any kind of food (indeed will take nothing but liquids) & has only been twice taken from his bed to have it made.

If my mind did not habitually look above second Causes, I should be apt to repine at the introduction of such a disorder a second time into my Family, & in the person of a beloved Child after using such expensive means to prevent its spreading upon the former occasion, but the consciousness that every heart is under the controlling influence of a "Great First Cause" my mind acquiesces in the appointment of this, painful & distressing as it is to every feeling of my heart. I earnestly desire, & pray for, an increase of that Faith in the promises of God, & that Trust in his Mercy & Compassion, which shall carry me thro' this, & every other trial, with fortitude & composure of spirit.

Wednesday Owen continues very indifferent, rather worse than better. Mr Bulley has hitherto spoken very favorably of him, but he is to day not quite so sanguine, & my own hopes

are greatly sunken about him. The red appearance on the skin is entirely gone, but the Fever still remains, & tho' the inside of his Throat is well, the glands without are very much swelled & extremely hard. His nose is much stuffed so as to obstruct his breathing, & he still has an aversion to every kind of food. May a merciful God send him relief, for vain is the help of man.

Thursday Our little Boy being rather worse than better Mr Bulley proposed bringing Dr Taylor to see him, which he did to day at 2 o'Clock. The Doctor speaks very doubtfully of his state; thinks his present illness something distinct from the Scarlet Fever, & yet is at a loss to discover the Cause.

Friday The dear Child no better - his look rather more unfavorable, his pulse very low & quick & irregular, & every thing about him discouraging - yet he complains of no pain, & says when asked that he has none. Such however is his state that we have determined to ask Mr Knight to come & see him, thinking it possible that with his judgement & experience he may discover what is the poor Child's real malady. This done we must leave him with Him "in whose hands (alone) are the issues of life & death" - and I trust that we shall be enabled patiently to acquiesce in his righteous will whatever it may be.

Saturday The Child had so bad a night, was so feverish & restless, with a want of recollection whenever he awoke, that we thought all hope of his recovery was at an end. I had only to pray that we might all be supported under so heavy a trial, & that God would graciously spare the dear Child himself much sense of suffering. In order to support my mind while I was dressing to go into his room I brought to my recollection those instances of our blessed Lord's compassion & tenderness, by which his capacity for sympathizing with his distressed people was evidenced. I thought of his weeping at the Grave of Lazarus - of his "groaning in the spirit", of his encouraging language to little Children - of his leaning on the bosom of the beloved disciple, together with St Paul's assurance that He had been touched with the feeling of our infirmities, & was in all points tempted like as we are. I therefore reposed myself on his great mercy & compassion, as on the tender sympathy of a Friend - and on the gracious promises which are held out, thro' Him, in every page of the blessed Gospel. Still nature struggled within my breast, & God alone was able to still the tumult. It was a Sovereign decree which was gone forth; & it must be obeyed, it was the voice of a Father which spoke, & it was the Duty of a Child to listen to it. Nature was for a time subdued, & the maternal tie seemed broken. In this frame of mind I entered my dear Child's apartment. He appeared unusually glad to see me, talked of soon getting well (which he had never before done) & asked when he might go down stairs? Here the struggle was renewed - I found it difficult to reply to him. Soon after, however, he fell into a quiet sleep. My mind recovered its tone. I was able to read, & pray. He waked in about an hour, greatly refreshed. He drank a cup of cocoa for breakfast, & began from that time to amend. I had written the night before to ask Mr Knight to come & see him - the doubt I had expressed of the nature of his case, & Mr K's acknowledged skill & experience made me very desirous that we should have his opinion, but this apparent amendment made it no longer requisite. Mr Hall, therefore, sent our faithful Servant William immediately to London to stop his coming, (sensible of the inconvenience it would

put him to), & he arrived in time to prevent his setting out, which he had, most kindly, proposed doing at 5 o'Clock the next morning.

The fever returned again in the Afternoon at the normal time, but the dear Child passed a better night.

Sunday & Monday Owen appeared so much the same as on Saturday, that no amendment was perceptible. Dr T. now saw it proper to change his medicines, & he accordingly ordered him some draughts which shd. operate on his Bowels. The effect of these has been very favorable & to day (Tuesday) there appears to be a decided amendment. He has taken more nourishment than on any three days during his illness, & he is now (6 o'Clock afternoon) sleeping comfortably at a time when he used to be very restless, & greatly disturbed by Cough, & difficulty of breathing. I desire to bless God for all his mercies. With Him are the issues of life & death, & if my dear Child is restored, it is to his tender compassion alone that I owe it. May He enable me to impress on the mind of my Child a sense of His preserving mercy, & may his future life evince that He was not spared in vain!

Wednesday After a comfortable night Owen waked much better, & so has continued thro' the day. Dr Taylor's chief apprehension now lies in respect of the swelled glands on the right side of his neck - he is fearful of a suppuration there; & his great aim is to check it.

Thursday Our dear little Boy passed a rather restless night, having some slight return of Fever, but after breakfast he revived, & sat up near four hours with less fatigue than could possibly have been expected.

Friday The amendment in Owen continues. He talks of being very hungry, & has sat up 5 hours with out fatigue. Dr Taylor says the great subject of apprehension now is lest the glands which are so much swelled under each ear should suppurate, which would not only be painful & disfigure him, but might also be injurious to his constitution. I must, however, endeavor to leave this, with all other things, to the Will of Him who knows what is best for us, & who, if he sends calamity will, I trust, afford comfort & strength under it. "His Will then be done on earth, as it is done in Heaven!"

Sunday 29th Jan 1804 Our little Boy's amendment has been rapid beyond our expectations, & again I have to "praise the Lord with joyful lips". It is even to be hoped that what had excited my late fears will not take place; but that he will soon be restored to his usual health & strength. Thus this new calamity opens a way for fresh trust in God, & enables me to rejoice in that faithfulness & truth which is at all times my shield & buckler; & by wch.. I have been graciously supported when my own strength failed. "He giveth power to the faint & to them that have no might he increaseth strength".

