

# The Life of Joseph Metford 1776-1863

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By the kindness of Honora Elizabeth Thompson (Mrs. Charles Thompson), of Penhill Close, Cardiff, granddaughter of Joseph Metford, who has lent us the original of the Joseph Metford autobiography, we have been able to check extracts from a copy of the Life made some years ago at Devonshire House and to add a few paragraphs omitted from the copy. The Life has been written into the after portion of an account book of the firm of Metford & Clark beginning in 1804, and occupies 122 pages, the Continuation adding thirty pages to the book.

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**I** WAS born at Glastonbury on the 19th of the 12th month, 1776. My father's name was William Metford ; he married Mary Pike, daughter of John Pike, serge maker, of Taunton.<sup>1</sup> My parents resided in a small house near what goes by the name of the "lower church." My father was brought up to wool combing and stocking making ; a great business at that time and for many years afterwards, in that part of Somersetshire ; to this business was added a small general shop. My parents had five daughters before I came into the world ; and one son (John) afterwards, who died in infancy, so that through life I have never had the help of a brother. My oldest sister, Jane, died before my remembrance ; of the rest, Mary married Thomas Clark, of Grinton<sup>2</sup> ; she left four children at the time of her death. Sarah married Isaac Parsons, of Publow, she died without issue<sup>3</sup> ; Amy married William Stephens, of Bridport,<sup>4</sup> she had a large family and died at Bridport in 1847. My youngest sister was never married and is still surviving.

An Exciseman, Matthew Jorling, was engaged to come to our house every day for two hours to instruct my two younger sisters and myself. . . . I was a little more than twelve years old when I was sent to Boarding School at Compton.<sup>5</sup> . . .

Tho' little time was occupied in my Boarding School education, yet I have often thought that much of that little was sadly wasted ; I do not remember any endeavours being used to give us a love for learning by showing us its

multiform uses in civil life ; and I cannot avoid thinking that with proper attention and inspection, much of the misery of my early School days would have been avoided.

When I was in my fifteenth year I went on trial as an apprentice to Thomas Melhuish, Draper and Grocer, of Taunton.<sup>6</sup> My Master was a Minister in our Society, and was highly esteemed by my Parents, who thought that placing me in a " guarded situation " must necessarily be to my great advantage, it was not however a place altogether suited to my disposition, nor to my advantage as a Tradesman ; my Master and Mistress were old people and their habits and tempers not calculated to influence a mind so reserved as mine. My Mistress was by many years the oldest of the two, and she being little in the shop I had not much interference from her ; my master was a man of some learning and I believe a pretty good Latin scholar. His naturally reserved and morbid temperament very much limited his usefulness both to me and to others ; he was a slave to the *Pipe*, beginning in the morning as soon as he was down stairs, and continuing in the best Kitchen Fireplace a large portion of every day. He had been successful in his business but it was conducted with too stiff adherence to old systems to suit the changeable world we lived in. Under these circumstances I was, in a few months after leaving School, bound an Apprentice for 6 years.

[The visit of Thomas Mullett<sup>7</sup> and his daughters gives him the opportunity of acquiring the first rudiments of culture, and at the same time strong Radical ideas.]

I was in quite early life enlisted in the cause of the people ; the dashing success of the French, in the overthrow of the tyranny of the Court, the Nobles, and the Clergy, gave me full scope for thought and argument. My Master and Mistress were unfortunately arranged on the other side, and I had some uphill work, in getting the few periodicals of the day and in getting time to read them. After England joined in the war against the French I procured by the aid of some of my revolutionary Friends a pretty regular sight of French newspapers ; these I read in my Chamber often till midnight, and thus gained more knowledge of the language than my School life had afforded me, and by tracing on the Map of Europe the progress of the French Army, I

subsequently knew more of the Geography of Europe than I had attained to by the "use of the Globes."

[Much follows descriptive of his "new political career."]

There was a niece of my mistress's in the shop; and she was the main-stay of the business as far as the sale of Goods went; her being some ten years older than I was became the person on whom I mostly relied for acquiring a knowledge of the "art and mystery" of Shopkeeping. . . . I was for a short time as bad here as I had been at School, till my Mother-sickness wore off a little.

I went regularly to Meetings from habit, and had no inclination to go to any other place of Worship but I seemed to be utterly unacquainted with the objects and satisfactions to be met with on the occasion of such Assemblings; my first endeavour on taking my seat was to place my body in such a position as would enable me to sleep the most steadily, and the most secure from observation; in this I succeeded wonderfully, and whilst I dozed away in this manner one half of the time, the other half was occupied in a variety of airy speculations, political or commercial, just as it happened to be uppermost; many of these "Castles in the Air" remain imprinted in my memory, for I loved the delusions of my imagination, and perhaps the more strongly, from the often gloomy character of my home; I suppose my Master was not aware of the wanderings of my mind, as I do not remember any conversation calculated to induce me to confide in him, whenever my mind suffered under conviction; nor am I sensible that his ministry was often suitable to my condition,—on the contrary there were many circumstances which prejudiced me against him as a Spiritual Father, and possibly he was sensible of this.

[Much follows about his religious life.]

I trusted that a change in my dress would be of use to me in my spiritual progress, but I soon found it was no shield against the assaults of my soul's enemy—temptations did not cease but only took a different shape.

In the latter part of my apprenticeship my master was often absent for months together, on religious visits to the Midland and Northern Counties. I felt deeply the responsibility which fell on me on these occasions; I was brought

more into communication with my mistress at such times; she had all the incapacity to be expected from one 80 years old, and her bad temper was sometimes very hard to bear. . . .

There was an old branch of the Metford family settled at Taunton; they or their ancestors came from Glastonbury; there had been little or no recognition of relationship between my Parents and those whom I found at Taunton; there were Joseph Metford, a retired Surgeon, and Hannah, his wife; they were old folks and lived genteely at Flook House. There was also their son, William, and Elizabeth, his wife, and their very little daughter Elizabeth, afterwards Elizabeth Compton, of London.<sup>8</sup> The old friends were kind in their way, and invited me to dine with them on a first day several times in the year. . . .

I believe both the old folks died before I left Taunton, and their son William also; who was taken off rather suddenly in the vigour of life. Flook House then came into possession of another son of the old folks, Ellis Button Metford, a Physician whose son, the present William Metford, M.D., is now the occupant, he has left the Society of Friends, and his sisters also.

There was also an old Friend in our Meeting, Joseph Gifford,<sup>9</sup> who sometimes invited me to visit him, these visits would have been insufferably dull but for the aid of books, of which he had a good many; he and my Master and Mistress were scarcely on speaking terms; many attempts were made by Friends to heal the breach, but it continued to the time of his death; he had large property which was locked up in Chancery for 20 years, by which time many of the legatees were dead,—the cause of the delay arose from a multiplicity of Wills and Essays for Wills.

As I approached the last years of my apprenticeship, my Master gave signs of being desirous of quitting business, and said sufficiently plain, that I may be his successor if I would; on consulting with my Parents, they could not allow the pleasant pictures they had formed of my succeeding them at Glastonbury, to be marred in this way, and the offer was declined. My Master had also expressed his desire to get out of business to George Clark, of Poole,<sup>10</sup> who used sometimes to visit an Uncle he had at Taunton. George Clark had been a sea-faring man and had been engaged in the Newfoundland Trade, as Master of a vessell, a good

many voyages ; he was now thinking of quitting the sea and thought Taunton would be a comfortable Port as was natural enough for him, for he considered that my blooming cousin, who had so long been at the Helm of our shop, would make an excellent " First Mate " for him on his new cruise. My Master, it seemed, had other views, or at least other opinions ; and managed to raise such a storm that my Cousin refused the overture of marriage, and Captain Clark was forced to wait the turning of the tide ; this occurred in less than a year, when by the interference of Thomas Mullett, and perhaps other friends, my master consented to offer terms for giving up the house and the stock to George Clark, and my Cousin Jane having capitulated also, they were married some two or three months before my Apprenticeship expired, and I being thus set at liberty left for Glastonbury.

At the time when I came home to reside, there were six or seven families or Friends residing in Glastonbury, and a good many also at Street ; the meeting altogether was perhaps as large as Street meeting is now ; during my boyhood the meeting was held First day mornings at Street, and afternoons at Glaston ; by this time a new Meeting House was built at Glastonbury, and some changes as to *times* took place, indeed I believe that the afternoon meeting became a burden ; there is now no Friend living at Glaston, and the new Meeting House referred to has been sold ; my Parents and my Sister Parsons lie buried in the (then) new burying ground ; but my ancestors and relations farther back were buried in the old ground at the bottom of Benedict Street.

[He is now about twenty-one. He is made much of by the older Friends, and begins shop-keeping, but when he finds that his affairs are going pretty well, he does not trouble to push the business further, finding the whole occupation uncongenial. He becomes Clerk to the Monthly Meeting, and describes many of the people with whom he comes into contact.]

We were favoured more than many Meetings with a sound and living Ministry : the first to be named was Samuel Clothier Bryan<sup>11</sup> ; he was a man in very moderate circumstances and but little learning, but of strong and sound judgment and of so much independence of mind that I never knew him eat or drink in a Friend's house ; he was a

friend much valued by my parents, and a frequent visitor of them, and of others who were at any time prevented by illness from attending meetings ; he was an industrious man, and worked in his own garden assiduously, he told me once that he thought it was a scandal for a religious man to suffer weeds in his garden ; he always used to walk to and from meetings and tho' our Quarterly Meetings were often twenty-six miles distant, and our Monthly Meetings often eighteen miles, there were few more regular attenders then he was, even when his age exceeded eighty years ; his appearances in the Ministry were frequent ; yet I never heard him engaged in Vocal Prayer. Under the Pastoral care of this valued friend had grown up my Brother-in-law, Thos. Clark, then living at Greinton, and his brother Joseph Clark ; the last of them belonged to our Meeting, both of them were subsequently of essential service to me in my feeble attempts to " enter in at the strait gate." . . .

I believe that it was in the summer of 1798 that W<sup>m</sup> Crotch,<sup>12</sup> a Minister from Needham in Suffolk, was at Glaston, in the course of his religious visit to the West of England ; we were strongly attracted to each other ; and in the spirit of Prophecy he communicated to me his belief that I should shortly receive a call to the ministry ; the communication startled me greatly, not so much from any particular dread of the engagement, but in a lively sense of my unfitness and unworthiness to be thus employed ; I felt like him who said " My Father's house is small in Manassah and I am the least in my Father's house."—I kept all these things in my heart often pondering on them ; coveting chiefly that I may be favoured with the clearness of vision to make me to discern the path of my duty. My brother T.C. and I accompanied our friend W.C. to Bath and Melksham ; at both of which places we fell in with W<sup>m</sup> Savery from America<sup>13</sup> and attended several of his public meetings ; a line of service for which W. Savery was peculiarly gifted.

In the late Autumn of this year, 1798, there came to Glaston in the course of their religious visit two friends from America, Hannah Barnard<sup>14</sup> and Eliz. Coggeshal<sup>15</sup> ; there was a novelty in the engagements and sentiments of these friends calculated to attract *young* minds ; mine had already drank deep into Republican views in general, and the natural equality of men in particular, and I enjoyed not

a little the war of words, in which H.B. was often engaged with the Patricians of the day ; I thought, and think that she had both reason and scripture on her side as long as she confined herself to the simple subject ; the natural rights and privileges of the whole family and the folly of those aristocratic distinctions which, as she said, required the Master to ride on *before* and the Servant to ride 20 yards *behind* ; when if they had ridden side by side, conversation profitable to *both* would probably have arisen ; I cannot enter in the contest in which H.B. was subsequently involved when her belief in Christian doctrine and the authenticity of the Old Testament scriptures became impugned ; I have often thought that she was driven by injudicious praise on the one hand, and by a too fiery zeal on the other, much beyond the limit which her sober judgment approved. These two friends after visiting our Quarterly went into Wales ; and not having a very suitable attendant they got into some difficulties which my brother T.C. being informed of he concluded to join them and render his aid in their dreary mid-winter travel in that Country where friends are "few and far between ;" he wrote some interesting descriptions of their travelling, fare and lodging.

[The next incidents in his life are illness from Typhus Fever, from which he nearly died, and a revolt against an oppressive system of service on what were called Juries of Servers. He found a way out of this with true Quaker ingenuity, by confronting the Court that summoned him with two Acts of Parliament, one of which entitled him not to take the Oath, and the other of which forbade him to serve on the Jury without taking the Oath. In this way he liberated the Quakers from giving up their time for a very onerous service, where they were subject to great official extortion, and exposed to much temptation in the Ale-houses, to which many of them seemed to succumb.]

[At the summer Quarterly Meeting of 1799 held at Glastonbury were present Mary Dudley<sup>16</sup> and her daughter Elizabeth. They had a public meeting at Wells, "this being (I think) the first time that M.D. had been at Wells since she danced at the Assembly Rooms there." At a public meeting at Pensford Joseph Metford "was constrained to kneel down and in a manner which I fear was

scarcely intelligible poured out my soul in prayer to God." Anticipating a requirement of some vocal service he "went to meeting in a state of terror," but he "had peace" in the retrospect. His second public appearance was at a meeting held at Wells by Deborah Darby and Rebecca Young<sup>17</sup>.]

In the autumn of the year 1799 I received a letter from my friend W<sup>m</sup> Crotch, informing me that he intended to visit the families of Friends in Devonshire and Southwark Monthly Meetings and proposing my attending him.

It was near to the end of the year when I set out with such a Certificate as the peculiarity of the case required, to meet my Friend W<sup>m</sup> Crotch at Cirencester Quarterly Meeting, a friend from Bristol, who was going to attend the Quarterly Meeting at Cirencester kindly took me in tow; we left on a first-day morning and attending meeting at Sodbury, where I had something to express, which I believe was in the right line, and I felt a little encouraged; from Sodbury we rode to Isaac Sargant's<sup>18</sup> at Grittleton, where we lodged, and rode next morning to Cirencester.—I found my dear Friend W<sup>m</sup> Crotch at the house of his son-in-law Samuel Bowley,<sup>19</sup> our meeting was a pleasant one; tho' I felt very much like a voyager in unexplored latitudes. The next day was the Quarterly Meeting, of which I remember but little more than that a cause of dissatisfaction existed between an individual<sup>20</sup> and one of our Monthly meetings; this occasioned a sitting of the Quarterly Meeting in the evening at which the matter was settled; the Individual however subsequently left our Society and became a follower of Joanna Southcott.

I think we staid at Cirencester the remainder of that week, in the course of which I formed an acquaintance with David Dent<sup>21</sup> who had recently opened a Boarding School for Boys at Cirencester and which continued in good repute some years afterwards; D.D. was a young man about my own age, he was educated at Ackworth and continued there during his minority; he had been the attendant of W<sup>m</sup> Crotch in many of his religious engagements, and I suppose ought to have accompanied him to America; but a sort of envy or jealousy on the part of some who should have known better prevented *this* union, and after W<sup>m</sup> Crotch had himself declined to go to America from apprehending that the Will was accepted for the Deed, they judged it best to part



company. D.D. settled at Cirencester and I was about to supply his place.

It is however matter of History that some time after the concern to go to America revived in the mind of W<sup>m</sup> Crotch and the Yearly Meeting gave him another certificate, and he went over without any Companion ; his labours in that land were not extensive, but subsequent accounts give the assurance that the extraordinary gift which had been so conspicuous in him, in this Country, was granted to him in that land, so that many were greatly astonished, and some bitterly offended at having their evil thoughts and actions brought to light by his means. A storm of persecution and detraction was raised which the sensitive mind and the extreme nervous susceptibility of my dear friend could not withstand *he died " suddenly "* at Philadelphia.

This digression from my narrative may be somewhat premature but the occasion of the separation of my friends W.C. and D.D. required some explanation ; and when once the Tale of sorrow was begun, it seemed best to bring it to its grievous termination. W<sup>m</sup> Crotch attended the first day morning meeting at Cirencester, at which D.D. appeared in supplication, and I believe the meeting was very satisfactory ; and immediately after which W<sup>m</sup> Crotch and I, accompanied by David Bowley<sup>22</sup>, set off for Oxford, where we arrived in the evening. W<sup>m</sup> Crotch attended the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, and next day the Quarterly Meeting of Berkshire and Oxfordshire ; here I met for the first time my friends John Hull<sup>23</sup> and Ann Crowley<sup>24</sup> of Uxbridge, with whom we afterwards joined company. There were two small families of friends living in Oxford, these we visited ; I think I was made sensible on this occasion that these friends lived in a barren and unfruitful land, and I felt some concern to point as well as I could, to a better and enduring inheritance. From Oxford we went to Aylesbury and attended the Quarterly Meeting of Buckinghamshire ; after which we reached Amersham, and lodged at the house of Robert Eeles<sup>25</sup>, this valuable friend was blind ; in his house boarded George Dilwyn<sup>26</sup>, and his wife, from America ; they had travelled much in England, and were now resident in Amersham ; they however returned to their own Country and died there. . . . The next morning we attended the week-day meeting at Amersham, it was small and there being a long

row of Ministers in the Gallery, they sat apparently waiting one for the other till it grew late ; G. Dilwyn then looking round said, " Time speeds, Friends," which I suppose might open the way a little, and the meeting soon afterwards ended. In this little Town lived at that time John Wilkinson<sup>27</sup> ; with his mother and Aunt Eliz. Raper ; John was then I suppose about sixteen years old ; he was the son of a clergyman, and he became a valuable Minister in our Society for many years, and a very popular one ; he was one of those who happened to be at Westminster Meeting on the first-day morning when the Emperor Alexander of Russia, and his suite, came to the Meeting ; I believe John Wilkinson was the principle Speaker on that occasion ; he however, like some others survived his popularity among friends ; and some years before his Death he rejoined the Church in which he was born. I may not be acquainted with *all* the causes which led to this change, yet I deplore the effect as a great loss to our Society, and to the world. I do not know his equal in the Society now ! " take him all in all." From Amersham we rode to Uxbridge and lodged at our Friend John Hull's. Uxbridge was then a pretty large meeting ; I suppose it is still large, but quite another generation. John Hull, and his brothers Samuel and William, were extensive millers, and as is too often the case when Flour is dear, had the censure of the public freely cast on them, as being the cause of the *dearth* ; the Government of the day had no objection for the blame to rest *anywhere* rather than on themselves, who had been dragged into a long and ruinous war by the united efforts of the Aristocracy and the Clergy.

I believe that we staid at Uxbridge over the next day ; on second day we went to London and were received by our kind friends Sarah Rowe<sup>28</sup> and her son, they lived in Steward St., Spitalfields, and this was our home during our stay in this quarter. The next day was held Devonshire House Monthly Meeting, which we of course attended and produced our credentials, and a Committee was appointed to lay out the visits ; there were also two women friends belonging to this monthly meeting set at liberty to join W<sup>m</sup> Crotch in this engagement, they were our Hostess Sarah Rowe and Margaret Allen,<sup>29</sup> the mother of (the since celebrated) W<sup>m</sup> Allen. I remember that our first visit was to Mary Sterrey<sup>30</sup> whose sympathy with me drew from her

expressions of encouragement which were cordial to my mind. I think the visit to this Monthly Meeting occupied about six weeks ; the number of members being much larger than now belong to it. At, or about, the end of this engagement we attended Horseley Down (now Southwark) Monthly Meeting, and our Certificates having been read, as is usual, a friend or two made some objection to my accompanying my friend W<sup>m</sup> Crotch in the visit we proposed, I not being an acknowledged Minister, nor professing a "religious concern," as prompting me ; I sat through the discussion and consideration of the case with much calmness and resignation, and the objectors at last giving way, the concurrence of the Meeting with our visit was recorded. It appeared afterwards that the friends who had stood in opposition were fearful that I should rather be in the way of Jane Harris<sup>31</sup> who had made known to them her wish to join W<sup>m</sup> Crotch in some of the visits to be made in this Meeting ; she *did* join, accordingly, and I believe found no obstacle in me : our acquaintance and mutual esteem and interest continued a great many years ; she still survives, and must be I think nearly ninety years old ; she has long been a widow, and has buried more than half of her fine family of children.

I must not leave the subjects of these visits without some notice of the remarkable "seer" with whom I was for three or four months thus closely associated, it is difficult to describe or even to credit the description of many scenes which I witnessed by the extraordinary clearness of sight given to W<sup>m</sup> Crotch in relation to things, past, present and to come ; the religious moral and even commercial position of different parties have been so plainly unfolded, that I have often seen our female companions start nearly from their seats, during W.C.'s communications.<sup>32</sup>

[Joseph Metford was married to his cousin, Elizabeth Rawes, daughter of William Rawes, of Marnhull, 15th of Seventh Month, 1801.]

Not finding myself equal to the required extension of my Shop, I was obliged to think of adding some other means of supporting my growing family ; the "staple trade" of our Town and vicinity was the manufacture of knit-worsted stockings ; to this business my Father had been brought and

he followed it many years ; under his superintendence it was concluded that my nephew John Clark and I should form a partnership and commence in that line ; and about the end of the year 1802 we started in our new career.

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This note, made after I had completed my 80<sup>th</sup> year, may serve to record that our married life subsisted rather more than 54 years : my precious wife being removed from me (after a lingering illness) the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> month 1855 ; she was during our long connection my excellent helpmeet ; bearing with composure her full share of the numerous and heavy trials which attended us. She survived six of our ten children, for all of whose welfare she renewedly travailed in spirit and is I doubt not gone to rest from her arduous labours ; may her works follow her.

[signed in a shaky hand]      JOSEPH METFORD.  
1<sup>st</sup> month 10<sup>th</sup> 1857.

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This is the conclusion of the part of the biography in Joseph Metford's hand. The following Continuation was written by his younger daughter Eleanor, in 1878, dictating to her daughter Honora Elizabeth Thompson.

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The stocking business which my dear father mentions as having entered upon proved a lucrative undertaking until the introduction of machinery in Nottingham and Leicester for the making of worsted stockings cut up the hand-knit stocking trade and my father found he must either introduce machinery at Glastonbury to compete with the manufacturers or increase his income by some other means. He preferred the latter, and in 1814 he entered into partnership in a large wine business in Bath, still living on at Glastonbury until 1819, when his partner retired.

[Great service in Bath meeting.]

My father being, with small exception, the only Minister and having an especial "gift," his name soon became well known and his house to be a central resort for Friends. He and my mother possessed the true spirit of hospitality, so that it is no wonder from such various causes that he attained to considerable popularity. I well remember our house being likened to an hotel and that nothing pleased my childish

ears more than to hear my father spoken of as " Joseph of Bath," for truly there was no other " Joseph " to me. . . .

His eldest son William was with him in the business and in a few years became a partner and my father took a country house which we occupied about seven months of a year, until my brother's marriage in 1829 when we lived there altogether. This place, Whitley, was about ten miles from Bath in very beautiful country. . . .

Some papers he had sent to Keane's " Bath Journal," on Catholic Emancipation, were, I believe, the first which roused Friends' disapproval; and his subsequent articles on the various questions of the day confirmed them in the opinion that such strong political bias as he showed was inconsistent with the peaceful, quiescent spirit of a minister of the Gospel. My father was of a different opinion and believed if good could be effected, truth should be spoken in any station, and he had to suffer, as some others have, for holding views in advance of his time. . . . Perhaps only a Friend can fully estimate the bitterness of such a disownment as his<sup>33</sup>, especially in those times; for equally with his strong sense of duty to his country, was his humble belief in his having " a calling " to minister to the spiritual needs of his brethren. He was one who made warm friends and bitter enemies, and the consequence of his disownment [as a Minister] was to create something like dissension amongst Friends, and to place him in the anomalous position of a disowned Minister, encouraged by a strong party in his favour to continue his ministry. I believe that so singular a position is unexampled in the annals of Quakerism. . . . For a considerable time he was crushed by the adverse feeling and action towards him, combined with heavy family trials, and his voice was silent in our meeting where it had once held forth with an earnestness and power that often approached to eloquence.

Circumstances led to his removal with his wife and family to Southampton or rather to Millbrook three miles from it. At our house at Millbrook, which was named Roseland, my father was still able to indulge in his love of rural pursuits. . . . Southampton was our meeting, and it was at this time a large one amongst whom there were many warmly attached to my father, and the spirit of ministry revived within him. There were two, if not more attempts while

we were at Southampton to reinstate him as a Minister, but unhappily the minority had the power, and this justice was never done him. Each time that such attempts were made by his friends my father suffered grievously at the failure and nothing but the strong inward feeling of his ministerial mission could have prevented it being quashed by the depressing influences to which he was occasionally subjected, especially the galling sense of injustice which to such a mind as his would naturally be peculiarly repugnant. My father removed to two or three places after living at Southampton until 1845. But in each meeting his experience was the same; his ministry gladly accepted by the majority, but those who had the power refusing to acknowledge him as a Minister officially.

While an acknowledged Minister he had concerns for service in many places in England, Scotland and Ireland<sup>34</sup>, in the latter country took much interest in politics showing enthusiastic support of Daniel O'Connell.

In 1839 he went to America, accompanied by one of my brothers and myself. Three of his sons had settled there and this formed a strong attraction to him to visit that country, but independently of this it had always possessed a great fascination for him, as practically carrying out many of his political views, and he had long wished to see for himself the working of its institutions. . . . While in Boston we had some personal intercourse with William Lloyd Garrison and Mrs. Chapman (at that time popularly called "Captain Chapman" from her courageous championship of the negroes) and also Mrs. L. Maria Child,<sup>35</sup> a valuable authoress of those days, besides being a fearless worker for the abolition of slavery.

On return to England we went to live at Oldfield Lodge, on the Wells Road at Bath; trouble came upon him and in less than two years he had to leave and had no settled home for the next year and a half.

In 1846 he took a cottage called Bickley, near Congresbury, a very picturesque spot, where my dear father and mother found some comparative peace after their previous tossed and troubled life.

The last ten years of his life were made still greater trials of his faith and patience by entire blindness which precluded him from everything but a passive existence:

and with the possession of so much bodily power and mental activity still left, the exercise for this faith and patience only he himself could tell. . . . He removed at different times to two other houses in Congresbury . . . and straightened as his means were by loss of property, he always had something to spare for the poor, and gave them help in various ways when he was unable to give them money; especially was he known in these his comparatively helpless years, as he had been all through his life, as the poor man's friend.

Through these last years of his life he was attended by a devoted son [Samuel<sup>36</sup>]. . . . His beloved wife died eight years before him; they had lived to mourn the loss of six of their children and to be bereft of "the pride of life." My father died February 9th, 1863, eighty-six years old. . . .

E.T.

May, 1878.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> MARY (Pike) METFORD died in 1799. Her daughter, Ann, took her place in caring for father and brother.

<sup>2</sup> THOMAS CLARK (1759-1850) was born at Greinton, Somerset, and died at Bridgwater. He was a Minister for sixty years, and travelled extensively in the British Isles. His son John (1785-1853) was a man of great versatility of mind (Smith *Cata.* i. 425; *Jnl.* iii. xx).

*Jnl.* ii. xv. xvi. xx.

<sup>3</sup> ISAAC PARSONS was a tanner, living at Publow, near Bath. He married Sarah Metford in 1793. They afterwards moved to Greinton. SARAH PARSONS came out in the ministry in the later period of her life.

<sup>4</sup> WILLIAM STEPHENS (1756-1837) was born at Truro, son of William and Elizabeth. His first wife, married 1788, was Ann Dawe, of Taunton, and his second was Amy, daughter of William and Mary Metford. Of his seventeen children, fourteen who survived followed his remains to the grave.

*Jnl.* xxiii.; information from Edward S. Reynolds, Bridport, 1928.

<sup>5</sup> COMPTON SCHOOL, in Dorset, was a noted educational establishment for some eighty years, in the charge, first, of Jonah Thompson (c. 1702-1780), and then of his son, Thomas Thompson (1746-1826), who, in 1782, married Ann Gregory. Joseph Metford writes thus of ANN THOMPSON:

"Perhaps it is not too much to say that every boy who was educated at Compton School during the life-time of its excellent mistress owes to her a debt of gratitude for her invariably kind and maternal treatment of them without the least taint of favouritism. She had the power of gaining the love of all and ever spoke to them in a way to raise their self-respect—the lowest amongst us was dignified by her approbation, while the proudest quailed under her mildest rebuke."

These striking words of appreciation are in harmony with the sentiments expressed respecting Ann Thompson in "The Thompsons of

Compton" (*F.Q.E.*, 1879). She died in 1802. The school was discontinued in 1814, more than 500 boys having passed through it, many of whom reached positions of prominence.

<sup>6</sup> THOMAS MELHUSH was born at Bradninch, in Devonshire, about the year 1737, and he died at Taunton in the year 1802, a Minister upwards of forty years. He learned the business of a tailor in his youth but prior to his marriage with Jane Mullet, a widow, he removed to Taunton and carried on the business of a general shopkeeper. About 1768 he began to travel in the ministry. Joseph Metford gives a very different mental picture of this Friend from that resulting from the reading of his *Life* and letters published in 1805—which printed memorial, like many committee-ridden manuscripts, contains little of an interesting nature.

<sup>7</sup> "THOMAS MULLETT was the son of my mistress by a former husband; he had left the Society of Friends—had been in business in Bristol but was settled in London" (*Life*).

<sup>8</sup> At the house of Thomas Compton in Booth Street, Spitalfields, London, her guardian, lived ELIZABETH METFORD. She married the son of her guardian, Samuel Compton, in 1812, and died in 1859. She became an ancestor of Metford Warner, a valued Friend now living in London.

Compton, *Recollections of Spitalfields*, 1908.

<sup>9</sup> JOSEPH GIFFORD is not further identified.

<sup>10</sup> GEORGE CLARK. There was a considerable amount of trade carried on between the port of Poole and Newfoundland. "So great were the risks from privateering during the American War of Independence that immediately on the despatch of one cargo to Newfoundland, another was prepared." (Penney, *My Ancestors*, 1920, p. 107.)

<sup>11</sup> At a later period, Joseph Metford writes: "Our worthy patriarch SAMUEL CLOTHIER BRYAN, in the exercise of his Patriarchal authority, told me one day that I ought to come and sit on the same seat as he sat, and on the following first day I took my seat in front of the meeting."

<sup>12</sup> WILLIAM CROTCH ( -1805) was a remarkable Minister. There is some reference to him in *Jnl.* xv. xvi. xviii.-xx. xxii. xxiii. He came to a sad end while in Philadelphia on a religious visit.

<sup>13</sup> WILLIAM SAVERY (1750-1804) was a Minister, of Philadelphia. He was in Europe 1796 to 1798.

*Jnl.* vii. xiii. xv. xvii. xx. xxiii.; Taylor, *Life of William Savery*, 1925.

<sup>14</sup> HANNAH BARNARD's home was in the State of New York. When in Europe her preaching was considered to have a tendency towards Unitarianism and a lessening of the authenticity of the Scriptures. London Y.M. had her case before it in 1800 and 1801, and she was requested to return to the States. She was disowned by her home-meeting of Hudson. Shortly after her arrival at home she was visited by John Hall, a Minister from England, who describes her in his diary: "Her mind seemed to me much afloat."

*Jnl.* x. xv. xx.-xxii.; *London Y.M. During 250 Years*, 1919; etc.

<sup>15</sup> ELIZABETH COGGESHALL (1770-1857) was from the city of New York, wife of Caleb Coggeshall. She visited Europe 1798-1801, 1813-1815.

*Jnl.* xxiii.; *Memoir*, 1908.



<sup>16</sup> MARY DUDLEY (1750-1823) was a celebrated Minister, wife of Robert Dudley, of London, and mother of Elizabeth Dudley, an equally prominent Minister.

*Jnl.* xxiii.; *Memoir*, 1825.

<sup>17</sup> DEBORAH DARBY and REBECCA YOUNG, afterwards Byrd, were on constant journeys in the cause of religion.

<sup>18</sup> Further respecting ISAAC SARGEANT is not at hand.

<sup>19</sup> SAMUEL BOWLY (c. 1767-1820) married Sarah Crotch. The third of their four sons was Samuel Bowly (1802-1884), the well-known temperance advocate. Both father and son were millers at Bibury, near Cirencester, Gloucestershire. The father appears to have retired to Nailsworth and died there.

*Biog. Cata. Fds. Inst.*, 1888.

<sup>20</sup> This was DANIEL ROBERTS. He published in 1807 his "Observations relative to the Divine Mission of Joanna Southcott; with a Detail of the Proceedings of the People called Quakers, against a Member for his Belief." He died at Painswick in 1811 and was interred in the Friends' Burial Ground.

<sup>21</sup> DAVID DENT, Junior, is named in the list of Masters at Ackworth from 1779 to 1894, printed in 1895. He was "assistant for two years; not apprenticed"—1787-1789, and had previously been a scholar.

The prospect of William Crotch and D. Dent visiting America was evidently well known. Deborah Darby mentions it, writing to John Hall, 6 iii. 1799. (*The Featherstones and Halls*, 1890, p. 24.)

<sup>22</sup> DAVID BOWLY. Not found in Bowly genealogy.

<sup>23</sup> JOHN HULL ( -1816) and his two brothers Samuel and William were millers, of Uxbridge, Middlesex. John was much interested in education and the spread of the Scriptures.

*Jnl.* xxiii.

<sup>24</sup> ANN CROWLEY (c. 1766-1826) was a well-known Minister. She was one of eight sisters. She travelled widely in the ministry and was a companion of Phebe Speakman, of Pennsylvania, in 1797, through most of the counties of England, Scotland and Wales, covering over 4,000 miles and attending 397 meetings.

*Account of Religious Experience*, 1842.

<sup>25</sup> ROBERT EELES (c. 1726-1805) lived at Amersham, Bucks.

*Jnl.* xxi.

<sup>26</sup> GEORGE DILLWYN (1738-1821) was born in Philadelphia. He married Sarah, daughter of Dr. Richard Hill. He paid long visits to Europe.

*Jnl.* i. ii. ix. xii. xiii. xv. xvi. xx. xxi. See also *The Hill Family*, 1854.

<sup>27</sup> JOHN WILKINSON (c. 1783-1846), of High Wycombe, was a noted preacher. He came among Friends as a young man and left again in the Beaconite days.

*Jnl.* xiv.-xvii. xxiii.

Of ELIZABETH RAPER (c. 1739-1822) of Amersham, little is known. There is a slight *Annual Monitor* account, which is mainly occupied with troubles respecting her clothing when she became a Friend, her father begging she would "not make herself so ridiculous." Stray notices indicate that she accompanied Friends travelling in the ministry, as, e.g. in the *Account of Ann Crowley*, 1842, pp. 22, 25. In *The Hill Family*, 1854, it is stated that E. Raper lived with "M. Wilkinson." Metford

writes of John Wilkinson's mother, thus the suggestion of *Jnl.* xxiii. 92, note 61, is proved.

<sup>28</sup> SARAH ROW ( -1803) was the wife of Joseph Row (1722-1792), a weaver of Spitalfields. She was a Minister. Was the son John Row? *Jnl.* xvi. xvii. xxi.

<sup>29</sup> MARGARET ALLEN (1747-1830) was the wife of Job Allen (1734-1800) and mother of William Allen, F.R.S. Her maiden name was Stafford. She was married in 1769. There is much respecting Job and Margaret Allen in *Leaves from the Past, the Diary of John Allen, 1777*, edited by Clement Young Sturge, 1905.

<sup>30</sup> MARY STERRY (c. 1744-1816) was the wife and widow of Henry Sterry, of London. She travelled as a Minister in the home islands. *Jnl.* xii. xv. xxiii.

<sup>31</sup> This was probably JANE HARRIS, widow of Richard, of Walworth, London. She died in 1848, aged 92.

Joseph Metford states that Jane Harris was living when he wrote, hence has some bearing on the date when the autobiography was written.

<sup>32</sup> Here follows a long account of JOSEPH LANCASTER and his interview with William Crotch, and there is a letter from David Salmon, Lancaster's biographer, expressing some doubt of the correctness of the narrative. Mr. Salmon states: "Metford is right in thinking that Lancaster's daughter was settled in Mexico. One of the chief officials of the National Gallery told me that his grandson, Señor Lancaster Jones, represented Mexico at the Diamond Jubilee and visited the Gallery to see Hazlitt's portrait of his grandfather."

<sup>33</sup> Monthly Meeting held at Sidcot, 12th of Second Month, 1834 :

"The case of Joseph Metford and the report of the Committee appointed to visit him have had the weighty consideration of the Meeting, at this time; and after full deliberation it is of the opinion that it cannot do less than discontinue him as a member of the Meeting of Ministers and Elders, of which the Friends on the appointment are desired to inform him."

<sup>34</sup> Joseph Metford visited Ireland in 1811 and 1829.

*Jnl.* xv. xvi.

<sup>35</sup> L. Maria Child wrote *Letters from New York, 1846* (in **D**); *The Youthful Emigrant* (Elizabeth Haddon); also *The Life of Isaac T. Hopper*, the abolitionist (in **D**), 1852. She was not a Friend.

*Jnl.* xv. xvi. xix; *Bulletin F.H.S.* ix. 76.

<sup>36</sup> SAMUEL METFORD (1810-1896) was a great maker of silhouettes, his work being found in numerous Friends' books. There is a full-length silhouette of Samuel Capper by S.M. in *The Diaries of Edward Pease, 1907*.

TO PENNSYLVANIA. 1714.14.11. Gainsborough M.M. At Brigg John Nainby, jun., acquaints this Meeting that he proposes to pass the sea to Pennsylvania via Morocco and desires a certificate from this meeting, which this meeting leaves to the approbation and discretion of Friends belonging to the Brigg Meeting.

Minute of Manchester M.M. 19 ii. 1737. Certificate for Caleb Birchall and Susannah Cartwright for removal into and settlement in Pennsilvanie. James Fletcher, son of Thomas Fletcher proposed to remove there, but this proposal was dropt at the meeting of 21. iv. 1737.

*Information from H. W. Atkinson, Northwood, Middlesex.*