

**JOURNAL OF W. HOLT, 1828 AND 1829,
(TADCASTER CIRCUIT, YORKSHIRE.)**

DEAR BRETHREN,—Here you will receive an extract of my Journal; I am happy to say, that through the blessing of Almighty God, the circuit is in a rising state. W. HOLT.

Sunday, July 6, 1828. I was at Clifford and Bramham. Previous to my coming into this circuit, I spent some time with mother and sisters, at Loughborough, in Leicestershire. And finding them all in the way to heaven, felt thankful to God for his goodness to us as a family, and was encouraged to devote myself more fully to his blessed Service.

Monday, July 7. Was at Hunsingore, found a good society, some of whom seem truly alive to God. Had liberty in preaching, and one soul converted. This greatly encouraged me. May she be as the first fruits before the harvest. She is now a steady member of our society.

Tuesday 8, Tockwith; this is a fresh place, a few friends went with me, we sung up the street. The house was soon filled with attentive hearers. There is a prospect of good being done in this place.

Wednesday 9, Askham. Walked nine miles in heavy rain; found things very low; had but few to preach to; felt somewhat cast down; but I must not expect to be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease.

Thursday 10, Healaugh, Felt a nearness to God. Unto him will I look, and in him will I put my trust. I will not fear what man can do unto me. Found the congregations good, but the society small.

Friday 11, Tadcaster. A hard time in preaching, much harrassed by the Devil; but the Lord is my refuge, and has promised, they that sow in tears, shall reap in joy.

Sunday 18, Cawood. Was disappointed in holding the camp meeting on account of the heavy rain. We preached in a barn, the people were attentive, and I trust some good was done in the name of the Lord.

Monday 14, Ulleskelfe. No society, no place to preach in; the waters much out, and I much drenched in rain. But the Lord supported me, and the language of my heart was,
"I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by thy word."

Tuesday 15, Acaster. Found things rather low; had but few to preach to, as the people in general, at this place, work in the fields in summer, till late in the evening.

Wednesday 16, Appleton. The society appears to be alive to God. We felt the Divine presence with us, and my soul was refreshed among them.

Sunday 20, Tadcaster. Spoke at Walton in the morning, in the open air. The people were attentive, and apparently a good feeling was excited. Was much blessed at Tadcaster in the afternoon and evening.

Monday 21, Bramham. The Lord was with us, a good congregation, and had great liberty of speaking.

Wednesday 23, Sherbourn. Found the society in a lively state; may the Lord increase them.

Thursday 24, Saxton. A good time; lodged with two old pilgrims, with whom I was comforted and refreshed.

Sunday 27, Clifford lovefeast. A good time in preaching in the morning. Much people at the lovefeast in the afternoon; many spoke good of the name of the Lord, but unbelief too much prevailed.

Monday 28, Linton. A crowded congregation, the society seems to be alive to God.

Sunday, August 3, Tadcaster. Felt much harassed in mind; preached with difficulty, yet the power of God was felt in the evening.

Sunday 10. Spoke at Washford in the morning; the word seemed to take effect. We held a missionary meeting at Hunsingore (a small village,) in the evening. It was well attended, and the people were well satisfied. Brother Oxtoby preached in the evening.

Wednesday 13, at Appleton. Found Mary Lister, who is a member of our society, and leader of the class in that place, very ill; her face and neck were so much swelled, that she could scarcely speak or take any food. Two doctors attended her, and there was an appearance of something like a cancer on her face. She having a large family of small children, I felt much on her account, and laid the case before the Lord, and pleaded in much prayer on her behalf. I felt a confidence that the Lord would restore her, and ventured to tell her she would have a good night's rest, and be better in the morning; and so it was to the astonishment of both herself and her husband. In the morning she was so much better, she could both talk and pray, and attend to her household affairs, From that time she began to mend, and is now quite recovered. What encouragement for us to make known all our wants unto God by prayer and supplication.

Sunday 24, Bramham lovefeast.: Preached at Clifford in the morning. Many attended the lovefeast in the afternoon; great backwardness at the beginning, but a good feeling and more liberty at the latter end; and from the testimony of our brethren from different parts of the circuit, the Lord is reviving his work.

Sunday 31, Tadcaster, Praise the Lord, I never had more liberty in preaching. The Lord manifested himself unto us, and we found it good to be there. While I was preaching in the evening, a waterman who had inadvertently entered the chapel, was deeply convinced of sin, He did not immediately cry out, but came burdened and heavy laden to the prayer meeting on Monday evening, where he cried from the disquietude of his soul; and while the friends were praying with him, the Lord graciously set his soul at liberty, and made him happy in his love. He is now become a steady member of our society.

Sunday, December 21, Bramham. Strongly tempted, much cast down; yet the Lord graciously assisted me in delivering his word. I feel my weakness, and if I do any good, it must be through Christ strengthening me.

Tuesday 23, Tockwith. The Lord has blest our coming to this place, there is now eight in society, and the preaching is well attended. I felt thankful to God, and took courage.

Thursday 25, Healaugh in the afternoon. The roads being very wet, and dirty I caught a violent cold, so that could not take my appointment for several days.

Wednesday, January 1, 1829, Appleton. Praise God, I am so far recovered as to be able to take my appointment. I believe this light affliction has been for my good, I feel strengthened in spirit, and this evening, while holding the watch night, our souls were much blest, our strength was renewed, and we gave ourselves more fully unto the Lord.

Sunday, February 4, Ribstone. This is a fresh place; had great liberty in preaching; five in society, and crowded congregations.

Wednesday 7, Sherbourn. A good time. Truly my fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Thursday 8, Fenton. This is a fresh place; joined eight in society; the Lord is with them, and they are doing well.

Sunday 11, Walshford and Hunsingore. Got up this morning with an anxious desire to promote the glory of God. I feel the greatest willingness to travel and labour, if it be the Lord's will to accept of my labours, and give me success. After preaching in the evening, I visited a sick woman, who had

long been living without God, and without hope in the world, but when her latter end drew nigh, and death stared her in the face, she was awakened to a sense of her awful danger, and became deeply concerned for the salvation of her soul. She told me that she had given up all in this world, and wanted nothing but the pardon of her sins. I told her if she sought the Lord with all her heart, there was yet hope concerning her. I found great liberty in praying with her. I visited her the next morning, she had attained some degree of faith; but was in great distress. I was obliged to leave, but was glad to hear that while she was praying the next morning, the Lord set her soul at liberty, and made her happy in his love.

Sunday 18, Bramham and Clifford. Had a good day at Bramham. The chapel was more than usually attended. I feel a hope that the Lord is about to revive his work.

Monday 19, Hunsingore. Found the sick woman, mentioned on the 11th, still alive and very desirous to see me. I found her happy in the love of God, being justified by faith, she had peace with God through Jesus Christ. The fear of death was taken away, and the heavenly change was visible in her countenance. She told me she had forgiven all her enemies, and felt nothing but love to all mankind. She was so happy in the love of God, she lifted up her hands as she lay on the bed, and sang the praises of God as well as her strength would permit. When the enemy endeavoured to disturb her with doubts and fears, she would immediately put out her hand, and say, "Away with thee Satan, I have had enough of thee." She died peaceful and happy. I felt thankful to God for his great mercy towards her, and was led to exclaim, "Is not this a brand plucked out of the burning." At the request of her friends, &c. I improved the circumstance of her death from the 33 Psalm. 18, 19. The place was crowded with attentive hearers, and I trust a good effect was produced upon those who are left behind.

Tuesday 20, Tockwith. The congregation and society increases, the Lord is working amongst them, and turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just.

Wednesday 21, Askham. Here the congregation increases, and the people are softened under the word; and two persons are earnestly seeking the Lord.

Sunday 25, Ulleskelfe and Fenton. Had a good time in preaching in the morning; but on account of the snow, we had but few at the lovefeast in the afternoon; yet we found it good to be there; a middle aged man who had lately set out for heaven, said that he dreamed that himself and one of his companions were in a boat on the river, when, to their great surprise, it began to sink. He thought in their distress they took hold of each other, and struggled safe to shore; and clapping his hand upon the back of his companion, said, "See, I have brought him with me, and I hope we shall both struggle safe to heaven."

Monday 26, Acaster. Here the people are stirred up to seek the Lord. Within these last two months five out of this small village have been carried to the house appointed for all living. One poor woman, in eating some meat broiled on the coals, swallowed a thorn; after some time she threw it up; yet it is supposed to have occasioned her death, as she continued ill, could take little or nothing to eat, and died suddenly in the night. How necessary to attend to our Lord's admonition, "Be ye also ready."

Wednesday 27, Appleton. Here also the work begins to move, the society increases, and I was much blessed in visiting the sick. One poor man was dreadfully afflicted with a cancer in his face, I felt great liberty in praying with him for the salvation of his soul.

Our members, preachers, and places, are increasing, for which I feel thankful to God, who is able to do more for us, and to supply all our need. May blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Your Brother in the Lord. W. H.

Approved by the Circuit Committee,

References

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