

## FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS FROM AMERICA.

*(Journal of Anne Wearing, 1830.)*

This young woman was a member of the Wesleyan Methodists in Devonshire, and a preacher. It was a considerable time after our missionaries first went to New York, that she, with some of her relations came to Liverpool, and embarked for America, At New York she united with our people, and they took her out for a travelling preacher. And as our people feel a deep interest in all that concerns our America labours, we give, as follows, from this young woman's journal. She says,

I bless the Lord, I feel Christ is my portion, and his service my delight. The cross of Christ is my chief joy. I feel the cause of God at my heart; and nothing yields me so much satisfaction as to see the church's prosperity.

The little flock lie near my heart. I've ever found family visiting a duty of the greatest importance, (since I knew the Lord,) and much more so, in this city, (New York,) and I am constrained to believe that more good is done by family visiting, then by the public ministry; particularly to those that have already joined us, or feel inclined so to do. When a preacher calls on the members, they can, many times, speak more freely than even in class meetings; and the preacher gets into confidence with the people; the wavering are established, the weak strengthened, the feeble confirmed, and both preachers and people abundantly benefited; and God's name glorified.

On the other hand, if this duty be neglected, satan suggests, "You are slighted — The preacher cares nought for your soul." Temptations increase, and the mind yielding a little at first, as it were imperceptibly, is drawn away from its proper place. — Frequently in my family visitings, I have found persons sinking into discouragements, almost ready to give up, thinking that to make another attempt would be presumption. But while we have been supplicating the throne of grace, the Almighty has condescended to draw nigh, the clouds have dispersed, the shadows fled, the doubts removed, strengthening grace communicated: and not unfrequently, in the class meetings, from the testimonies given, we have seen the blessed effects resulting from the family visitings.

Our prospects in this city are good, as also at Newark.

Sunday, Nov. 28. I preached three times to attentive congregations. In the evening, in the mission church, in a prayer meeting after preaching, I gave an invitation to the mourners to come to the altar. Seven came up, bathed in tears; we continued praying for them till near eleven o'clock. Two arose and bore a public testimony of the forgiveness of their sins; and the rest were greatly relieved. Glory be to God: many others were cut to the heart. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

I have formed a class to meet on Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, for the benefit of these females to whom it may be most convenient; eight have joined, and I expect it to increase. The Lord blesses us much in our class meetings; the classes in Broom-street and Delamy street are very prosperous; and the Lord is giving us an increased desire for full salvation.

In looking over my writings, I find as follows:

Thursday, March 11. My soul was much blessed while visiting 5 Ward, in the hospital, and several families in the city.

Sunday, 14. Preached at Newark three times, and felt my own insufficiency; but the Lord's people were refreshed. I frequently find when I have had to labour under temptations, and have thought no good could possibly be done, then it has been the most profitable to the people.\*

Monday, 15. I felt a strong determination to live to and for God. I visited eleven families; and while so doing, faith sprung up in my heart, and I could rejoice in God my Saviour.

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\* In the trial of faith the conflicts with the powers of darkness may be severe, and even terrible, But we shall triumph over all if we hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end. ED.

Wednesday, 17. I visited several families; and in the evening led a class of nineteen members, Glory to God, for giving me favour in the eyes of the people.

Sunday, March 21: — Preached at Newark at eleven, at Bloomfield in the afternoon, and in the evening at Newark. 22, Visited several families, and at night preached at Bloomfield. 23, Called on eleven families. Some of the young members were halting. I endeavoured to strengthen them. 24, At Bloomfield; called on ten families; some seemed surprized at seeing a stranger. But I told them who I was, and what was my errand, merely to inquire about their souls. They seemed quite glad, and desired me to call again, After this I returned to Newark, and led class; twenty-eight were present, and it was a precious time. 25. My mind was somewhat exercised with inward cares. Visited some families. Walked to Bloomfield, and led class and was much drawn out for souls. 26, Returned to Newark. Walking so much, together with the cold brought on me the rheumatism. 27. Returned to New York.

Sunday, March 28. Led class at nine. At ten heard L. Dow preach. I preached at three, and met class, two joined. At seven preached, and the Lord favoured us with the out-beamings of his sacred presence. My soul was blest, my heart enlarged, and my tongue unloosed. A large and attentive congregation. After this we engaged in the prayer meeting, I began to talk to the people separately. Some wept— others looked earnestly; three came to the altar to be prayed for, and cried aloud: the Lord drew nigh, and set their captive souls at liberty. Praise his holy name.

29. I visited the hospital and six families. A poor female in a consumption, and an aged brother were very happy. 30. Spent the forenoon very profitably with Sister Ruth Watkins. In the afternoon visited nine families. In the evening led a class: one was in distress; we joined in prayer, and she obtained mercy.

Wednesday, April 2. Spent the day with Sister Ruth Watkins, (very ill,) attended her class, and three joined; one a female in a consumption. She died about ten days after, very happy, shouting the praises of God. She did at the age of twenty-two.

Sunday, April 5.. Rather poorly; but, bless the Lord, he gave me strength both of soul and body to preach three times, and lead a class. From day to day, I find, by looking over my papers, I have been engaged more or less in visiting families; preaching, Sundays three times, and occasionally on week nights; attending prayer meetings, class, &c.; and though I have sometimes felt the cross very heavy and a weariness to flesh and blood, yet the happiness and the inward satisfaction have been a sufficient consolation.

May 2. Opening of a new chapel (or church) at Bloomfield, where the Lord has graciously appeared in our behalf. Bro. Wainwright preached in the morning, and I preached at three and seven. The people heard with attention, and subscribed liberally to the building. May 3. Sister Watkins came, and held a watch night. May 4. I had some conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Aers; (this gentleman gave the ground;) it appears the Lord has been working in their hearts from the first beginning of the Primitive Methodists preaching here. The chapel is built on ground given by him, and he subscribed thirty dollars, and his influence has been exerted, and he is, still active; and is resolved to do all the good he can.

Sunday, 9, Preached three times, and the Lord helped me greatly, I slept at the house of a gentleman of French extraction, a very holy man; and his wife is not behind him in piety. I esteem their acquaintance above gold. A few years ago, he observed, he was very rich, and his business was extensive: he kept a large store, and vessels traversing the ocean from one nation to another; and he had then a little religion. But a fire broke out in the night, and burnt up his store; two vessels were cast away, and he had other losses. But he can rejoice in God, for if these things had not happened, he believes he should have gone to hell. He has meetings in his own house, and has been the means of converting many.

I called on a sick woman, who lamented her neglect of salvation when in health, and she now finds it hard work. Visited a sick man, who professed to believe that God was too merciful to send a soul to hell. Visited a sick woman in distress, and endeavoured to encourage her. Another who had been a backslider, but during her affliction was reclaimed. She died some time after very happy. Visited a dear old saint; she is a native of England, and has enjoyed religion fifty years. A

poor man in a consumption; he knows all is not well; but is one of those sort of people who pretend are waiting the Lord's time. Another aged man, very happy; his words he dropped like sweet ointment.

Sunday, May 16. Preached three times, and attended the lovefeast at the Mission church. One old gentleman rose up and said he had been deceiving himself for fifty years: thought himself a Christian because he attended the church, taught his children the catechism, and gave a little to the poor. But now the Lord had undeceived him at seventy years of age; he was a native of England.

Brother Knowles being out, Sister Watkins and myself took the pulpit, and conducted the lovefeast. An old man rose and said, when he saw the dear woman in the pulpit, it put him in mind of the women who looked into the sepulchre. Good was done.

Saturday, 22. Set off for Philadelphia in the steam boat, to Brunswick, forty-five miles. Thence to B— —town twenty-five, and thirty more to the city, in twelve hours. It was indeed a pleasant voyage, the scenery was beautiful; and the weather being fair, I could stand on the deck and look round. The beautiful and neat little towns and villages; the houses made of timber painted white, palisaded around, and little gardens with elegant trees, added to the effect, and rendered it beautiful. Two gentlemen swore; I reproved them and they took it kind. A young gentleman in the steamer, enquired how we could know if we were born again. I answered, by the Spirit that is given us. . Other questions were asked, all of which I endeavoured to answer.

Sunday, May 23. I preached at Philadelphia three times.

26. Visited some of the members; and in the afternoon distributed tracts, with Mrs, Louders. Some were gladly received, others not. To one I said, Salvation is offered as free as this tract; but many refuse it: I hope it will not be the case with you.

In the evening I attended the coloured people's meeting. It was their conference. They continued preaching and exhorting for about two hours, and then they began to pray and sing, and scream aloud. I believe they were sincere and happy. The Lord has done great things for the coloured people in this part.

27. Spent the afternoon at Esquire Wolbert's, in company with a few pious friends, The Primitive Methodists in this city have many friends of different denominations. When I first went to Philadelphia, it was (to me) quite dreary and strange. But afterwards, the longer I tarried, the more attachment I felt to both city and people. The summer was excessively hot. But, bless the Lord, I was strengthened in a wonderful manner. Many dropped down dead in the streets, through drinking cold water. What a mercy to be preserved and kept from evil.

A. WEARING,

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AMERICAN MISSION, 1880.

JOURNAL OF ANN WEARING.

Sunday, July 18. Philadelphia, preached at ten, at the South Hall; three at Schuylkill; seven, N. Hall. 20, Went into the country in Bro. Morris's appointment. Preached at Chesnut Hill, and was much encouraged. Returned to German Town, and slept at the house of an old gentleman, an Episcopal Methodist. Both him and his wife have treated me with very great respect. Their name is Clemens. They entertain regularly their own preachers. I fell in company several times with the preacher. He is very friendly to us, and wishes us well, One thing makes greatly in our favour—going on without interfering with any other denomination.

Wednesday, 21. Visited some English friends. Spent part of the day at a friend's house, a mile from German Town, in a sweet retired lonely place. This to me was very sweet and desirable.

22. I visited several families in this neighbourhood. It was a very great cross to take up in this place as they are generally a still settled people, who seem quite satisfied with their situation.

Most of them make a profession of religion, and either, belong to the Presbyterians or Lutherians. The people seemed glad to see me, and wished another visit. They are clean industrious people, but generally ignorant about spiritual things. In the evening the excessive rain, thunder, lightning, &c. prevented me from attending my appointment, Manayunk, (three miles.)

23, I preached at the Falls. I slept at the house of one Mrs. Watkins; a very kind, friend indeed. 24. This lady took me in her gig about three miles toward the city. I called on friend Luke, He lives in a cottage on a gentleman's estate, in a very delightful retired situation. The gentleman and his wife are Quakers; their winter house is in the city. (Philadelphia.) I took tea at their house, in company with many ladies and gentlemen. The Quaker lady feels a great attachment to the English, as a daughter of hers married an English gentleman, (Thompson.) This lady entertained me with her letters and pieces she had written, till 12 o'clock. I then prayed with her, and we went to bed. Sabbath morning, 25, I took breakfast there, and she sent me to the city in their carriage, (On the Saturday evening I had preached in the Summer house in the garden, to the gentry and servants.) I returned to Philadelphia at ten, and preached three times.

26. I had an invitation to go to a camp meeting (with the Episcopal Methodists; and prompted by curiosity, as well as a desire to get good to my soul, I went: not having this week any particular appointments.

We left Philadelphia about 10½ in a sloop, hired to take the luggage and passengers. We sailed up a narrow river thirty-two miles. It was a pleasant day, and the prospect was delightful. We did not reach the land till eight in the evening. A part of the river was a small creek, and ran in a serpentine form. On either side were beautiful shrubs and flowers. The smell was fragrant

When we landed, the waggons were waiting to take the things to the camp ground, about three miles where the necessary preparations had been made, the place lighted, and a stand for the preachers covered with boards and bushes, to screen them from the scorching sun. Benches were fixed for the accommodation of three thousand people, beneath large stately trees, whose boughs were very necessary for a shelter. An altar was erected for the mourners. Some tents were fixed, and others fixing. All were busily engaged, but no confusion.

We had tea, and then lay down for a few hours. The next day, Tuesday, the public meetings commenced on the plan laid down; so that every day, and person, might know their own work; and time might not linger unemployed, or misimproved. The number of tents fixed in all about 130. The meeting was carried on from Monday evening till Saturday morning; when a minister gave a parting address. Prayer followed, and we took a farewell leave of each other; perhaps many of us never to meet again in this world. I returned to Philadelphia, and arrived at four o'clock.

Sunday, August 1, Preached at the South Hall at ten o'clock, and had a good time. At three at Schuylkill, out of doors; led the class after, and found it good. In the evening I heard a very excellent discourse from a coloured preacher. His remarks were good, and I was profited.

2. Led Bro. Morris's class in Second street, and found it good to be there. Slept at Mr. Lye's, where I found a comfortable home. In Philadelphia I have many homes; bless the Lord, my ways was indeed made plain.

5. Took Brother Morris's appointment at Manayunk, (7 miles from Philadelphia,) I felt unwell when I left the city, but the meeting was refreshing to my soul, though my body was weary with walking in the heat. I find I could better walk in England ten miles, than five in this country. The roads and climate are different. I slept at a village a mile distant, at the house of a Baptist minister, and was respectfully treated. Spent great part of the next day with this kind family, and had a favourable opportunity for rest and retirement which I greatly needed. In the evening went to Falls, and preached to a good congregation. Slept at my friend's Mrs. Watkins.

Saturday, 7. Walked to friend Luke's, three miles. Spent the day there. Slept at the Quaker lady's, above referred to, and was treated with great respect.

Sabbath, August 8, I was favoured with this gentleman's carriage, and friend Luke accompanied me to the Falls, where I preached at 10½ felt it good; from there to Manayunk. Preached on the Green, under a large tree. A large congregation, chiefly Roman Catholics. I felt unusual confidence. My friends were apprehensive that I should meet with insults, but not so; they behaved well. My greatest insults were from old stiff formal professors of religion. It is these that do more hurt than even Roman Catholics. Returned to the Falls, and preached at four. From thence back to the gentleman's seat, and preached in the summer-house, to a few souls. This has been a wearisome day in body, but, well in soul. Though I have had many a conflict.

Monday, 9. Rode to the city in the carriage with this Quaker gentleman; there kindness to me has been great indeed. May the great Head of the church reward them a thousand fold.

10. Visited a few of the members of society. In the evening attended the class at Brother Summersides. We had a precious season. The Lord was in our midst. Glory to his holy, name. 11. Felt unwell but able to attend to my visiting. 12. Attended the prayer meeting at Sister. Londers. 13. Preached at Schuylkill, to a desirable congregation.

'Sunday, August 16. Preached at ten in the North Hall. At 1½ in the open air, at the end of the street, to a large attentive congregation. Many were seriously affected. Truly I felt it good to be there, (though my doing this was an offence to some delicate persons.) At night preached in the South Hall, to a large congregation.

16. Called on a few families, but felt unwell. Called on Sister Quigly, a very blessed woman. It was good to be there. At eight led a class in Second-street. A precious time.

17, Unwell, obliged to rest. 18, rested till night, then walked a mile and a half, and preached in the open street, to a very large attentive congregation. Returned to my dear friend's Mrs. Lye's, (my fixed home.) No worse, but rather better in health; Glory to God; he that loseth his life tor Christ, shall save it.

My chief reasons for choosing to preach occasionally in the open street in the city of Philadelphia, are, there are many small streets, or allies, which lead from one large street to another. In these streets live hundreds of persons, of the lower class, who will not be at the pains to go to a place of worship, so I thought they should have an opportunity of hearing, even if no lasting good was done; but many serious impressions were made, and my own soul was blessed. I see the importance of embracing every opportunity for doing good.

20. Visited 11 families, chiefly members of our society. At six preached in the poor house. I was much gratified to see the attention of the people, supposed to be near two hundred, chiefly females. At eight I heard Brother Summersides preach an excellent sermon.

In the course of my visits, I fell in with a poor old woman, who expressed a hope of being converted. She had not committed many sins. When asked, "Do you pray," "O yes. I say the Lord's prayer." I am led to inquire, what more can be done, for such poor ignorant souls? Lord have mercy and save.

Sunday, August 22. Preached 3 times, and walked six miles, vjsited sister Quigly, ill but happy, bless the Lord, it has been a good day.

23. Visited a poor, distressed, wretched family, lately come from England; sick and no money. The Lord mercifully raised up friends. What a pity, that so many families should leave their native home and friends; and expose themselves to the dangers of the sea, the change of climate, difficulties, poverty, and a thousand other evils, better for many, had they tarried at home.

In the afternoon took tea at a scotch gentleman's. In the evening led the class at 2nd. St. Visited an old German Lady, and a poor person who lately found peace.

Sunday, 25, We had a lovefeast at the Hall in Northern Liberties. The Lord was with us of a truth, and there was much freedom in speaking. We were a mixed multitude, there were Presbyterians,

Baptists, Episcopalians, Reformed Methodists, Episcopal Methodists, and Primitives; and all seemed of one heart and mind.

26. I walked to Manayunk, 7 miles; had some discouragements: however, we must have bitters with the sweets.

27. Called on a female, directed I believe by providence, She had been under exercise of mind for many years. She as had a desire to be joined to a religious society, but never saw her way clear. Her mind has been brought into very sad reasonings; she wished she had never been born, or had been born an Animal, or any thing rather than a human being. I used every argument possible. She wept, and seemed a little better satisfied. I prayed with her; and she desired me to come and see her again, (which I did 4 weeks after, and found her a little more composed.) I walked to the falls, called on many of the inhabitants and invited them to the preaching. At 8 I preached and was much blessed. Slept at Mrs. Watkin's, She was very kind.

28. Walked to the city. It was very hot but I had strength, thank God. My soul is in peace. 29. Preached at 10 in the N. H. at one in the Jail to the females. But what a dark deplorable situation are they in. Near 100, mostly blacks. At 7½ spoke in the S. H. to a large and attentive congregation. A good prayer meeting after.

30. Took tea at a friends house; and while a few of us were engaged In prayer, the Lord favoured me with a very humbling view of myself; but by looking to Jesus my soul was raised. At 8 led the class, and was blessed. 31. Walked to German Town, from there to Chesnut Hill, 10 miles. I felt much fatigued and very unwell, the weather being very hot. A very large congregation of people attended; the chapel was full, and the doors and windows were crowded. I had a most precious season; and though I was unwell when I entered the house, I felt nothing of it after. Bless the Lord. I began to form a class. Our prospects here are good. It is a large village. Walked back to German Town, and slept.

September, 1. Walked back to Philadelphia, and continued from day to day; visiting families, preaching 3 times on Sundays, and occasionally on week nights. Prayer meetings, classes &c, till October, 1, when I returned to new York.

The last Meetings I held in P. were the best. Glory be to God, I received many tokens of his mercy. I am not insensible to my many difficulties; and have much to be thankful for, that the people bear with my weakness. However, I do feel my heart engaged in God's good cause.

Dec. 28. The first two weeks after my return to N. Y. I was unwell. Since that time, bless the Lord I have been able to attend my appointments; and family visitings, which has occupied a great deal of my time; and I see the importance of it more, and more, a duty too much neglected. May the Lord impress our minds more fully with its vast importance.

Our society is in peace and harmony at present; and are on the gaining hand.—our class meetings are seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and a little Missionary society that we have formed, prospers. Thank God.

Farewell.

Your unworthy though Obdt. Servt.

ANNE WEARING,

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#### References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1831/184; 1831/206