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A SPIRITUAL DIARY

Commenced January 1st 1819

Containing a record of my religious experience
as a disciple and Minister on my Lord and Master

JESUS CHRIST

Designed for my own satisfaction and edification
whilst I sojourn in this world and for the benefit
of my Posterity when I shall have been called hence.

My first religious emotions were felt when I was about 10 or 12 years of age. They were inspired on an occasion when my beloved Mother was shewing me a Picture of the Crucifixion of the Saviour and was commenting on the awful event. These emotions however were transient. Another impression was soon after this made on my mind by an interesting dream in which the Saviour was presented to my view in a most affecting aspect. One other impression was made on my mind between this period and my 17th year. This like the former was of short duration. On my 17th year I was again more powerfully impressed with religious sentiments. I was led to pray earnestly and I did so for several months. I was then over come by temptation and relapsed into a sinful course of life. I again however in a short time recovered and began to seek the Lord anew. I experienced great inconvenience during this from the want of religious society. There was no person to instruct or in any way to assist me in my religious career. I therefore blundered and fell often. During this recovery which I have just mentioned I received a sensible impression from the Holy Ghost in favour of the devotion of myself to God in the work of the ministry. I yielded to the impulse with joy and talked of it to some few with zeal and earnestness. But the obstacles seemed so numerous that I abandoned the idea in a few

weeks and in May following being A.D. 1811 I commenced to study of the Law with Mr. Robert Page of Frederick. I have since more abandoned religion, putting it off till "a more convenient season." In October of this year it pleased a gracious God to visit me again with the powerful influence of his Holy Spirit. The first operation of the Spirit at this period, was to direct my thoughts once more to the Gospel Ministry. I again, thus affected, firmly resolved to devote myself to God in this way. This last visitation of the Saviour was instantaneous and sudden as a flash of lightning from the clouds. It was unsought the free and unmerited gift of a gracious God. Praise the Lord O my Soul and all that is within me praise his holy name and forget not this benefit. Resolving in the strength of the Lord now to serve him I commenced the study of Divinity with Rev. Mr. Meade then Minister to Christ Church Alexandria. My residence with him commenced 1st Jany. 1812. In April of 1812 I first communed not having had an opportunity before. In a few days after which I was greatly blessed by the Lord. Having shewn me my sins more distinctly than I had before seen them. He delivered me from the sorrow which this view occasioned and justifying me by the apt of precious faith I had "peace" with Him "through Jesus Christ." I now began to rejoice greatly in the Lord. I was exceedingly happy all the day long. I knew my sins forgiven. I had the spirit bearing witness with my spirit that I was a child of God. After spending a short time with Mr. Meade and going to a Convention held in Richmond, the first I believe held in the State for many years. I lived with Rev. and Mrs. Wilmer of Alexandria. After remaining with him several months I went to Baltimore and entered the family of Revd. Geo. Dashiell as a student of Divinity. This was the month of September 1812. I remained in Baltimore till September 1813, when I received a call to the Episcopal Church of Fredericksburg. I left Baltimore for Fredericksburg September 13th 1813. and officiated for the first time in this Church

Oct 3d of that Year. I was at the time 20 years and 3 months of age and a Lay-Reader. I was received by the people with very little cordiality, in consequence I suppose of the shameful conduct of several ministers who had preceded me in this place. There men had been very bad men, and convicted of flagrant crimes. The Church was of course in a state of complete prostration. Many persons had been driven from the Church and those who remained were much discouraged. Under these disastrous circumstances I commenced a career most unpromising in the estimation of men. But the God of my salvation was with me and my poor labours recommended by his secret influences were soon felt. A work of grace quickly commenced in the Church. Souls were converted to God and aided by their prayers we began to lift up our heads and pursue our work with increased diligence and strength.

The Church at this period was an old wooden Building in the shape of a Cross. On the 10th May 1814 we laid the foundation of a large Brick Church. On the 4th Aug 1814 I was ordained Deacon by Bishop Moore who had been consecrated Bishop of Virginia at the General Convention held at Philadelphia in May preceeding where I was as a delegate from Virginia. I was the first person ordained by the new Bishop.

On 16th October 1815 my new Church was consecrated by Bishop Moore and the next day the Pews were sold for a sum exceeding the cost of the Building the sales amounting I believe to upwards of 11,000 dollars.

The work of grace during this period was in a progressive state, souls were continually added to us by the Lord in testimony of his approbation.

April 17th 1816 I was married to Miss Judith C. Lewis my present dear wife, one of the first of those added to the Church by the Lord after the commencement of my labours. In September 1816 I went to housekeeping. On 9th Jan 1818 our first child was born and called Edward Brown - The work of religion under my poor ministry still progressed and progressing

up to the present period our once degraded church begins to raise her drooping head and I suppose that there are now attached to her Communion in this Town Fifty Souls converted savingly to God. This number I calculate as being converted since my ministrations commenced in the Town. Some of these persons are very signal monuments of divine grace, perhaps seldom surpassed.

I have stated that my justification before God took place in April 1812, when I experienced all "joy and peace in believing." In that frame of mind I continued without interruption till August 1814 during that period I was ever happy and assured of acceptance with God through Jesus Christ. In August 1814 I received whilst sick an unusually bright manifestation of my Saviour's presence and love. But alas a cruel temptation assailed me directly afterwards and robbed me of my peace. After some months of spiritual depression, it pleased God to revisit my heart and restore my broken bones. I suffered many sore temptations after this, by which I was much inspired. It pleased God however in September of 1817 to visit me once more in his Spirit's power. He blessed me with a clear discovery of his love and filled my soul with a "joy unspeakable and full of glory." O with what joy and alacrity I then ran in the way of his commandments.

"What peaceful hours I then enjoyed

"How sweet their memory still."

Since that period I have enjoyed a constant peace and satisfactory assurance of the divine favour and love, never much exalted or much cast down. Such is my state today. My mind at peace with God and man and satisfied that I am where God placed me and fulfilling the purpose of my mission to preach the Gospel.

1 Jan. 1819.

My mind much raised above this earth and affected by the lapse of time. The New Year commenced with earnest prayer to God for grace

to live more to his glory than I have ever yet done. Anxious to live always thus excited and devoted to the cause of Jesus. Lord grant me grace my soul humbly begs.

Jan 15.

In abiding assurance of God's favour and presence.

Feb 1.

My mind anxious for the salvation of souls around me - Lord pour thy spirit out and glorify thyself.

Feb. 13.

Much harassed by sinful and malicious conduct of others from whom I should expect better things. Find it good to look to Jesus who forgave me ten thousand talents as a motive to the exercise of kindness and forgiveness to those who injure me. How painful the conflict with indwelling corruption. Oh this body of death, how welcome the hour of release and eternal escape from its painful annoyance.

Feb 19

Spent the day with a recent convert. Much edified by his conversation. His having been a man of the world and long opposed to religion, on account of the operations of his mind during the reign of the carnal principle interested me much - more and more convinced that salvation is all of grace, that God begins, carries on and finishes the work of sanctification in the soul. Lord triumph gloriously over the powers of darkness and daily give us such monuments of thy grace and power and thine shall be the glory now and forever Amen. At night attended a weekly meeting of pious men belonging to the Episcopal Church. The Lord has put a right spirit within them therefore they delight to meet together and talk one to another of those things which concern their peace.

Received the Constitution and Address of "The Society for the Education of pious young men for the ministry in the Protestant Episcopal

Churches of Virginia and Maryland" Much interested for the welfare and prosperity of the Institution. Shall make considerable exertion to assist its funds. Praise God to prosper it. Made one of its directors.

Feb 20.

My heart deeply affected by the Idea of God's glory and majesty. The state of the human family afflicting to my mind - much drawn out in prayer to God to have mercy on the world and save my friends and acquaintances from the miseries of Hell. Awful views of the sorrows of the damned. Feel myself a Pilgrim and long to see God and rest in his bosom, for I have none in Heaven but Him, nor is there any in the earth that I desire in comparison of Him.

Feb 21 -

Preached to my people with much concern and affection from Gen. 5. 20. My heart deeply engaged for the salvation of poor sinners.

22 Feb.

This day busied on the work of the ministry. Visiting saints and sinners, intercourse with the saints delightful, pleasing to direct the sinners mind to God in Christ. The evidences of a gracious work in my congregation very strong and encouraging.

23d. -

Attended my prayer meeting. The Lord continues to me still in some degree the spirit of my station. Supremely anxious to promote the salvation of my congregation. My heart pained by the disorderly walk of some of my members. Know not what to do. They are in the gall of bitterness and resist the truth - seem locked up in unbelief and blindness of mind.

24th.

Agitated and perplexed this day about the method of proceeding in the exercise of the Church discipline. O that God would direct me that I may act in a manner pleasing in his sight, and most for the interests of

the sacred cause.

15th

Mind depressed - have to discharge the duty of a minister. There must be no consultation with flesh and blood.

16th

Met my people, meeting profitable I hope. My mind feels the insufficiency of earth - God only changes not.

18th Feb.

Preached to a crowded congregation. Much favoured by the Lord. My mouth opened and my heart enlarged, so that I spoke with some earnestness. The people impressed. The Lord grant a blessing on his word soon. The text Zechariah 6. 13.

March 1st.

The work of grace still progressing among my people - good evidence hereof appears this day. Several persons sitting their faces toward.

and Dec. --

March 2d.

Sorry for the melancholy state of my fellowmen - Poor wretches, how many are lost, given up, and yet they seem gay and happy - meeting held tonight - much engaged for my people.

March 5.

Meeting at night - comfortable evidence that a good work is progressing.

Mar. 6

Mind much exercised on the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins and degree of assurance thereof - more deeply convinced of the truth that we may know their sins forgiven and be enabled to rejoice in the assurance with a joy unbreakable and full of glory - not is it presumptuous to believe this, as some say it is. If a criminal be pardoned, is it a ground of proud

triumph that he is so, no, pardon will promote humility in such a man.

March 7

Preached to many people - trust the Lord to give his word success. Text 1 Cor 1.23 in the morning - Rev. 3.20 in afternoon.

March 8

Much engaged at night for my people, my mouth opened and spoke with earnestness and I hope with effect - people moved -

March 9

Engaged much in examining my heart, and considering my condition in the sight of God - Evangelical obedience the way to peace and safety. By works faith is made perfect - obedience is the exercise of faith, without which it languishes and decays - Lord help me to love thee more and serve thee better.

March 11th

My soul stirred up to seek the Lord afresh and make my calling and election sure. O for grace to help me on my way onward, to reverse my heart and kindle the flame of love into a holy ardour and renovated zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of my own soul.

March 21.

Labouring in the Sanctuary with some degree of liberty and delight. My soul ardently engaged for sinners. Spent the evening with Mrs. Lomax, much afflicted by the death of her child - struggling with the pressure of her grief. May the Lord comfort her and sanctify the dispensation to the bereaved. My soul engaged in shaking off prejudices, bigotry, and endeavouring to promote harmony and unanimity among Christians. O that the spirit of love would descend upon the Church and bind our hearts in a perpetual union. Lord help thy poor servant to please thee in this respect.

March 23.

A comfortable meeting with my people tonight. Much pleasure in serving God. My mind much enlightened on divine subjects during the last

week. Enlarged views of the character of God. My mind more fixed in love and admiration of God in Christ. Now slow my progress in divine knowledge God must teach or I remain ignorant stupid and benighted. Lord vouchsafe thy gracious aid yet more and more. O be thou my teacher, and I shall learn well.

March 28.

Sabbath. A very full Church 4 or 500 people. My heart oppressed under a sense of my great insufficiency for the work of the ministry. Who is fit to stand between the living and the dead? My heart enlarged in the afternoon services. Tested in peace at night. God accepts me amidst all my unprofitableness. Text in morning Luke 2. 13 & 14. Afternoon I Peter 1:24-25 -

March 29 A peaceful frame of mind.

---- 30 Some heaviness. Temptations harrass me - Conflicts distress me. May the Lord sanctify them and guide me in a safe way, destroying the corruption of my nature, the secret pride of my heart.

April 6th Having entered my own house by the goodness of God I this morning erected an Alter to his name in my family and dedicated the house to him in Prayer and supplication - My mind heavy and dull during the day - distracted by the worry and bustle of moving - Feel my dependance on the blessed spirit for life and vigour.

April 7th

Went into the country to Mr. B to bury his son William. He seems to be a Christian, talks much and well on the subject of religion. His family amiable and piously disposed, gratified with their Gen conversation. My heart much in need of divine grace and influence today. Though loving the ways of God and anxious for the promotion of his blessed cause, yet too dull in serving and loving Him the God of love. O for grace to animate my stupid heart. There is a Sunday School on Mr. B Farm, in a most

flourishing condition - 67 scholars - All perfectly unlettered till they entered the School - Now many of them read the New Testament. What an important Institution! How powerful an auxiliary to the cause of Christianity - This School was established in May 1819 by some young men of the Episcopal Church of Fredericksburg.

April 8th

My mind meditating on the solemn event which we shall be called to commemorate tomorrow - The Crucifixion of our Lord. What an astonishing display of love does this event hold-forth! so amazing that reason is staggered and gratitude overwhelmed. How angels must wonder at the awful occurrence. O what manner of men ought we to be who are thus exalted as the distinguished favourites of the Most High.

9th Good Friday. Preached from Gal. Find it good to fast and pray. The Lord manifesting himself to me in a gracious manner. My soul filled with wonder and gratitude for the love which sacrificed the adorable Saviour for poor wretched men.

10. A peaceful day. The Saviour laid in the grave this day. A mangled corpse. Being the Jewish Sabbath he is undisturbed by his friends, who wished to embalm his body, but his enemies once so scrupulous about the Sabbath, set the guards about his grave on this day.

11. A glorious Day. He who yesterday slumbered in the tomb is seen today travelling in the greatness of his strength. What bands or sin hold the Lord and author of nature. Administered the Lord's Supper to a large number of spiritual disciples of the crucified Jesus. Found peace in waiting on God - nothing but peace and joy and assurance - added a new born soul to the Church today. She is a grandmother. Perhaps 45 years of age - was among the Baptists as a listener or visitor - Came into my Church apparently by accident last summer - was praying by the door on her way to a Baptist meeting - a friend persuaded her to go in and see the

Church etc she complied and she who came to gaze, staid to pray. The Lord
 coched her heart and she has joined herself now to the Lord in an ever-
 lasting Covenant. For this token of the divine favour on the Church, I
 desire to bless God.

2. still peace of mind, sweet peace.

3. Loving to have fellowship with God and entering into his presence
 with joy. Meeting at Mr. Watt's tonight. Text Rom. 8.1 liberty in speak-
 ing.

4. Went into the country to marry a couple. Much engaged in medi-
 ating on the unhappy state of those who are without Christ. Made some
 arrangements for the establishment of a Sunday School near the Bowling Greens.
 Charles Lewis Junior seem concerned about A. My mind dejected
 by a view of the worldly-mindedness of those around me on this visit. How
 likes corrupt. Stayed at Mrs. George Bookner's all night. A pleasant
 family. His wife a fine woman and I hope a sincere Christian - a member of
 the Episcopal Church - being anxious for the advancement of the Redeemers
 cause.

5. Favoured in dispersing the word and doctrine church much crowded
 and people attentive.

6. My mind peaceful and happy. Rejoicing in the hope of resting
 with God after a few more days of toil and pain. My bodily health bad. May
 my inward man be renewed day by day as my outward man decays. Lord help
 thy servant.

7. Met my people where prayer is want to be made. There is great
 delight in serving God and promoting the best interests of man.

8. My mind harrassed by temptations and the workings of the carnal
 principle. I hate this body of death. Heaven will be the abode of universal
 love and peace. Here the frailties of our Brethern vex us more than is
 good for our souls. Lord forgive us our trespasses as we (by thy gracious
 help) forgive those who trespass against us.

My mind much excited about the forlorn and miserable state of the heathen world. 600,0000. of the human family never have heard the name of the precious Jesus. Thousands of these are proceeding every moment into eternity from amidst their crimes. The Christian world begins to awake from its apathy on this subject. Something is done for these wretched creatures, but nothing compared with the vast demand - There is not more than 300 missionaries in the field whilst 30,000 are necessary to evangelize the world. If all Professors of Religion would contribute a dollar a year to this purpose it might be accomplished provided you could find men to undertake the work.

Annual meeting of our Sunday School. Preached from Mat. 6.10. "Thy Kingdom come" Made a collection for the benefit of the School, took \$40.65. The day spent in the peaceful discharge of duty.

A happy day. Administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to Mrs. Taylor a dying member of the Church - a precious Saint. A large number of the Church collected in her house, administered the ordinance to upwards of 30 persons 2 Methodists - 4 Presbyterians the rest Episcopalians - the meeting exceedingly solemn and interesting. The Lord was in the midst of us indeed. A baptist Lady was present. She said to me - "You know the reason I did not commune - I would have done it cheerfully if the consequences would not have been unpleasant" She was the Sister of Mrs. Taylor. The cruelty of the regulation of her Church which forbid her to commune with Paedobaptists was most obvious and odious on the solemn occasion - about to part with her sister who she knows to be a child of God and with whom she expects to set down at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Heaven, and yet forbid to join her here in commemorating the dying love of thus common Lord and Saviour. May the Lord unite Christians as far as they should be for his glory and honour. My mind is peaceful tonight - thankful for the great pleasure and satisfaction I enjoyed this afternoon, and looking to him for clearer and

brighter manifestations of his blissful presence that my soul may rejoice more and more in his salvation.

27. A day of spiritual improvement. Made today a more complete surrender of myself to the Lord. Find joy in giving myself up to be used for the Lord's glory - no peace in holding back any part of the price. God will not have a divided heart. Our joy is in proportion to our devotedness to the glory of the Lord. My heart much drawn out in prayer today. Find it good to draw nigh to God. Prayer-meeting pleasant tonight.

28. More alive to God and the pleasures of devotion - the pulse of sacred affection beats stronger than usual on my soul.

29. My chief delight the pursuit of holiness.

May 2.

A delightful day. Preached from Eph. 2.1. The people moved by the sermon. May the Lord bless it. My mind unusually serene and happy tonight my delight in the Lord great and unalloyed. O how precious his favour to the soul. How delightful his word and ordinances - they impart the purest joy. Some life in my congregation. Lord never depart from us. Never leave O Holy Ghost, Comforter and sanctifier of the Church.

May 3d - A peaceful day - prayer delightful.

4th Still find it good to draw near to God.

5th Mind dissipated by travelling. Went to Culpepper to marry Mr. John Frett to Miss Columbia Stanard. Find it injurious to be in worldly company. My mind disturbed and distressed by the folly and sinfulness of the sons and daughters of fashion. Religion has taken root in the family where I married the couple.

6th Preached at Culpepper C. House and took up a collection for the support of the Episcopate. Many persons in Culpepper much concerned about the cause of the Redeemer, and very anxious to have the labours of a gospel minister. My heart much concerned for them and oppressed on account of

their destitution. Spent the close of this day endeavouring to interest some wealthy slave-holders in the prosperity of the Colonizing Society. They are generally in favour of it - but doubtful of its success in as much as they exclude the agency of God entirely from their calculations of the practicability of the scheme. Clearer views today of the misery of the rich and great. Well might the Apostle say - "Go to ye rich men weep and howl etc"

8th My mind much depressed by the confusion of the several days past in unavoidable intercourse with a vain society. Returned to Fredericksburg - called on Mr. W. Jones - dined with him, his family much afflicted.

9th A gloomy day without and within. My spirits depressed - my mind disturbed and restless - ignorant of the way in which I should walk on this occasion. Will trust in the Lord. And hope for his salvation.

10th Sabbath - laboured in the word and divine doctrine with some liberty today. The looked for guidance as to the way in which I should walk on the occasion above alluded to kindly granted me by the Lord in whom I trust. Resolved to act.

10th My heart cheered by the company of my Christian friends.

11. Left home for Petersburg in the stage. My mind composed and easy - reached the Oaks where we had prayer and exhortation with the family and company attending us.

12. Pursued our way, some peace with God. Reached Petersburg in safety, conducted by the Lord.

13. Convention of the Church - anxious for the glory of God - much satisfaction in this convention - much brotherly love and affection felt and manifested by the ministers. My mind variously exercised.

14. Still in Convention.

15. Still in convention. The people of the Episcopal Church in Petersburg like sheep without a shepherd.

16. Sabbath. An ordination and administration of the Lord's Supper, a pleasant day to my heart. My soul melted much in love for the people and desires for their spiritual good.

17th Left Petersburg for home. Arrived at Mrs. Hill's, a place pursuant of the Lord Jesus. Slept at the Oaks.

18th Pursued our way homeward, reached Fredericksburg at noon. My mind dissipated and unsettled. Brother Joseph F. Lowe preached for me this evening, an impressive sermon.

19. Brother Lowe preached for me again this morning. The word edified I hope. Brother Benjamin Allen preached for me this evening at candle light.

20. My mind cast down and distressed. Much inward sin discovered to my view. Oh I have an evil heart of unbelief. Great spiritual wickedness lurks in my heart. A discontented murmuring heart is mine, which is dissatisfied with the ways of God - Lord have mercy on me.

21. This murmuring spirit has justly grieved the holy Spirit. He withdraws the light of his countenance. My soul is in heaviness all the day long. Yet I mourn my hardness of heart.

22. Why go I thus heavily while the enemy oppresseth me? Namely while they say daily unto me "where is now thy God?"

23. Why art thou so full of heaviness O my soul and why art thou so disquieted within me. Put thy trust in God, for I will yet give him thanks for the help of his countenance. Sabbath - Church very full. I spoke to the people in heaviness.

24. My mind much excited about the Colonization society. A great and magnificent design.

25. Church open for the purpose of forming an Auxiliary Colonization Society. Colonel Charles Fenton Mercer addressed the people with much eloquence and zeal. Many much impressed by his arguments in support of the

expediency and practicability of the scheme. A Society organized and many members secured. Some warm in their opposition to the scheme.

My mind still depressed - cast down.

25th
27th
do and little doing. My power of rendering service extremely limited. I sometimes seem to myself a cast away instrument no longer useful. Know not what to do that I may render service to the beloved cause of my Master.

28. This morning distressed with mental uneasiness - my bodily health bad. This evening I have more peace than I have enjoyed for a fortnight. Whilst I prayed the light broke in upon my mind - the peace of God revisited my heart.

29. Peace this morning - God is gracious and will not be angry forever - a sweet assurance of his favour this morning. May I profit by those views of indwelling sin which I have had for the last two weeks in so clear a light.

30th Sabbath morning. Went up into God's house with joy and praise. The dispensation of the word pleasant to me. Find God's smile every thing to my soul - without it every duty is burdensome, with it labour itself is sweet. Brother Dunn preached for me today. I hope the word had effect.

31. Whitsun Monday. Went in the country to Mr. John Mortimer's to preach for the Episcopal Sunday School kept on his farm. Preached to the people from Isaiah 66. 6. Went in the afternoon to visit a dying woman in the neighborhood accompanied by Mrs. Mortimer. Found the woman in a wretched condition, once she had been in good circumstances, now she is poor, destitute and forlorn, and awfully in debt to divine justice, heavily laden with the burden of many and aggravated transgressions. I found her wretched and miserable to a great degree. She said to me "Sir I have never offered up a single petition to God in my life before this affliction - and now I am wretched, for this my neglect and my guilty

sinful life, for 21 days my heart has been filled with sorrow and burdened with unrepentable grief, how can I meet an offended God with my sins unpardoned and crying to him for vengeance. O how did I love the "hell" - My heart bled for the poor wretch and took pleasure in seeing her of the love of Jesus to poor sinners. She seemed troubled by the visit I gave her and very grateful to me for my visit. After we stayed with her I commended her to the grace and mercy of God. I returned to Mr. Williams, quite much interested in a young girl who seemed much affected by the truths of religion during the day. She once attended my church, but never lived in the country - Much melted when I spoke to her about her soul. She had not been much at rest today. The Sun of Righteousness seems a shining radiance on my soul - Glory to God for the blessings of salvation.

1. June.

My mind sweetly serene and calm today. Satan threw at my words a fiery dart, exciting a malicious effort to tarnish my goodness. The shield of faith thank God has quenched the "dart" - A pleasant meeting tonight with my people. Found prayer delightful.

2d. Peace today.

3d Still peace.

4th See the value of salvation this day with great delight and with sorrow witness the absence of its joys from other bosoms. How dreary the lot of the richest and most honorable who possess not this pearl.

5th Great peace today in the love of God. What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefit.

6th Entered into the house of God with great delight and laboured with confidence and earnestness before the Lord. Believe the word had some effect. Text Ezekiel 37. 3.

7th Enjoy much happiness and peace though interrupted by occasional fears that I am more at ease than a child of God should be. Much engaged today in trying my state, in "proving" myself whether I be "in the faith",

whether I am making the progress in holiness which is necessary in order to see God. May the Lord help me to "make sure" my "calling and election"

8th My mind harassed today by the malignity of my enemies, endeavouring to disturb my peace and wound my fame. May the Lord have mercy on them and give them repentance and better minds. May I have a conscience void of offence towards God and man and it shall suffice. I thank God for the comfortable assurance I have that I am suffering for righteousness sake.

9th Peace of mind is my portion today.

10th Sweet hope in God's mercy and loving kindness.

11th Preaching today in company with my Brethren Andrews and Wydowns at the Mount Zion Episcopal Sunday School. Found pleasure in the work.

12th A day of earnest prayer to God. Some delightful thoughts of God's goodness and love.

13th A pleasant day - Preached at Lamb's Creek Church. Enjoyed pleasure and liberty in dispensing the word of truth. The people attentive. Heard of the death of a dear sister in the Lord Mrs. Jane Jett. Received a letter containing her dying request, that I should preach her Funeral Sermon from Heb. 4.9 "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."

14th Preached this day Mrs. Jett's funeral Sermon to a large and weeping congregation. Her death was very triumphant and joyful. I baptised her infant calling it at her request Christian, to which her father added Jane.

15th Preached at Port Royal - dead work there.

16th Went to Orange to preach the funeral Sermon of Mr. Hay Taliaferro at Blebsin. Enjoyed peace of mind.

Sabbath 27th.

Preached the Sermon to a large congregation attentive and impressed. Baptized two of the sons of the deceased. Went to Mr. George's woods at night. Spent the evening pleasantly with his family and a

Baptist preacher Mr. Dodge. My mind happy.

29. Find difficulties and afflictions always awaiting. As I labour to promote the Saviours kingdom adversaries increase and harrass the more. The spirit of the opposition to me in this place runs high. Enemies are secret and subtle. But thanks be to God I feel no disposition to relax my diligence or give place to the Devil who seems exceedingly mad with me because I earnestly resist his kingdom, which may God grant to be ever the case. If I am guilty of any error or imprudence which has brought the persecution on me may God forgive me. But if as I believe it is for righteousness sake, because I oppose with all my might the Kingdom of Satan may God strengthen me and my enemies repentance and better minds.

30. Troubles and difficulties about. The enemy roars and is angry.
July 1st

Have much peace with God amidst all my trials. Thanks be to God for the blessed hope of the Gospel.

July 3. My joy abounds.

4. Preaching this day with a reference to the event which this day celebrates. Endeavouring to lead the people to that more glorious deliverance effected through the death of Jesus Christ. Text St. John Gos. 8.3 "If the Lord shall make you free ye shall be free indeed."

5. Still enjoy a sweet peace of mind. God remembers me for good. Much interested today by reading Revd. Mr. Jarrett's account of the astonishing revival which took place under his ministry in Dinwiddie County Bath parish between the year 1763 and that of 1770 when he wrote the narrative. There seems to have been a dead calm in the state of religion in Virginia before that period. In the established Church out of 80 or 100 Ministers there was not more than one besides Jarrett who preached Christ crucified in a proper manner - In a few years the excitement under Mr. Jarrett's zealous labours began to be general. Though when he commenced preaching there were

not more than 7 or 8 communicants in a few years he says he administered the Lord's Supper to nearly 1000 Persons. Such was the effect of the Gospel when duly set forth. What the world calls "very good" Ministers had been among these people before, they had preached very fine sermons - Had been very much esteemed as "mighty good men", but one thing they lacked; being blinded themselves how could they lead others, being unconverted themselves how could they teach others the doctrine of the new-birth. May the Lord forever preserve his Church from such wolves in sheeps clothing - How obvious is it that nothing will advance the cause of the Redeemer but the plain doctrines of the Cross - the depravity of the human heart - the necessity of being "born again" by the influence of the Holy Ghost - the doctrine of the sinner in all its fullness and extent - as necessary to satisfy the violated law of God and to bring in an everlasting righteousness for the justification of sinners. ---- This only proves the power of God and the wisdom of God to salvation.

9. Gratified with evidences of considerable excitement among my people, they crowd my meetings twice a week which is unusual during the hot season. May the Lord vouchsafe the influence of his spirit to revive his work in the midst of these years. "Saviour Visit thy plantation. Grant us Lord, a gracious rain." My soul shall wait upon the Lord, and look for his salvation. May this be the set time for favouring zion.

10th God favoured me with his approving smile how "sweet the light" of his countenance. His favour truly is better than life.

11. The Lord's day. Preached the word to numbers. Had some pleasant intercourse with some of my people. The Lord still good to me.

12. The day spent in active duty. Endeavouring to hold up Christ Jesus my Lord to sinners as the only way of salvation. Spent an hour with some of my sick people. An old Saint. She enjoys much of the divine favour. A remarkable source of comfort has been opened to her under this visitation.

She generally hears the most enchanting and melodious sounds, as it were angels singing. They seem to sing in concert and she hears a chorus in which all unite, and the words "Come and See" She distinctly hears as forming the chorus. Mrs. Taylor is perfectly in her senses. So that far from imagining what she hears she is comparatively little affected by it and complains of the insensibility and stupor which prevents her from enjoying the delights of such a visitation. If she possessed a warm and enthusiastic imagination we might ascribe this thing to the influence of that faculty, but when I know that when in health that faculty was rather dull, and moreover that her piety was of the fearful and timid kind I know not to what to ascribe these delightful strains of melody by which she is in a degree refreshed and supported but to the agency of that God in whose sight he has said "the death of his Saints is precious." As to the manner in which it is effected I can not say. The fact Mrs. Taylor calmly told to me as I have above recorded it. Mrs. Taylor has been very deaf for many years. She says since she has heard this music, the singing of her friends which was once delightful has become unpleasant to her.

16th Considerable darkness and coldness of heart. Divine things not so affecting to me as I wish they were. Feel more and more sensible of my great weakness and nothingness in God's sight except through the merits and worthiness of my dear Redeemer. Daily more deeply convinced that if I am saved it will be by "the righteousness which is of God by faith". "The Lord our Righteousness" is my only trust.

17th Bodily weakness weighs down and clogs my mind. My spirits evaporate and I become dull in the service of God. May the Lord renew my strength both of mind and body and make me "to mount up as on angels wings to run and not grow weary to walk and not faint."

The Lord's Day. My mind somewhat elevated by the contemplation of divine and sacred objects. Preached to many souls from Luke 14. 18.

administered the Sacrament of the Lords Supper to my people. About 75 of
 men. Enjoyed a delightful season, found the Saviour very near us, presiding
 at his own table. A solemn meeting. My soul much refreshed and comforted.
 May I and all my dear people be counted worthy to set down at the marriage
 supper of the Lamb in Heaven.

"Blesses Jesus what delicious fare

"How sweet thy entertainments are

"Never did angels taste above

"Redeeming grace and dying love.

"Hail great Immanuel, all divine!

"In thee they Father's glories shine

"Thou brightest, sweetest, fairest one

"That eyes have seen, or angels known

Watts.

9th The delightful fragrance shed over my soul by the exercises of
 yesterday still lingers on my heart. Committed to the grave the remains of
 a child of 4 years of age. Son of Mrs. Hunter of Essex. Experienced whilst
 in Essex much strong religious excitement. Deeply pained for the spiritual
 blindness and delusion of some with whom I had intercourse. They are amiable,
 intelligent, people, and religion all their theme yet they seem deceived.

10th Returned home in the enjoyment of much peace. Sick in the after-
 noon, and unable to attend my meeting. Conducted by some of my people.

11th Mr. Andrews called on me today. Promised to preach for me next
 Sabbath.

12th Went to hear preach, a celebrated Baptist. An eloquent man, but
 I fear he is nothing but sounding brass or a tinkling cymbel. No sacred
 emotion attends his preaching. The conscience is not awakened. The imagina-
 tion is delighted, the ear tickled. Heard him morning and night, at night
 a collection was taken up for missionary purposes.

24. A day of spiritual peace. Visited Mrs. Taylor found her sinking very fast - unable to converse with me.

25. Rev. Mr. Andrus officiated in my Church. I preached at the Mount Zion Sunday School. I returned after service and attended on Mr. Andrus in Falmouth where he preached. Returned home in a severe storm of thunder and lightning and found on my arrival at home my wife just delivered of her second child to my great surprise. The agitation of the elements without and the interesting circumstance within awakened in my bosom many strong emotions. I sought relief in approaching the mercy seat of my God where my soul delights to repose in all seasons of joy and distress. I poured out my soul in gratitude for the safe deliverance of my wife, and in admiration of his great majesty and power then displayed in the thunder's tremendous roar and the lightning's terrific glare. I had also just been informed that Mrs. Taylor had a few hours before concluded her pilgrimage and her sufferings, having died whilst I was in Falmouth.

26th This day I conclude the 26th year of my life. Nearly 8 of these years I have served the Lord. What a proportion has been devoted to the Devil. Yet I thank God I have been permitted to begin his service as soon as I did. It might have been sooner. It might have been much later. O that I may serve him in future better than I have ever yet done. I thank him that I feel as strong a love for his service and as warm a concern for the advancement of his glory as I have ever felt. May this desire grow as I increase in years. Received delightful evidence that the Lord owned my labours at Port Royal July 12, 1818, to the conversion of two females. I have seen them since and find the Lord has indeed adopted them into his own family. Whilst I live may the Lord thus own my poor efforts to advance his cause. No other honour will I seek - no other joy desire - What encouragement to be diligent in the work of the Lord. Who knows how much good he does. It was accidental that the facts above mentioned came to my

How many meet ministers of the Gospel on the shores of Eternity with
 as children whom the Lord had given them, though they never knew them.
 Take courage my soul. Preached Mrs. Taylor's Funeral Sermon this afternoon.
 committed her body to the grave in hopes of a glorious resurrection.

A tranquil day. Meeting at night. Some evidences of a work of
 grace among the people.

God's ways, ways of pleasantness, his paths, paths of peace.

1st Aug.

Sabbath. Preached at Burbridges Church, to an attentive con-
 gregation. Enjoyed liberty and freedom in making known to them the message
 of the Gospel. The Lord favoured me today with pleasant reflections.

A distressing period in our country. An excessive drought now
 affects the people. My mind partakes of the common sympathy - though it
 reposes on the arm of God with undiminished confidence. "Shall not all the
 Judge of all the earth do right."

Hear that Yellow Fever is in Baltimore. Should the plague be
 added to famine it will seem as if the Lord has a controversy with the nation.
 May we learn righteousness whilst the divine judgments are abroad.

My body pressed down by indisposition. My mind sympathizes with
 my body. Very oppressed and distressed in mind.

Much better today. Some medicine has relieved my body and find
 my mind much more disposed for business and duty, and consequently happier.
 Happiness I feel deeply convinced is intimately connected with the faithful
 and active discharge of every duty, a commendation of the wise advice of
 Bishop Wilson that the Christian cultivate the "piety which is active rather
 than that which is only contemplative." It is with the soul as with the
 body health can only be enjoyed by a constant exercise.

Still enjoy the benefit of improving health and activity in the
 service of God. My peace increases with my labour.

Sabbath Day. Preached with great freedom and liberty to a large congregation on Rev. 3. 1-2 verses - Preached in Falmouth in the afternoon. Rev. 3. 20.

Enjoyed the comforts of religion in my soul. The ways of religion are the ways of pleasantness and all her paths peace, this is the testimony of my soul, after many years experience. "Great peace have they who love the law of God."

God is the health and strength on my soul and my portion forever. My soul longs for his courts, and to be with Him which is far better. Shall I escape the worm that never dies and the fire that is never quenched, shall I escape the wrath of my Maker which I have merited and attained to the blessedness of eternal life? Oh how the subject absorbs my soul - can a soul once justified fail of salvation whilst it is his supreme concern to fulfill the will of God. I have not however I sensibly feel attained to that wisdom to sense and that complete control over all my affections and profligacy which holiness requires of me. O that God would strengthen me my soul, and enable me to regard his will supremely and die to self.

I have been sick for some time past. I have however enjoyed much of the divine presence and support and found it always good to be in the service of God. My chief joy is to do his blessed will - I have had some spiritual sorrows, but trust to find joy springing from the source which they produced them.

Barbers Ferry Sep 2.

My health somewhat restored. Enjoy some delightful reflections on the past and present goodness of God to me. I have found him a kind and gracious friend, a present help in time of trouble. I hope to love him and serve him better every day I live on earth. The Lord grant me grace

Sept. 2. 1819.

Nov. 27, 1820.

Bad health and much business has prevented me from continuing this diary since the period noted in the last page. Since that time I have had no remarkable experience in divine things. I have enjoyed a pretty general peace and engagedness of mind in the cause of religion and of my ministry, and I think I have increased much in a knowledge of divine truth. My views have become more settled and fixed, and more delighted with the beauty of the Saviour and the divine symmetry and excellence of the plan of redemption. I have been much afflicted this Autumn with sickness. I had a severe Bilious Fever in September and have since experienced 5 relapses. But the sorest affliction has been in the death of my beloved Father who died last Friday night 24th inst. This is a most afflictive event to my heart and to all his large family who are now deprived of their earthly support. I have a good hope that he rests in Heaven. I pray God to sanctify the loss to his family and to give them all things needful for life and for goodness - deprived of every earthly comfort may they all fly to God for consolation and support and Oh may the grief of my heart be sanctified to my good. May I become wiser and more holy - more dead to this perishing world and more alive to the things of Eternity. I had much reason to love my deceased Father. He was to me a kind friend an affectionate Father. I pray God that I may meet his spirit in Heaven where the weary are at rest, there there "will be no more death."

Nov. 27th. 1820.

1821 -
June 5th

Having remained since the above was recorded much in the same state of mind as is there mentioned I have not felt disposed to continue my diary. But the Lord having lately favoured me with a delightful manifestation of his power and love I again resume the work of recording the

exercises of my mind. I had long laboured under deadness and cleanness of soul, though I had groaned under it and sought the Lord for deliverance from it. Lately on my return from Norfolk where I attended a Convention of the clergy and laity of Virginia I received the sweet persuasion of the divine favour, accompanied by a powerful impression of his continual presence. Under this delightful influence I have continued ever since. This wonderful impression of the presence and love of God gives a constant tranquility, and a sweet composure to my mind, with a sweet peace and joy, and a delight in my service equal to any thing I ever felt. I consider it a step of advancement in the divine life which will make religion more and more delightful to me, and which I hope and believe will abide with me for my sanctification and preparation for the immediate and blessed presence on my God in Heaven. Oh the bliss and happiness which is found in the love of Christ. How sweet his smiles are to the soul. How "unsearchable are the riches of Christ."

10th This day enjoyed much life and liberty in preaching the word to my people. Much seriousness observed among them. When I am in a lively and excited state of mind in regard to divine things find my ministrations unproportionately felt by those who hear me. May the Lord keep me in such a frame as this, till I am called to soar away to everlasting bliss."

11. Find that my mind does not retain in such lively remembrance the impressions of divine grace. They seem to fade away and loose their vigour. I am still left however in a peaceful frame and when I employ myself in earnest and prayerful meditation enjoy in a very comfortable degree the sweet impressions of God's love and favour which the excitement of sensible objects in a degree deadens and destroys.

12th. A day of sorrow and weeping. Received the sad and unexpected intelligence of the death of my dear mother. She died in Winchester on Friday the 24th inst. 10 o'clock A.M. She had removed from Harper's Ferry to Winchester on a visit to my uncle supposing the change of air and of situation

... of service to her health. Soon after my father's death she was
 attacked by a violent disease, supposed to be the gravel or stone. She
 endured much excruciating pain for several months, never finding relief
 from the use of laudanum. On removing to Winchester her Physician
 pronounced her disease entirely a bilious affection and changed the mode
 of treatment which had been before used, and soon pronounced her disease
 cured and her prospect of recovery very promising. Of this flattering
 prospect I received information and when I was expecting to hear that her
 illness was in a fair way of being completely restored and an expected visit
 to her to me realized, I received a letter from my Brother containing the
 distressing information of her departure to another world to be seen no more
 below the sun.

I have however a sweet consolation in the assurance of her com-
 plete happiness in the presence of God and of the Lamb. She was a woman of
 excellence. The best woman in all the relations of life I ever knew.
 Piety was genuine - her conduct as consistent and exemplary as that of
 a person in the world. Indeed I do not know that she had a fault - that
 she was blameable in any thing either towards God or man that could be dis-
 covered by mortal eyes. She was to me (her first-born) always the most in-
 dent and affectionate mother. I shall remember her whilst I live with
 the warmest gratitude and sincerest affection, and cherish the hope of meet-
 ing her in my Saviour's kingdom as one of my dearest and most precious priv-
 ileges.

My mind much quickened by my grief. I have great reason to thank
 God for the entire resignation I feel to his will. I rejoice that he reigns
 because that he does all things well. This persuasion gives a delightful
 serenity and composure to the mind. I sensibly feel this to be its fruit.
 My acquiescence in the divine will increase in me. May I so love my
 God as to rejoice that he should do all his good pleasure in the armies of

of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. I preached with effect to my people this day. Was considerably agitated by my late affliction. O Lord bear me up all my appointed time upon earth, and when I have done and suffered thy will upon earth, bring me to thy kingdom of glory for the sake of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

18th A peaceful day and much mental excitement about the things of God and the things which concern my friends and relations. May the Lord support them in all their sorrow.

24. Preached this day to a large congregation. It was a special occasion. I expected to labour with effect, but my God humbled me - I could not give apparently much effect to the word. I am more and more reminded that the treasure is in an earthen vessel, and that the excellency of the power is of God, who will not give his glory to another. The Lord stands not in need of any. He can do his work by the weakest instrument as well as by the strongest.

28th Prayer meeting this evening at Mr. J. P. _____'s, a comfortable meeting, much liberty in speaking on the 51st Psalm. Find great advantage arising to the Church from this method of promoting the cause of Jesus. It admits of so much familiar and plain exposition of the word, with such pointed and direct application to the consciences of men, as can not be practised with equal success a larger and more mixed open-blages. It is also more social and operates through our sympathy to produce a more powerful and active influence upon our affections.

July 1

Preached today to an attentive congregation. Enjoyed liberty and ease in declaring the truth. Much peace and lively views of divine things. My soul deeply penetrated by the consideration of human infatuation in refusing Jesus. Much ardent thirsting after God. I can truly say with David "As the hart panteth after the water brooks so panteth my soul after thee O God."

July 3d. Have a realizing conviction of the brevity of human life. Feel that it is rapidly hastening to a close with me. Very joyful am I in the glorious prospect of that eternal weight of glory which I believe awaits me in my Father's Kingdom. O when shall I wake and find me there. The hour draws near.

What joy while there I view the day
 What warns my thirsting soul away
 What transports fill my breast?
 For, lo, my great Redeemer's power
 Unfolds the everlasting door,
 And leads me to his rest.

The festal morn, my God, is come
 That calls me to the hallowed dome,
 They presence to adore;
 My feet the summons shall attend
 With willing steps thy courts ascend
 And tread th' eterial floor.

Even now to my expecting eyes
 The heaven - built towers of Salem rise
 E'en now with glad survey
 I view her mansions, that contain
 The angelic forms as awful train,
 And shine with cloudless day.

Hither from earth's remotest bound
 Lo, the redeemed of God ascend
 This tribute hither bring
 Here crowned with everlasting joy
 In hymns of praise their tongues employ
 And hail the immortal King.

1822

September

There are among my people some precious proofs of a work of grace. The Lord has lately brought several from darkness to light. I see the Lord's hand stretched out for the good of my people. I have joy therein.

October

Signs of a gracious work still among my people. It will I trust increase. Much serious attention to the means of grace.

November

The work of the Holy Spirit manifest in the congregation

generally convinced of sin and enquiring the way to Christ - I do not experience as much spiritual joy as formerly. I have been sorely buffeted of late by the great enemy of my soul - Satan seems exceedingly angry and would devour me. I suffer much distress of mind from his "fiery darts" - The Lord deliver me or I perish.

18th Still in much distress of mind from the evidences I have of a corrupt nature - truly "in me, that is, in my flesh dwelleth no good thing" - yet the Lord is merciful to me - he enables me to labour in his cause with a good heart. He gives me proof of my labours being useful - Some have been lately awakened under my preaching.

20th Still bowed down and in much heaviness by reason of temptation. I have never suffered so much in my life as I now do from temptation. That I shall not perish I have a good hope. I believe a way of escape will be opened. God be merciful to me that I fall not into the jaws of the devourer.

December

The work of grace still progressing in my congregation. Many are anxious about salvation. My mind yet distressed. I will however persevere, I will work in my Lord's vineyard. I will trust in him to have mercy on me and forgive the wickedness of my heart.

Dec 26 Christmas Day. Church open. A large congregation - 4 or 500 people. A growing interest about religion.

Jan 1823

The people still anxious about their souls. I remain the very same cold and uneasy - yet the word preached seems effectual.

18th This day baptised 3 adults in the Church. A solemn occasion - the people much impressed by the ceremony - many affected to tears - every appearance of strong religious excitement. Revivals are occurring in other parts of the state. Every prospect that the Lord designs to visit us in mercy.

The excitement still continues, and increases. Many are enquiring what they must do to be saved. A missionary of the Presbyterian

... is labouring with much zeal in that Church - his labours seem
to increase the excitement.

I hope the clouds are about to break away from my mind. I begin
to feel that the fiery darts of the wicked one may indeed be quenched by
the Lord. Lord increase my faith and peace shall once more revisit my heart.

The work of grace begins to assure every appearance of a genuine
conversion. The concern of many is becoming deeper and their anxiety about
their spiritual state is becoming more intense and painful. Increased the
frequency of assembling my people for prayer and exhortation. The first
night of holding an additional meeting, the house was crowded and much sen-
sibility was manifested.

April - Our meetings still greatly crowded - many crying out "What shall
I do to be saved." My heart enlarged - my soul is escaped like a bird out
of the snare of the fowler. I feel myself delivered by the good hand of
God. Faith has proved effectual in quenching the fiery darts of the evil
one. "Praise God O my soul etc.

April - The people meet 6 or 7 times a week. They take pleasure in as-
sembling themselves together. The power and grace of God are signally dis-
played in some of our meetings. I have never heard of more remarkable
evidences of the divine presence. Some he enables to rejoice with a joy
unspeakable in the assurance of his pardoning love - others are painfully
convinced of sin and danger and suffer acute distress of mind.

May - The people still continue greatly excited. They are anxiously en-
quiring what they must do to be saved. Left home for the Convention held
in Leesburg. Went from thence to the General Convention held in Philadelphia.
The meeting conducted in my absence by one of my male members. My absence
was unfavourable to the increase of the excitement. Returned home the last
of the month. Some had gone back during my absence of whom I had cherished
great hopes. Many however still continue.