SELECTIONS FROM THE LETTERS AND OTHER PAPERS

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Selections from the Letters and Other Papers by William Grover

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WILLIAM GROVER

SELECTIONS FROM THE LETTERS AND OTHER PAPERS



SELECTIONS J.A. 189

PROM THE

LETTERS AND OTHER PAPERS

OF

WILLIAM GROVER;

PRECEDED BY

A BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF HIS LIFE.

"Be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."-Heb. vi. 11.

SECOND EDITION.

London:

PRINTED FOR HARVEY AND DARTON, 55, GRACECHURCH-STREET.

1829.

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Our late friend, WILLIAM GROVER, was so justly esteemed in our religious Society, that it has been thought the following Selection from his Letters and Papers would be acceptable to his friends. They may instructively revive the recollection of his Christian labours and example amongst us; and of his earnest solicitude for the preservation of his friends from all that is evil, and for their growth in true piety.

J. F.

Tottenham, 8th month, 1828.

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SELECTIONS, &c.

CHAP, I.

BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR OF WILLIAM GROVER.

WILLIAM GROVER, the son of William and Elizabeth Grover, was born at Brighthelmstone in Sussex, the 15th of the 11th month, 1752. Very few particulars are known of his early life. After leaving school, he was placed as an apprentice with Edmund Rack, a Friend, who was a retail country shopkeeper, at Bardfield in Essex. Soon after the expiration of the term, he engaged himself as an assistant to Samuel Day, who was also a member of our religious society, and in a similar business, and who lived at Stansted Mount-Fitchet, in the same county. After serving him with diligence and integrity for several years, he became a partner in the concern, and resided there during the remain-

der of his life. He inherited some patrimonial property, his father having died when he was young; but, at the same time, he found it necessary to pursue his engagements in business, and was esteemed an upright tradesman, of kind and respectful manners; one who was careful, in all things, to act as becomes a member of our religious society. He continued in trade until within a few years of his decease; and though diligent in attending to these, the necessary cares of life, he was not engrossed with them: possessing a well-regulated and pious mind, he may be said to have pursued the concerns of time with eternity steadily in view.

In the year 1786, he married Isabel Weatherald, of Wensleydale, in the north-western parts of Yorkshire, who has survived him; and in their union, for nearly forty years, which was a source of mutual comfort and happiness, he proved himself a truly-affectionate husband; uniformly evincing, under every circumstance, the greatest tenderness and sympathy.

The subject of this memoir, was one who, from early life, was of a thoughtful turn of mind, and showed a strong attachment to the principles and testimonies of Friends. As he advanced in years, he submitted to the humbling, refining operations of divine grace; and,

through continued watchfulness and obedience to the pointings of duty, he attained to that experience and stability in the truth, of which his conduct and religious usefulness afterwards gave abundant proof. A description of some parts of his religious character, is appropriately given in the following extracts, from a memorial concerning him, issued by the Friends of Thaxted monthly meeting, of which he was a member.

"It is not our intention to extol the character of the deceased, as a man, estimable as he was, in the various relations of life; but to exhibit his Christian virtues, and ascribe, as he did, all excellency to the power of divine grace, mercifully granted to mankind, for their salvation, through the mediation of the blessed Redeemer, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The rectitude of his conduct, in the discharge of his moral and religious duties, his humility, meekness, and dedication to the cause of truth, were all fruits of faith in the means thus graciously afforded.

"He was very exemplary in the fulfilment of his duty to his Maker, by a constant attendance of religious meetings, when of ability; in which his solid deportment indicated great reverence of spirit, and fervency of desire to gain access