

**EXTRACTS FROM THE
MEMORANDUMS OF JANE
BETTLER: WITH A SHORT
MEMOIR RESPECTING HER**

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Extracts from the Memorandums of Jane Bettle: With a Short Memoir Respecting Her by Jane Bettle

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EXTRACTS

FROM THE MEMORANDUMS

OF

JANE BETTLE,

WITH A SHORT MEMOIR RESPECTING HER.

PHILADELPHIA:

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1843.

MEMOIR.

THE writer of the subjoined memorandums, was well known to many persons in the religious Society of Friends, as a useful and consistent member, and an elder whose example was instructive and edifying. It is not intended by the present publication to eulogise her character, but to magnify the power of Divine grace, which made her what she was, and to hold up to view the blessed effects of humble, unreserved submission to its heavenly visitations, as an encouragement to others, to pursue the same path, which led her safely through all the dangers and temptations of this checkered life, to a peaceful and happy close.

Her parents, Thomas and Jane Temple, lived in Pennsbury, Chester county, Pennsylvania, which was the place of her nativity, and where she resided until her removal to Philadelphia.

She possessed by nature a gentle and amiable disposition; and under the regulating and sanctifying power of Truth, she became in after life, remarkable for great equanimity and steady perseverance in the path of manifested duty. In her youthful days, she was subject to the temptations incident to that interesting period, but through the watchful care of her parents, and the restraints and checks of the Divine witness, was in great measure preserved from yielding to them, and enabled to set an example of sobriety and simplicity to her associates.

The importance of the duty of obedience to parents, was early and deeply impressed on her mind; and though at times it subjected her to some crosses, yet the comfort and satisfaction she derived from yielding her own views to theirs, greatly outbalanced them, and afforded her a subject of pleasing retrospection to the latest period of life. She thought it right to defer to the judgment of her parents, both in the choice of her associates and in the style of her dress, and felt herself restrained from adopting, in relation to either, a course which they did not fully approve.

Distrustful of her own attainments, she chose to hear the sentiments of those of greater religious experience than herself, before forming her opinion on any important subject, and was thus preserved from falling into errors, to which the hasty and immature minds of the young are prone.

She recurred, with gratitude and reverent thankfulness, to the early visitations of the love of God to her soul; some of which were, in great mercy, extended during the morning of childhood, contriting and subduing her spirit, even before she was capable of appreciating the source whence they originated. Her heart being thus softened and tendered, and the love of retirement and quiet meditation on serious things induced, her ear was opened to the discipline of the cross of Christ, and the way prepared for further manifestations of heavenly regard. As she was obedient to little requisitions of duty which were opened to her view, the sweet reward of peace graciously dispensed, animated and strengthened her to make greater sacrifices, when called for, and trained her to that subjection of the will, and mortification of

self, which are essential to usefulness in the Lord's house.

On one occasion, when an article of dress which she had ordered, was sent home, with some needless ornament attached to it, she felt uneasy at the thought of wearing it, and after some reflection decided not to do it. Although the proposed departure from the usual simplicity of her attire was small, yet the faithful monitor within, failed not to warn her of the danger of the *first* deviation; and the little act of obedience which she was thus strengthened to perform, was followed by a feeling of peaceful enjoyment which transcends any earthly gratification. She was thus settled in the conviction, that however the wise of this world may lightly esteem the Christian testimony to plainness and simplicity, it had its origin in the blessed Truth; and that the due observance of it, tends to preserve from many snares of the deceiver, and to prepare the mind for the discharge of other religious obligations.

Another duty, of which she deeply felt both the importance and the advantages, was that of diligently assembling for the performance of

Divine worship, and making a public acknowledgment of dependence upon Almighty God for all that we enjoy. It was her concern on such occasions, to seek for a qualification to perform that worship which is "in spirit and in truth;" endeavouring to have all obtruding thoughts hushed into silence, and her heart fixed, trusting in the Lord. The advantage of early establishing this practice of frequent waiting on, and seeking after Him, was conspicuous when she was afterwards deprived by sickness of the opportunity of attending meetings with her friends; her chamber being then made to her a place of Divine communion, where ability was vouchsafed to worship before God in the beauty of holiness, and to praise and magnify his ever-adorable name.

Believing herself called to manifest fully on whose side she was, she became very guarded and circumspect in her deportment and conversation, and was soon brought into little services in religious Society. This awakened fresh concern, that while acting in the affairs of Truth, she might do nothing which would be inconsistent with the profession she was making, or

give occasion to any to speak against that cause, which had become more precious to her than any earthly consideration. Her tender and sympathising feelings led her to visit the sick and the destitute, where her kind and assiduous attentions were often very serviceable and much endeared her to those who were the objects of them.

In the year 1802, she was married, and removed to Philadelphia. She entered into the various duties of her family with cheerfulness and diligence; manifesting an interest in the welfare of all around her, and endeavouring, so far as was proper, to consult their wishes and promote their comfort. She was religiously watchful over her children, careful to imbue their minds with sentiments of love and fear for their great Creator, and to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, it being her chief desire, that they should serve and honour him. Attached from sincere and heartfelt conviction to the testimonies of Truth, as borne by the Society of Friends, she endeavoured to maintain and recommend them by a consistent example; and was concerned that