

**THE YOUNG DISCIPLE;
OR, A MEMOIR OF
ANZONETTA R. PETERS**

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The young disciple; or, A memoir of Anzonetta R. Peters by John A. Clark

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JOHN A. CLARK

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YOUNG DISCIPLE;
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A MEMOIR
OF
ANZONETTA R. PETERS.

BY REV. JOHN A. CLARK,
LATE RECTOR OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA.

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CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FIRST RELIGIOUS IMPRESSIONS.

Anzonetta's ancestry—her birth—early traits—death of her father—residence at Bethlehem—ill health—perseverance illustrated—developments of character—observance of the Sabbath—illness and death of Jane—effects on Anzonetta—solemn appeal—convictions of sin—her own remarks on her early exercises, 5

CHAPTER II.

CONVERSION—PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE.

The cross of Christ only—resistance of the carnal mind—false views of faith—sojourn at Dashville—continued depression—attendance at Christ church—happy change—profession of faith—peace in believing—means of sanctification—remark of Baxter—high standard—"pray without ceasing," 32

CHAPTER III.

STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES—PERSONAL EFFORTS FOR THE SALVATION OF OTHERS.

Interest in the Bible-class—practical illustration of a text—active benevolence—faithfulness as a Sabbath-school teacher—letters of Anzonetta—high appreciation of religious privileges, 53

CHAPTER IV.

DECLINING HEALTH.

Acquiescence in the divine will—worldly amusements—moral courage—cholera—alarming illness—unexpected trial—fears and depression—deathlike exhaustion—nature of her illness, 76

CHAPTER V.

EFFORTS TO BE USEFUL.

Delirium and suffering—removal to Hoboken—the view from Hoboken—tribute to the Gospel—return to New York—assaults of the adversary—view of death—heavenly frame of mind, 93

CHAPTER VI.

INCIDENTS SHOWING THE STATE OF HER MIND.

The word of God—the Sabbath—the bliss of a glorified state—divine goodness—submission—heaven—distribution of her books—touching appeals—interview with two children—sisterly affection—salvation by grace—solicitude for the heathen, 113

CHAPTER VII.

SKETCHES OF CONVERSATIONS.

Conversations with her aunt—the promises of God—advice to a young mother—affecting interview—record of her remarks kept by her mother—remembrance of her first communion—trust in the Saviour—study of her Polyglott—faith's foundation—advice to a young Christian—the Christian's anchor—song of the redeemed—visit from the Sabbath-school superintendent—the value of Bible truth, 132

CHAPTER VIII.

BRIGHT GLIMPSSES OF THE PROMISED LAND.

The refreshment of the Sabbath—love of God in Christ—"Clark on the Promises"—the Saviour's love—songs of Zion—hope in death—the Sabbath—the crucifixion—resignation—promises of God—confidence in God—her gold chain—the heavenly kingdom—Gethsemane, 157

CHAPTER IX.

LIGHT IN THE DARK VALLEY.

Glory of the sacred Scriptures—fruit from the tree of life—the great High-priest—conversation with three cousins—message to Grace church Bible-class—the cross of Christ—consolations of the Bible—study with prayer—power of the cross—anxiety for her nurse—Scripture learned in childhood—the good Shepherd—bodily weakness—abounding love of God, 180

CHAPTER X.

THE DARK VALLEY SAFELY PASSED.

Prayer for patience—presence of Jesus—the blood of Christ—devotional feeling—the security of Zion—the earthly house falling—entrance into the dark valley—praise to God—joy full of glory—the resurrection—gradual sinking into death—closing appeal to the young, 207

MEMOIR
OF
ANZONETTA R. PETERS.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FIRST RELIGIOUS IMPRESSIONS.

ANZONETTA REBECCA PETERS was blessed with pious and highly respectable ancestors. Her maternal grandfather was Thomas C. Butler, Esq., of New York. Her maternal grandmother, Margaret Cooper, was the sister of Mrs. Smelt, the mother of the sainted Caroline Elizabeth Smelt, the history of whose wonderful conversion and dying testimony has done so much to exalt the riches of free grace, and win souls to Christ. This memoir has been extensively read in this country, passed through several editions in England, been translated into the German, and is now travelling on an extensive tour of mercy in Europe.

Her paternal grandfather was the Rev. Christopher Godfrey Peters, a minister of the Moravian church. Joseph G. Peters, his son, married Arabella

R. Butler, and Anzonetta Rebecca was their eldest child. She was born in the city of New York, May 21, 1815.

The only striking peculiarities that marked her early years, now recollected by her friends, were quickness of temper, uncommon sprightliness of mind, great physical activity, and strong affections. In relation to this period of her life her mother remarks, "She was full of animation and spirits. She walked, or rather *ran* alone, when eight months old; and after she had once gained the use of her feet, she was seldom off from them while awake. All her movements were rapid, and her activity beyond any thing I have ever witnessed. This activity invariably attracted the notice of strangers: it was of so restless and ceaseless a character, that some have supposed it induced disease, and was remotely the cause of her early and premature death."

She possessed, naturally, a violent temper, and evinced much self-will and pertinacity of disposition. Her mother, often, was obliged to spend hours over her, to prevail upon her to yield. She was also impatient of control. She wished to have her own way. If a single inch was conceded to her, it seemed impossible to bring her into a state of submission. But in her fifth year, there was a marked change in her temper. She had always possessed strong affections, and they now seemed to gather fresh vigor to control

the waywardness of her nature, and to induce docility, gentleness, and ready obedience to parental authority. Though she still needed discipline, and sometimes reproof—though there were occasional returns of self-will—her mother has no recollection of having had to reprove her for peevishness, irritability, or ill temper, after this period. A single word, or a decided expression of her mother's determination, would lead her to an entire acquiescence with her wishes.

Before she had attained the age of four years, her father was removed by death, in consequence of which event, the family was broken up, and Anzonetta passed some years away from the watchful care of her mother.

Anzonetta possessed naturally an affectionate disposition, and succeeded usually in attracting those who knew her to herself. When she was yet but five years old, her paternal grandmother expressed a strong wish to see her before she was gathered unto her fathers. Her place of residence had been for a long time at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, one of the settlements of the United Brethren. Arrangements were made to carry Anzonetta there, to receive the dying blessing of her venerable relative. But before she reached the brethren's settlement, the released spirit of this aged disciple had winged its way to the mansions of the blessed. Anzonetta, however,